

Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies
at
the **University Church of St Mary**

PROGRAMME
SESSION I

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2014

Dr. Brian Mountford, Co-Director
Dr. David Martin, Co-Director

Meetings at **The Old Library, University Church**
and at the **Brasenose College, Lecture Room XI**

Buffet Lunches Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
at the **Vaults and Gardens Cafe**

8:45 – 8:55 A.M. Welcome **Canon Brian Mountford**

8:55 A.M. Group II walk to **Brasenose**

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2014
THE OLD LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY CHURCH

GROUP I

- 9:00 – 9:30 A.M. Topic: *The Ideal of Moral Progress as a Value of Transcendent Religion*
Presenter: **John Dreher**, Associate Professor, University of Southern California, USA
- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M. Topic: *Interfaith Theology and the New Pluralism*
Presenter: **Joseph Kelley**, Associate Professor, Merrimack University, USA
- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M. Topic: *Spinoza Re-Read: A Viable Option*
Presenter: **Ranhilio Aquino**, Dean, San Beda College, Philippines
- 10:30 – 10:45 A.M. Tea/Coffee and Biscuits
- 10:45 – 11:15 A.M. Topic: *The Prove of G_d*
Presenter: **Asger Trier Engberg**, Philosopher, Denmark
- 11:15 – 11:45 A.M. Topic: *Muhibah and Religious Pluralism: Maintaining Religious Harmony in Malaysia*
Presenter: **Haslina Ibrahim**, Associate Professor, International Islamic University, Malaysia

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- 11:45 – 1:00 P.M. Buffet Lunch at the Vaults and Gardens
Cafe
- 1:00 – 1:30 P.M. Topic: *Islamic Faith In Malaysia: Current
Issues And Challenges*
Presenter: **Engku Ahmad Zaki Engku
Alwi**, Associate Professor, University Sultan
Zainal Abidin, Malaysia
- 1:30 – 2:00 P.M. Topic: *The Prophetic Night Journey and
Heavenly Ascension in the Qur'ān: the
Mystical Interpretation of the Isrā' and
Mi'rāj in Ibn 'Ajība's al-Bahr al-Madīd*
Presenter: **Gavin Picken**, Associate
Professor, American University of Sharjah,
United Arab Emirates
- 2:00 – 2:30 P.M. Topic: *A Philosophy for Islam in a Multi-
faith World: Islamic Critical Realism*
Presenter: **Matthew Wilkinson**, Research
Fellow, University of London, UK
- 2:30 – 2:45 P.M. Tea/Coffee and Biscuits
- 2:45 – 3:15 P.M. Topic: *Social Construction of Baha'i
Theology*
Presenter: **Shahla Mehrgani**, Graduate
Student, University of Sheffield, UK

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- 3:15 – 3:45 P.M. Topic: *The Home Ultimates as the Phenomena of the Real: the Case of Buddhism*
Presenter: **Shaffarullah Abdul Rahman**,
Graduate Student, Monash University,
Australia
- 3:45 – 4:00 P.M. Adjourn

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2014
BRASENOSE COLLEGE, LECTURE ROOM XI

GROUP II

- 9:10– 9:15 A.M. Welcome **David Martin**
- 9:15 – 9:45 A.M. Topic: *The Natural Religion and Moral Theology in the “Tian” of the Shujing: A Transition from Theocracy to Meritocracy*
Presenter: **Yih-hsien Yu**, Professor, Tunghai University, Taiwan
- 9:45 –10:15 A.M. Topic: *Mystic Experience in the Ancient Indian Texts: A Cognitive Approach*
Presenter: **Joanna Jurewicz**, Professor University of Warsaw, Poland
- 10:15 – 10:45 A.M. Topic: *Mahabharata: An Allegory of Moksha*
Presenter: **Radhakrishna Aditham**, Independent Scholar, Cupertino, USA
- 10:45 – 11:00 A.M. Tea/Coffee and Biscuits
- 11:00 – 11:30 A.M. Topic: *The Doctrinal Basis of Modern Chan Buddhism in Master Sheng Yen’s Thought*
Presenter: **Jimmy Yu**, Associate Professor, Florida State University, USA

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- 11:30 – 1:00 P.M. Buffet Lunch at the Vaults and Gardens Cafe
- 1:00 – 1:30 P.M. Topic: *Bodu Bala Sena in the Rise of Buddhist Extremism in Contemporary Sri Lanka*
Presenter: **Mahinda Deegalle**, Reader, Bath Spa University, UK
- 1:30 – 2:00 P.M. Topic: *The Theology of Attaining xian-Immortal in Daoism and Traditional Chinese Medicine: A Comparative Study of Daoist Self-cultivation of Neidan and Chinese Medicine*
Presenter: **Tsing Tsing Crystal Luk**, Graduate Student. The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
- 2:00 – 2:30 P.M. Topic: *Suárez, Vieira and Valignano or on The Three Ways of Jesuitism*
Presenter: **Rui Gonçalves**, Researcher University of Coimbra, Portugal
- 2:30 – 2:45 P.M. Tea/Coffee and Biscuits
- 2:45 – 3:15 P.M. Topic: *The Power of Religious Discourse: Bertrand Russell's Unpublished Correspondence on C.S. Lewis's "Mere Christianity"*
Presenter: **Robert Revington**, Graduate Student, McMaster University, Canada

