

Curriculum Vitae of Professor Vincenzo Pacillo

Introduction

Vincenzo Pacillo, born in Rome in 1970, is Full Professor of Law and Religion (Academic Discipline IUS/11) at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, where he is affiliated with the Department of Linguistic and Cultural Studies. He has held this position since 1 November 2018, following more than a decade of service as Associate Professor at the same university.

Education

He graduated in Law from the University of Milan in 1995 and pursued postgraduate studies at the Institute of Public Law at the University of Bern (Switzerland) between 1998 and 1999. In 2000, he was awarded a PhD in Ecclesiastical and Canon Law by the University of Perugia. He then held a postdoctoral research fellowship at the University of Milan (2000–2002) and was appointed Researcher at the same university from 2002 to 2005. He subsequently taught Church–State Relations as Adjunct Professor at the Faculty of Political Science of the University of Padua (2005–2008).

Research Activities

His research spans several thematic areas, including the analysis of religious funding mechanisms, religious freedom in supranational case law, interreligious dialogue in multicultural societies, and the institutional function of religions in secular contexts. Within these domains, he co-directed—alongside Professors A. Ferrari and E. Dieni—the CNR-funded research project *Religious Symbols: Legal Issues in a Multicultural Society*, under the *Young Researchers* programme *Cultural Identity as a Factor of Integration*.

From 2006 to 2014, he served as Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Theology in Lugano (Switzerland), where he taught Swiss Ecclesiastical Law, Canon Property Law, General Norms of Canon Law, and Theology and Political Ethics. In this context, he received funding in 2010 from the Pica-Alfieri Foundation for his project on *The Funding of Religious Denominations in the Swiss Confederation*. He later taught and conducted research as Visiting Professor and Fellow at several prestigious international institutions: University of Leicester (2014–2016), De Montfort University (2015, 2018), University of Istanbul (2017), Université Paris-Saclay (2023). He also participated in the 5th International Summer School *Law on the Bosphorus*, and has delivered lectures at the European Court of Human Rights, the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Turkey, the University of Alcalá de Henares, and other European academic venues.

Scientific Appointments

He is the founder and Director of ORFECT (*Observatory on Religious Freedom in the Case Law of the European Court of Human Rights*), an interdepartmental research centre of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, which also functions as an international network of over thirty legal scholars. Its aim is to critically analyse the Strasbourg Court's jurisprudence on religious freedom and to provide actionable recommendations for courts and legislators.

He has curated and organised numerous national and international conferences, including: *Human Dignity: Text and Context* (Modena, 2010); *God in the Constitutions* (Lugano–Locarno, 2012); *Religious Freedom in the Post-Secular Age* (Lugano, 2014); *Public Funding of Churches* (Lugano, 2012); *Religious Rights through the Lens of Comparative Law* (Modena, 2017); *Theology and Canon Law: The Contribution of Eugenio Corecco* (Bologna, 2018); *Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda and Religious Education in Schools* (Modena, 2022); *Confessional Pluralism and Religious Authorities: The Role of the Secular State in Managing Heterodoxy* (Reggio Emilia, 2025); in addition to several panels at ICLARS

conferences (Oxford, Cordoba, Notre-Dame University), the European Academy of Religion, and other symposia linked to department-level FAR projects.

Vincenzo Pacillo is an active member of the 2023 University FAR research project CREA (*Conflict Resolution by Religious and Ethical Authority*, directed by Professor Carla Bagnoli), which investigates how religious authorities can contribute to conflict resolution in pluralistic societies. The project adopts an interdisciplinary methodology (philosophy, law, economics) to redefine the notion of authority from a constructivist perspective, highlighting normative attitudes such as hope and faith. It examines the role of religious law, the voluntary nature of religious affiliation, and the influence of international norms on peacebuilding. It promotes interreligious and intra-religious dialogue as a tool for social cohesion.

Within the framework of CREA, Professor Pacillo also contributed to the drafting of the *Charter of Modena*, a policy document developed within the ORFECT centre to promote religious freedom in the workplace, grounded in the principles of sustainable secularism and intercultural justice. The Charter of Modena stands as a paradigmatic example of the interplay between academic research and institutional engagement in shaping inclusive and pluralist practices.

His publications have been consistently rated with top marks by the National Evaluation Committee (GEV) during the Italian Research Quality Assessment (VQR). Noteworthy examples include:

- *Free to become martyrs? The right to refuse medical treatment on religious grounds in a comparative perspective*, in *Stato, Chiese e Pluralismo Confessionale*, 2016 – total score 29.5 (Class A: Excellent and highly relevant);
- *The principle of respect for human dignity and end of life decisions: a European perspective*, in *Contemporary Issues in Law*, 2016 – total score 29 (Class A: Excellent and highly relevant);
- *Some Remarks on the Concept of Intent in Canon Criminal Law*, in *Parola – Sacramento – Carisma*, Cantagalli, 2019 – score 27.5 (Class B: Excellent).

He is a member of the scientific boards of the journals *Il Diritto Ecclesiastico* and *Ephemerides Iuris Canonici*, and serves on the board of the National Doctoral Programme in Religious Studies, within the *Law and Religion* curriculum. He has held significant academic leadership roles at the University of Modena: Director of the Department of Law (2018–2019), Member of the Department Council (2015–2019), Deputy Director (2008–2011), Coordinator of the Master's Degree in Law (2014–2017), and Member of the University Quality Assurance Committee (2017–2018).

He contributed to the national project *FAMI ReAct – Regional Anti-Discrimination Network of Emilia-Romagna* and served on the MIUR (Italian Ministry of Education) Commission on Religious Pluralism in Schools. He has also been a member of the *Council for Legality* of the Municipality of Modena, the *Advisory Board* of the Vignola Foundation, and currently serves as the *Rector's Delegate* for institutional relations between UNIMORE and the local Dioceses.

Teaching Activities

In his academic work, he integrates teachings across law, legal sciences, and religious studies from a comparative and intercultural perspective. He currently teaches *Law and Religion*, *History and Systems of Church–State Relations*, and *Law and Religion* (in English) within the Master's Degree in Law. He also teaches *Communication and Human Rights* and

Environment and Human Rights within the degree programme *Languages for Communication in International Enterprises and Organizations*, and *School Legislation* at the Conservatorio Vecchi-Tonelli in Modena. He previously taught *European Integration Law* at SSML of Mantua and contributed as a lecturer to the inter-university European programme *Gratianus. États et Religions en Europe*, promoted by Université Paris-Saclay.

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I hereby authorise the processing of the personal data contained in this CV pursuant to Italian Legislative Decree No. 101/2018 and EU Regulation 2016/679.

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