

**Law, Religion, and Human Flourishing**  
**2018 ACLARS Conference – Abuja, Nigeria**

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

A shared interest of law and religion is the advancement of human flourishing, yet there is no common understanding of what it means for humans to flourish and the means by which to attain a flourishing life. The concept of human flourishing is especially important for Africa, where community and national development compete with forces of conflict and scarce resources. In the broadest sense, the concept of human flourishing focuses our attention on having a comprehensively good or worthwhile life, but various legal, religious, and ethical traditions suggest different norms for measuring the quality of life and designing the institutional structures that could best facilitate and preserve it. The 2018 ACLARS Conference, to be held 20-22 May 2018 in Abuja, Nigeria, will focus on this topic by exploring the relationship between religious ideas and sustainable conceptions of humans flourishing in Africa, and how law might help us weigh and relate the various components of such substantive conceptions. Participants are encouraged to submit abstracts which address any aspect of this broad theme, drawing upon their particular field of study and their national, regional or comparative experience in African studies. Topics for the conference might include:

- Visions, ideals, and ethics of human flourishing in **religious traditions** in Africa;
- Relationships and tensions between religious ideals of flourishing and **legal regimes** (e.g. democracy, rule of law, religious or secular state);
- **Religious beliefs and practices** that contribute to or undermine human flourishing;
- Examination of regional and specific **governmental policies** on human flourishing;
- The role of **religious NGOs** and faith-based advocacy organizations in the positive and constructive promotion of human flourishing, including provision of social services, e.g. health care and education;
- African **indigenous ideas** of human flourishing and resources for promoting it;
- Various **components of human flourishing**—including health care, environmental protection, gender relations, and arts and culture;
- Law, religion, and **humor** as a facet of human flourishing and cultural expression;
- **Religion, economics, and development** in Africa and tensions between models of social and economic development;
- Religious perspectives on the flourishing of the **non-human world** (e.g. animals, nature, environment);
- The contribution of **peacebuilding and conflict resolution** to human flourishing;
- Human flourishing in contexts of **poverty and scarce resources**;
- The impact of **political and economic corruption** on human flourishing and religious critique of religion's complicity;
- Law, religion, and programs for flourishing of **children, youth, and future generations** through education and training, e.g. religion education, anti-radicalization, leadership training;
- Religion, employment, and **workplace** relations.
- Other topics pertaining to law and religion in Africa.

**To submit an Abstract for consideration, you must complete the attached Response to Call for Papers. Abstracts will not be considered without the completed form. Please note that Responses are due by September 30, 2017.**

**Response to Call for Papers  
2018 ACLARS Conference**

Name as it should appear on conference program: \_\_\_\_\_

SURNAME in capitals (Name used for alphabetization): \_\_\_\_\_

Academic or Professional title (e.g. Professor, Dr., Reverend, Commissioner, etc): \_\_\_\_\_

Institutional affiliation and position (e.g. Lecturer, Department of Religion Studies): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone - Business: \_\_\_\_\_ Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell/Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Country of Current Residency: \_\_\_\_\_ Nationality/Passport Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Highest degree(s) obtained and institutions (If pursuing degree, e.g. Ph. D., indicate as a candidate or expect to complete a degree in a particular year): \_\_\_\_\_

Paper Title (25 words maximum): \_\_\_\_\_

Paper Abstract (Abstract must fit in following space):

Lead Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Single or Joint Presentation (Assumes independent funding for second presenter): \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Authors/Presenters? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have independent funding? Yes      No

Are you submitting other proposals? Yes      No

To have your abstract reviewed, this form must be **completed + submitted to [secretariat@aclars.org](mailto:secretariat@aclars.org) by September 30, 2017.**