

## PROPOSITIONS

1. Abstraction is an omnipresent, but little scrutinized phenomenon in law; therefore, fundamental research is necessary to develop a general theory about abstraction in law.
2. Specific laws that prohibit variants of female circumcision that are less invasive than ritual male circumcision or cosmetic surgeries upon female genitals attest to racial and religious discrimination.
3. All references to religion in the law must be replaced by terms that are non-sectarian in nature; therefore freedom of religion should be replaced by freedom of conscience.
4. The executive and the judicial branches of power use neutrality as a façade to justify repressive measures that disfavor immigrants in general and Muslims in particular.
5. Religious freedom jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights reinforces majoritarianism, legitimizes Islamophobia and it provides a legal basis for racial and religious discrimination as well as the categorical exclusion of Muslims from access to basic liberties; in a sense, this jurisprudence is much more problematic than today's political discourse of disfavoring Muslims *qua* Islam.
6. Liberal democracies should guarantee freedom of education.
7. The language of human rights is politicized and therefore not very useful to secure and promote fundamental rights in those regions of the world that do not want to think in terms of human rights; an alternative concept for developing a less-politicized discourse is human dignity that is more inclusive than human rights.
8. The worldwide call for more state sovereignty, border security and more legal and political autonomy indicates that legal pluralism has failed to address fundamental concerns and questions about legitimacy and accountability.
9. Law schools across Western countries should pay attention to non-Western perspectives in their jurisprudence courses.
10. Study exchanges to regions with another legal culture as well as internships should become a mandatory part of the law study.
11. For the purposes of creative thinking, all PhD candidates should mingle in a structured way with people outside academia; to this end, PhD candidates should preferably work as cashiers in a local supermarket like *Dirk van den Broek*.