

Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies

MONDAY, 4 DECEMBER, 2017

THE OLD LIBRARY

UNIVERSITY CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN

- 8:50 – 9:00 A.M. Introduction and Welcome: Symposium Facilitator, **Canon Brian Mountford**, MBE, Former Vicar of The University Church of St Mary the Virgin, and Fellow of St Hilda's College, Oxford
- 9:00 – 9:30 A.M. Topic: *Capabilities and Contemporary Moral Theology: Likely Bedfellows or Inevitable Foes?*
Presenter: **Katie Dunne**, Assistant Professor, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland
- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M. Topic: *Shall the Victim Triumph? Correlating a Concept of "Victim" with "Inhuman Innocence"*
Presenter: **Jill Schaeffer**, Visiting Associate Professor, New York Theological Seminary, US
- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M. Topic: *God and the Dystopias*
Presenter: **Pedro Erik Carneiro**, Professor, University Center Unieuro, Brazil
- 10:30 – 10:45 A.M. Tea and Coffee
- 10:45 – 11:15 A.M. Topic: *The Neurobiology of Fear-Based Religion*
Presenter: **Angela Deulen**, Associate Professor, California Baptist University, US

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- 11:15 – 11:45 A.M. Topic: *Religious Tolerance Versus Religious Freedom: The Case of Persian Period Elephantine*
Presenter: **John Gee**, Professor, Brigham Young University, US
- 11:45 – 12:15 P.M. Topic: *“The Quiet Affection in their Eyes”: The Good Shepherd’s Re-emergence in the Domestic Landscape*
Presenter: **Dorothy Verkerk**, Associate Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, US
- 12:15 – 1:15 P.M. Lunch
- 1:15 – 1:45 P.M. Topic: *Earth-Dreaming and the Mystical Milieu of Spirit in Matter: Religious Perspectives on Anthropocene Trauma and the Earth’s Subtle Body*
Presenter: **Claude Barbre**, Professor, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, US
- 1:45 – 2:15 P.M. Topic: *Show Some Respect: Critiquing Religion’s Role in Human Rights Violations, How Far is too Far?*
Presenters: **Carrie Crisp**, Lecturer, Texas State University, US, and **Jennifer Garcia**, Lecturer, Texas State University, US
- 2:15 – 2:45 P.M. Topic: *Encountering Ugliness: Selecting Views in Aesthetics for Insights in Religion*
Presenter: **Jonathan Johnson**, Graduate Student, Hong Kong Baptist University Hong Kong, SAR, China

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- 2:45 – 3:00 P.M. Tea and Coffee
- 3:00 – 3:30 P.M. Topic: *Religions and Environmental Ethics: A Comparative Analysis on John B. Cobb, Jr and Seyyed Hossein Nasr*
Presenter: **Md Abu Sayem**, Graduate Student, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, China
- 3:30 – 4:00 P.M. Topic: *After Kingship: Political Discourse in Chronicles*
Presenter: **Rachel Slutsky**, Graduate Student, Harvard University, US
- 4:00 – 4:30 P.M. Topic: *A Nomadic Spirituality of Home: Pilgrimage as Homemaking*
Presenter: **Denise Starkey**, Associate Professor, College of St Scholastica, US
- 4:30 – 5:00 P.M. Topic: *Literature Review on Islamic Juveniles' System*
Presenter: **Hajed Alotaibi**, Graduate Student, Bangor University, UK

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TUESDAY, 5 DECEMBER, 2017

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- 8:50 – 9:00 A.M. Welcome, **Canon Brian Mountford**, MBE,
Symposium Facilitator
- 9:00 – 9:30 A.M. Topic: *The Representation of Muslim Identity
in British and American Universities*
Presenter: **Anne Daguerre**, Associate
Professor, Middlesex University, UK
- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M. Topic: *The Motivations of Pope Innocent III*
Presenter: **Jamie Griffin**, Graduate Student,
Arizona State University, US
- 10:00 – 10:15 A.M. Tea and Coffee
- 10:15 – 10:45 A.M. Topic: *The Theological Conundrum of
Interfaith Chaplaincy: A View From Hong
Kong*
Presenter: **Peter Youngblood**, Graduate
Student, The Chinese University of Hong
Kong, China
- 10:45 – 11:15 A.M. Topic: *Colonising the Divine: The Paradox of
Hindu Fundamentalism*
Presenter: **Juhi Ahuja**, Senior Analyst,
Nanyang Technological University,
Singapore

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- 11:15 – 11:45 A.M. Topic: *Zoroastrianism in Christianity: The Star Child and the Manger Child*
Presenters: **Lavonna Lovern**, Associate Professor, Valdosta State University, US, and **Sydney Beckmann**, Graduate Student, University of Notre Dame, US
- 11:45 – 12:15 P.M. Topic: *Mapping the Buddhist Lands of Russia: Understanding the Post-Soviet Sangha and its Political Connections*
Presenter: **Dana Halfhill**, Graduate Student, University of Washington, US
- 12:15 – 1:15 P.M. Lunch
- 1:15 – 1:45 P.M. Topic: *The Rise of Religious Hegemony and the Subordination of Equality for Sexual Minorities in 21st Century America*
Presenter: **Kris McDaniel-Miccio**, Professor, University of Denver, US
- 1:45 – 2:15 P.M. Topic: *Fire in Religion and Nature of a Changing African Cosmology*
Presenter: **Isabel Mukonyora**, Professor, Western Kentucky University, US
- 2:15 – 2:45 P.M. Topic: *Christ and the Homosexual: An Early Manifesto for an Affirming Christian Ministry to Homosexuals*
Presenter: **Bernard Schlager**, Associate Professor, Pacific School of Religion, US
- 2:45 – 3:00 P.M. Tea and Coffee

