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978-1-107-02609-4 - Beyond Church and State: Democracy, Secularism, and Conversion

Matthew Scherer

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Beyond Church and State

Democracy, Secularism, and Conversion

Secularism is often imagined, in Thomas Jefferson's words, as "a wall of separation between Church & State." *Beyond Church and State* moves past that standard picture to argue that secularism is a process that reshapes both religion and politics. Borrowing a term from religious traditions, the book goes further to argue that this process should be understood as a process of conversion. Matthew Scherer studies Saint Augustine, John Locke, John Rawls, Henri Bergson, and Stanley Cavell to present a more accurate picture of what secularism is, what it does, and how it can be reimagined to be more conducive to genuine democracy.

Matthew Scherer is Assistant Professor of Government and Politics at George Mason University.

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*For my parents,
Patricia Scherer and Oscar Scherer*

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