



EUREL Conference **Religion and territory**
25-26 Oct. 2012, Manchester (United Kingdom)

Silvio Ferrari,
“Between “geo-law” and “theo-law”. Considerations on religions as transnational centres of identity”

in Anne-Laure Zwillig (ed.), *Proceedings of the EUREL Conference ‘Religion and territory’, 25-26 Oct. 2012, Manchester (United Kingdom)*, Eurel, 2013.

Abstract

A certain deterritorialized and formalistic law, more concerned with the rules of economy than with the reasons of politics, has expanded enormously in recent decades. However, a line of force is still running through contemporary society, which is a law with a religious foundation (“theo-law”). It can be seen on the level of three different levels of conflict: the first one is between national identity and religious identity. The second is the tension between individual conscience and the rights of religious communities. Finally, the third is the shift of the personal identity from a link to territory to a link to belonging; religions could be said to be the new transnational nations. These three places of connection between law and religion all display a process of redefinition of the boundaries of the powers exerted by religions, national States and supranational or transnational bodies. The notion of secular State as the core of a collective European identity is probably the only possible answer to the conflicts between communities.

