

# Oxford Symposium for Religious Studies

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2018

The Old Library

University Church, Oxford

- 8:50 – 9:00 A.M.            Welcome and Introduction: Symposium  
Facilitator, Canon **Brian Mountford**,  
**MBE**
- 9:00 – 9:30 A.M.            Topic: *Katzenelson's Theology of Despair*  
Presenter: **Moshe Shner**, Senior  
Lecturer, Oranim College of Education,  
Israel
- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M.            Topic: *A Theology for Social Engagement*  
Presenter: **Kenneth Young**, Professor,  
University of Northwestern St. Paul, US
- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M.            Topic: *A Divided Discourse: The Use of  
Walls and Religious Doctrine in the  
Politics of Fear*  
Presenters: **Carrie Crisp**, Lecturer,  
**Jennifer Garcia**, Lecturer, and **Leah  
Butterfield**, Student, Texas State  
University, US
- 10:30 – 10:45 A.M.            Tea/Coffee

## Oxford Symposium for Religious Studies

- 10:45 – 11:15 A.M.      Topic: *“A Place Where Fiction Becomes More Important Than Reality”*: *The Human Will-To-Violence and Literature as a Tool for Reconciliation in Miljenko Jergović’s Sarajevo Marlboro*  
Presenter: **Laura Sabia**, Student, Boston University, US
- 11:15 – 11:45 A.M.      Topic: *The Closer to God, the Farther From the USSR: Religious Choices and Immigrant Identities*  
Presenter: **Katia Yurguis**, Adjunct Professor, Fordham University, US
- 11:45 – 12:15 P.M.      Topic: *Islam, Politics, and Public Discourse: The Palestinian National Experience*  
Presenter: **Magdalena Pycinska**, Assistant Professor, Jagiellonian University, Poland
- 12:15 – 1:00 P.M.      Buffet Lunch
- 1:00 – 1:30 P.M.      Topic: *Islamism in Francophone Literature*  
Presenter: **Sana Alaya Seghair**, Student, University of Virginia, US

## Oxford Symposium for Religious Studies

- 1:30 – 2:00 P.M.      Topic: *Ambedkrite Buddhism*  
Presenter: **Reena Sablok**, Assistant Professor, SSN College, Deli University, India
- 2:00 – 2:30 P.M.      Topic: *Toleration or Liberty: The Impact of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Politics on Understanding Religious Liberty in America*  
Presenter: **Lloyd Harsch**, Professor, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, US
- 2:30 – 3:00 P.M.      Topic: *The Contested Concept of Secularism*  
Presenter: **Md Jahid Hossain Bhuiyan**, Postdoctoral Fellow, North-West University, South Africa
- 3:00 – 3:15 P.M.      Tea/Coffee
- 3:15 – 3:45 P.M.      Topic: *“Helping the Poorest of the Poor” Globalization of Suffering, White Savior Complex, Mother Teresa, Religion and Modernity*  
Presenter: **Ranjan Bandyopadhyay**, Associate Professor, Duy Tan University, Vietnam

## Oxford Symposium for Religious Studies

3:45 – 4:15 P.M.      Topic: *Religious Landscape in Liberec: The Postsocialist City in the Sudetenland*  
Presenter: **Artur Boháč**, Assistant Professor, Technical University of Liberec, Czech Republic

4:15 – 4:45 P.M.      Topic: *Religion, Politics and Public Discourse: Framing ISIL's Soldiers' Belief that They Carry out Allah's Will in the World by Executing Muslims, Christians and Jewish Hostages*  
Presenter: **Alexandra Herfroy-Mischler**, Lecturer, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

## Oxford Symposium for Religious Studies

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2018**

**The Old Library**

**University Church, Oxford**

8:50 – 9:00 A.M.      Welcome and Introduction

9:00 – 9:30 A.M.      Topic: *Religion as Emotional Management: the Case of Sorrow and Death*  
Presenter: **Stephen Asma**, Professor, Columbia College, US

9:30 – 10:00 A.M.      Topic: *Strategy of Ontological Negativity in Meister Eckhart's Metaphysics and in Philosophical Traditions of India*  
Presenter: **Tatyana Lifintseva**, Professor National Research University - Higher School of Economics, Russian Federation

10:00 – 10:30 A.M.      Topic: *Muscular Secularism and the Governance of Hindu Identity in Singapore*  
Presenter: **Pravin Prakash**, Associate Research Fellow, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore