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- 3:00 – 3:30 P.M. Topic: *The Possible Reconciliations Between Freedom of Religion and Gender Equality*
Presenter: **Dania Suleman**, Attorney, Roy Bélanger Avocats, Montréal, Canada
- 3:30 – 4:00 P.M. Topic: *Swimming Upstream: Equal Rights for Women in Buddhism*
Presenter: **Kenneth Lee**, Associate Professor, California State University, Northridge, US
- 4:00 – 4:30 P.M. Topic: *Religion and Power: Comparing Political Factors in the Religious Conflicts and Terrorism in Maluku and Poso*
Presenter: **Sri Yunanto**, Professor, Muhammadiyah University of Jakarta, Indonesia
- 4:30 – 5:00 P.M. Topic: *Public Theology? A Conservative Side of the Reformed Church in Contemporary China*
Presenter: **Tak Leung Yim**, Graduate Student, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, China

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WEDNESDAY, 6 DECEMBER, 2017

THE OLD LIBRARY UNIVERSITY CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN

- 8:50 – 9:00 A.M. Welcome, **David Martin**, Symposium Facilitator
- 9:00 – 9:30 A.M. Keynote Speaker: **Emma Percy**, Chaplain, Trinity College, University of Oxford, and Chair of Women and the Church (WATCH), UK
- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M. Topic: *Salah, Piety and Human Behavior: Empirical Evidence of Causality Mechanism*
Presenter: **Khairul Anwar Mastor**, Professor, National University of Malaysia, Malaysia
- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M. Topic: *Separation of Church and State: Insights from the Jewish and Islamic Legal Traditions*
Presenter: **Shlomo Pill**, Visiting Assistant Professor, Emory University, US
- 10:30 – 10:45 A.M. Tea and Coffee
- 10:45 – 11:15 A.M. Topic: *From Silence to be Silenced: The Case of Judaism in Iran*
Presenter: **Alessandra Cecolin**, Lecturer, University of Aberdeen, UK

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- 11:15 – 11:45 A.M. Topic: *Mauritian Mahdara**: Resilient Bedouin Educational System in the Age of Globalization
Presenter: **Tarek Ladjal**, Associate Professor, Effat University, Saudi Arabia
- 11:45 – 12:15 P.M. Topic: *Muslim-Christian Relationships in Indonesian Reform Era within the Framework of Democracy: Case Study of Bandung, Bekasi and Bogor (1998-2015)*
Presenter: **Angel Damayanti**, Assistant Professor, Christian University of Indonesia, Indonesia
- 12:15 – 1:15 P.M. Lunch
- 1:15 – 1:45 P.M. Topic: *On the True God, the Creation and the Christian Apologetic Tradition in Lijadu's Ifá (1897)*
Presenter: **Adrian Deese**, Graduate Student, University of Cambridge, UK
- 1:45 – 2:15 P.M. Topic: *Presence of Muslim Identity in Politics: Peace or Conflict?*
Presenter: **Ertugrul Gokcekuyu**, Faculty, Islamic University of Applied Sciences Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- 2:15 – 2:45 P.M. Topic: *The Power of Praying Together: Christians and Muslims Overcoming Religious Boundaries in Crises*
Presenter: **Christopher PreJean**, Graduate Student, University of California Los Angeles, US
- 2:45 – 3:00 P.M. Tea and Coffee

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- 3:00 – 3:30 P.M. Topic: *U.S. Mediation Efforts in the Middle East : A Moral Religious Basis or a Set of Underlying Forces?*
Presenter: **Sana Zirari**, Graduate Student,
University of Medea, Algeria
- 3:30 – 4:00 P.M. Topic: *Public Funding of Clerical Schools in the US*
Presenter: **Kern Alexander**, Professor,
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign,
US
- 4:00 P.M. Conclusion of Symposium

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SYMPOSIUM FACILITATORS

Canon Brian Mountford, MBE, 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 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 Said 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.

Dr David Martin is a former Headmaster of a state school in the United Kingdom. He taught leadership courses at the University of Amsterdam and lectured at Oxford University. Dr Martin has been an International Consultant for Secondary School Modernization in Trinidad and Tobago and in Guyana. He has, also, worked for the Inter-American Development Bank, and has served as Co-Director of Developing Schools and Services for Democracy in Europe and in Oxford. In addition, he has served as a Research Fellow in Comparative Education and Development programmes at the University of Reading.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Rev. Emma Percy is Chaplain, Fellow and Welfare Dean of Trinity College, Oxford, and a member of the faculty of Theology. She also serves as Chair of Women and the Church (WATCH), which has raised the idea of referring to God as "She" as well as "He," to counter the impression that men might be more like God than women. Rev. Percy has served in chaplaincy and parish ministry for more than 25 years. Her research interests include feminist theology and the theology of mothering. Her two recent books are *Mothering as a Metaphor for Ministry* and *What Clergy Do: Especially when it Looks Like Nothing*.

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