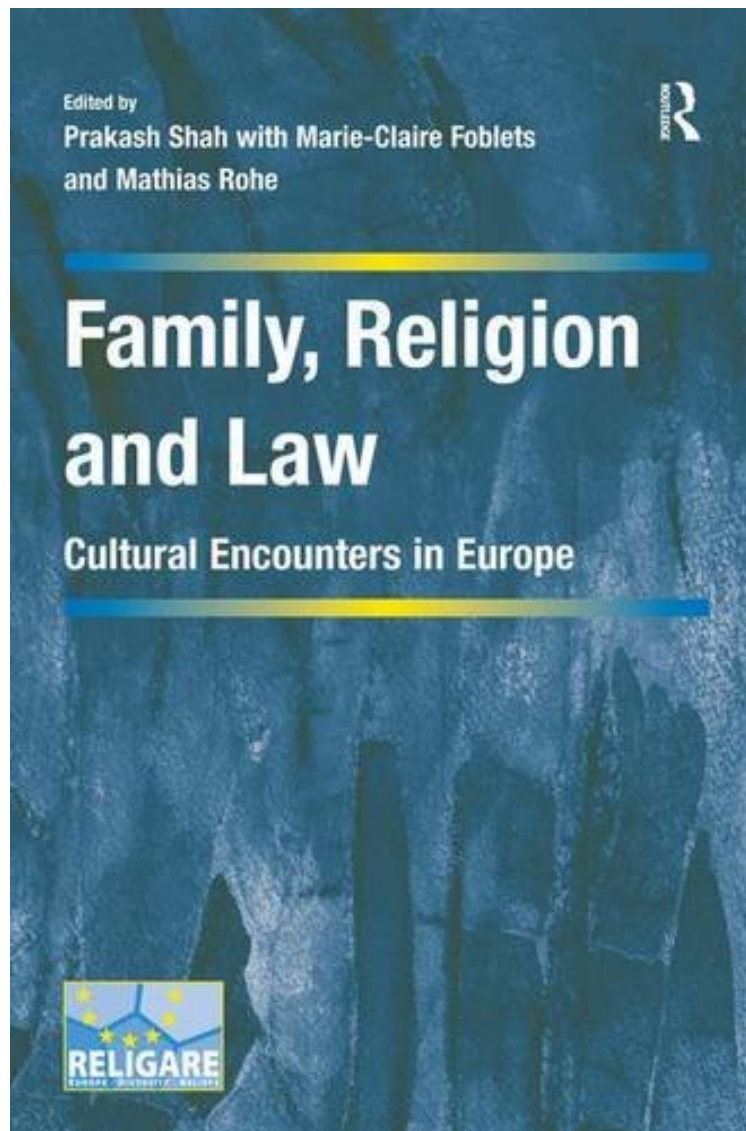


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This collection discusses how official legal systems do and should respond to the reality of a plurality of family types and origins within their jurisdictions. It further examines the challenges that arise for practitioners, including lawyers and judges, when faced with such plurality. Focussing on empirical research, the volume presents legal and sociological data of unprecedented comparative depth. It also includes a discussion of how members of minority families respond to the need to organise their legal relationships, and to resolve their disputes in the shadow of official legal systems which differ from those of their familial and communal traditions. The work invites reflection, and demonstrates the urgency and complexity of the questions regarding the search for justice in the field of family life in Europe today.

'In twenty-first century Europe, the recognition and fair treatment of diversity in law is central to realising justice yet remains a daunting challenge for legal systems. This impressive collection does not claim to offer a comprehensive solution but persuasively shows how the best approaches combine knowledge, openness and sensitivity with a firm grasp of principle.' Helena Wray, Middlesex University, UK 'Each chapter of this book is an intelligent and sensitive reminder of the principle according to which justice is not equality but treating differently what is different.' Carlos Gomez Martinez, President of the Court of Appeal of the Balearic Islands and Former Director of the Spanish Judicial School '...offers a most timely, rich and much needed body of comparative work which presents discerning insights into the challenges of legal pluralism and the ways in which cultural and religious minorities in a range of European contexts navigate the legal system. This book fills a critical gap in current research, offering lawyers, academics, judges, parliamentarians and many others, unique and critical insights into the key questions they ought to be asking.' Puja Kapai, University of Hong Kong 'The book's combination of theoretical chapters and case studies, Europe-wide analysis and jurisdiction (or religion) specific studies makes it a useful resource. Those wishing to get an overview of the current state of the interaction of family, religion and law across Europe will find value in the breadth of topics covered by the book. Those seeking to explore any of the topics covered by specific chapters would also find much to admire in the book.' Journal of Legal Pluralism and Unofficial Law

About the Author
Dr Prakash Shah is Reader in Culture and Law, and Director of GLOCUL: The Centre for Culture and Law at Queen Mary University of London. He specializes in legal pluralism, religion and law, ethnic minorities and diasporas in law, immigration, refugee and nationality law, and comparative law with special reference to South Asia. He has published widely and lectured internationally in these fields. Professor Marie-Claire Foblets is Director of the Department of Law Anthropology at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Germany. For many years she headed the Institute for Migration Law and Legal Anthropology at the Law Faculty at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. She currently leads the RELIGARE research project financed by the European Commission under its 7th Framework Programme. Prof. Dr. Mathias Rohe is Chair for Civil Law, Private International Law and Comparative Law at the University Erlangen-Nrnberg, Germany. He is also Director of the Erlangen Centre for Islam and law in Europe, a judge at the court of appeals Nrnberg (retired), member of the German Islam Conferences (Ministry of the Interior) and the Austrian Islam Dialogue Forum (State secretary). He is the author of numerous publications and lectures on Islamic law in the past and present, Private International law, Comparative law and legal issues related to Muslims in Europe.