

# Neutral or Not? The Fight over Secularism in Quebec and Canada



Speaker:

**Dr. Jennifer Selby**

Professor (Departments of Religion & Culture and Political Science)  
Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador

1:00pm-2:30pm

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Leatherdale  
Commons

Following two provincial-level appeals, the Supreme Court of Canada is currently reviewing Quebec's 2019 secularism law, the Act Respecting the Laicity of the State. However the court decides, the decision will have profound repercussions for interpretations of state neutrality, religious freedom, and Canada's constitutional order. Drawing on discourse analyses and fieldwork in Québec, in this talk, Jennifer Selby (Memorial University) examines the Act's focus on religious symbols to situate the fight over Law 21 more broadly within contemporary conceptualizations of religion.

ABSTRACT:

Please join us for this public lecture!

BIO:

**Jennifer Selby** is a jointly appointed professor to the Departments of Religion and Culture and Political Science at Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador. Her ethnographic-based research examines secularism in contemporary France and Canada, with attention to Muslim life and gender. She is author most recently of *Secular Sensibilities: Romance, Marriage, and Contemporary Algerian Immigration to France and Québec* (UNC Press, 2025).



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