



Research Unit for the Study of Society, Law and Religion (RUSSLR)

PUBLIC LECTURE

“A Tale of Two Statutes: A Comparison of Ontario’s and South Australia’s
Pioneering Legislation for the Incorporation of Religious Bodies”

When: Tuesday, 25 August, 2009 at 12 noon

Where: Moot Court Room, Ligertwood Building, Law School

Speaker: Dr Greg Taylor is an Associate Professor at Monash University Law School. Born and educated in South Australia, he has made South Australian legal history one of his specialties. In the second half of 2008, he was a Visiting Professor at Osgoode Hall Law School, Toronto, and his talk will be based on research done there and in Adelaide.

Synopsis: Both South Australia and Ontario passed statutes in the middle third of the nineteenth century providing for religious bodies to attain the status of legally recognised corporations. Despite this similarity of object between the two statutes, the background in each British colony was very different and reflects the different self-image of each colony. Ontario also made very heavy weather of its statute, taking six years to pass it, while South Australia’s passed almost without any dispute at all, and very quickly. This talk will explore those differences and thus show that what appeared natural and unarguable to South Australians and Ontarians in the nineteenth century was not in either case.

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