10:30 – 10:45 A.M.      Tea/Coffee

## Oxford Symposium for Religious Studies

- 10:45 – 11:15 A.M.      Topic: *Sacred Landscape: Memory and Re-appropriating Historicity Through Political Discourses*  
Presenter: **Parul Lau Gaur**, Assistant Professor, Ram Lal Anand College, India
- 11:15 – 11:45 A.M.      Topic: *Mormon Soul Searching: The Distinctive Religiosity of Latter-day Saint Youth*  
Presenter: **John Bartkowski**, Professor, University of Texas at San Antonio, US
- 11:45 – 12:15 P.M.      Topic: *Faith by Seduction: The Children of God in Singapore*  
Presenter: **Christopher Chok**, Student, Durham University, UK
- 12:15 – 1:00 P.M.      Buffet Lunch
- 1:00 – 1:30 P.M.      Topic: *Spiritual Meanings' Influence on Future Job Satisfaction*  
Presenter: **Dominick Sturz**, Associate Professor, California Baptist University, US
- 1:30– 2:00 P.M.      Topic: *Teaching Religious Language and Culture to High School ESL Students*  
Presenter: **Mikayla Sievers**, Student, University of Idaho, US

## Oxford Symposium for Religious Studies

- 2:00 – 2:30 P.M.      Topic: *Configuring “Traditional” Authority: Religious Knowledge and the Place of Ulama in Sunni Muslim Self-Fashioning, Kerala, South India*  
Presenter: **Visakh Madhusoodanan Subha**, Student, IIT Madras, India

# Oxford Symposium for Religious Studies

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2018**

**The Old Library**

**University Church, Oxford**

- 8:40 – 9:00 A.M. Welcome and Introduction
- 9:00 – 9:30 A.M. Topic: *Why Did Medieval Commentators and Scholars Assume that the Sages Knew the Peshat (Sensus Literalis)?*  
Presenter: **Eran Viesel**, Professor, Ben Gurion University, Israel
- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M. Topic: *The Impact of God on Ethical Concerns in the Early Church*  
Presenter: **Nancy Enright**, Professor, Seton Hall University, US
- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M. Topic: *Gregory the Great on the Conversion of Jews*  
Presenter: **Bernard Schlager**, Associate Professor, Pacific School of Religion, US
- 10:30 – 10:45 A.M. Tea/Coffee
- 10:45 – 11:15 A.M. Topic: *Religion and Construction of Social Reality*  
Presenter: **Shahla Mehrgani**, Lecturer, Baha'i Institute for Higher Education (BIHE), Iran

# Oxford Symposium for Religious Studies

- 11:15 – 11:45 A.M. Topic: *Scarlet and Christ: A Tale of Two Dragons and One Human Family*  
Presenter: **Timothy Cooke**, Student, University of Nevada, US
- 11:45 – 12:15 P.M. Topic: *Female Figures Understood Through Judges 4-5*  
Presenter: **Sydney Beckmann**, Student, University of Notre Dame, US
- 12:15 – 1:00 P.M. Buffet Lunch
- 1:00 – 1:30 P.M. Topic: *Gender Construction and Performativity in Religious Folklore – Insights from Hindu Vrat Kathas*  
Presenter: **Neha Zaidka**, Student, University of Oulu, Finland
- 1:30 – 2:00 P.M. Topic: *Race and the American Catholic Imagination*  
Presenter: **Cary Dabney**, Adjunct Professor, Walsh University, US

# Oxford Symposium for Religious Studies

## Other Participants

**Herbert Mandl**, Kansas, US

**Barbara Toltzis Mandl**, Kansas, US

## About the Facilitator

Canon **Brian Mountford**, MBE, is currently acting Chaplain of Corpus Christi College. He is former Vicar of the University Church, Oxford, and Fellow St Hilda's College. He is also an Honorary Canon of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. Interested in public theology he has helped to make the University Church a centre for interdisciplinary debate. His bestselling book, *Christian Atheist* (2011), explores the phenomenon of those who find Christianity compelling but struggle with the metaphysical beliefs. His latest book is *Friday's Child: Poems of Suffering and Redemption*. His main interests are in the philosophy of religion, particularly questions of faith and doctrine, but he has diversified into other areas giving seminars on leadership and ethics in corporate life for the Saïd Business School and the Academy for Leadership in the Netherlands. During the seventies, he was Fellow and Chaplain of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge before becoming Vicar of Southgate in North London for seven years in the '80s.

# Oxford Symposium for Religious Studies

# Oxford Symposium for Religious Studies