

## **Religion and Economy. Exploring the Role of Religious Convictions in Shaping Attitudes of Business People**

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The presentation explores the question whether religiously motivated behaviour may function as a “beneficial constraint” in its potential of hindering opportunistic action of economic actors and through this increase innovativeness of the small and medium-sized enterprises challenged by the informal economy/corruption. It will be argued that religiously informed constraints aiming at ethical goals may produce numerous ambiguous effects, which are, to large extent, related to intrinsic uncertainty of the value rational action that rarely if ever is perceived by the religious-oriented entrepreneurs with pure intention of economic efficiency. Religiously informed entrepreneurs are capable of making risky decisions to stop informally contracting and move into more universalistic “impersonal relationships” with “unknown” trading parties. This clearly involves a potential of uncertainty regarding future outcomes. Therefore the movement out of informality in terms of economic efficiency is successful just for a limited number of companies, since the underlying contingent market processes are far too complex to be open to the instrumental control of actors. The paper draws on research findings collected in Poland and Taiwan.

### **主講人簡介：**

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Smoczynski 教授的主要研究領域為市場規制、政治哲學、社會控制理論等。本年獲得漢學研究中心「外籍學人來臺研究漢學獎助」，來臺灣研究主題為「The Impact of Taiwanese Entrepreneurs' Religious Attitudes on Tax Morale」。