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- 3:15 – 3:45 P.M. Topic: *“I Was Forced to Lift My Eyes”:
Sight and the Self in Early British
Methodism, 1735-1765*
Presenter: **Erika Stalcup**, Graduate Student,
Boston University, USA
- 3:45 – 4:15 P.M. Topic: *Is God an Information Inputter?
Complex Specified Information as Evidence
for Divine Action*
Presenter: **Juuso Loikkanen**, Graduate
Student, University of Eastern Finland,
Finland
- 4:15 – 4:20 P.M Adjourn:

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2014
THE OLD LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY CHURCH

GROUP I

- 8:50 – 9:00 A.M. Welcome **Canon Brian Mountford**
- 9:00 – 9:30 A.M. Topic: *Religion in the Creation of European and National Identities*
Presenter: **James Guth**, Professor, Furman University, USA
- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M. Topic: *'Liberal Failure or Radical Moment? The Spro-cas Projects and Opposition to Apartheid in the 1970s'*
Presenter: **Ian Macqueen**, Research Fellow, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M. Topic: *The Ecumenical Encounter: Palestinian Christianity and the Israeli Public Sphere*
Presenter: **Clayton Goodgame**, Postgraduate Student, London School of Economics, UK
- 10:30 – 10:45 A.M. Tea/Coffee and Biscuits

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- 10:45 – 11:15 A.M. Topic: *Non-Muslim as Policy-Makers in a Muslim State & the Malaysian Tolerance in Politics*
Presenter: **Lukman Thaib**, Professor,
University of Malaya, Malaysia
- 11:15 – 11:45 P.M. Topic: *Confucian Exorcism in Late Imperial China*
Presenter: **Tak Wai Hung**, Graduate
Student, The Chinese University of Hong
Kong, Hong Kong
- 11:45 – 1:00 P.M. Buffet Lunch at the Vaults and Gardens
Cafe
- 1:00 – 1:30 P.M. Topic: *Innovation in Teaching and Learning of Thematic Exegesis (Tafsir Mawdu'i) Among USIM Students*
Presenter: **Norullisza Khosim**, Lecturer,
University Sains Islam Malaysia, Malaysia
- 1:30 – 2:00P.M. Topic: *The Impact of Religion on Acculturation of Chinese International Students*
Presenter: **Olufolake Orekoya**, Graduate
Student, Hong Kong Baptist University,
Hong Kong

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- 2:00 – 2:30 P.M. Topic: *Transmission of Ethnic and Religious Movement: An Analysis on Arab Identity in the Ottoman Empire and Johor Sultanate in the 19th Century*
Presenter: **Nurulwahidah Fauzi**, Lecturer,
Islamic Science University of Malaysia
- 2:30 – 2:45 P.M. Tea/Coffee and Biscuits
- 2:45 – 3:15 P.M. Topic: *City God Cult, Charity and Social Network in Modern Guangzhou: A Case Study of City God Temple*
Presenter: **Lam Sze Ting**, Graduate Student,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong,
Hong Kong
- 3:15– 3:30 P.M. Adjourn:

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2014
BRASENOSE COLLEGE, LECTURE ROOM XI

GROUP II

- 8:50 – 9:00 A.M. Welcome **David Martin**
- 9:00 – 9:30 A.M. Topic: *Religion, The Economy, and the Environment*
Presenter: **Paul Lewis** Professor, The John Marshall Law School, USA
- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M. Topic: *The Green Man and the Corn Mother: Religious Sustainability Figures*
Presenter: **Christine James**, Professor Valdosta State University, USA
- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M. Topic: *Contextualizing Women and Distinct Religious Practices in Oriente Cuba*
Presenter: **Jualynne Dodson**, Professor, Michigan State University, USA
- 10:30 – 10:45 A.M. Tea/Coffee and Biscuits
- 10:45 – 11:15 A.M. Topic: *Women and Hadith: A Thematic Study*
Presenter: **Nur Saadah Khair**, Graduate Student, University of Birmingham, UK

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- 11:15 – 11:45 P.M. Topic: *Audience and Authority in the South English Legendary 'Life of St. Katherine'*
Presenter: **Gillian Adler**, Graduate Student,
University of California, Los Angeles, USA -
- 11:45 – 1:00 P.M. Buffet Lunch at the Vaults and Gardens
Cafe
- 1:00 – 1:30 P.M. Topic: *Seeing Nudity Anew, or Why Desire Matters for Religion*
Presenter: **William Robert**, Assistant
Professor, Syracuse University, USA
- 1:30 – 2:00 P.M. Topic: *Suffering as the Source: Philosophy of Religion Beyond Genealogies of the Secular and the Sacred*
Presenters: **Lucas Wright**, Graduate Student
and **Ian Bacher**, Graduate Student,
University of Nottingham, UK
- 2:00 – 2:30 P.M. Topic: *Does your Self-driving Car Have the Right to Kill You?*
Presenter: **Stephen Milford**, Graduate
Student, Protestant Theological University,
The Netherlands
- 2:30 – 2:45 P.M. Tea/Coffee and Biscuits

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- 2:45– 3:15 P.M. Topic: *The Human Principles That Govern the State of War in Islam*
Presenter: **Fatima Kassab Al-Hmoud**,
Assistant Professor, King Abdulaziz
University, Saudi Arabia
- 3:15 – 3:45 P.M. Topic: *International Terrorism and the Jurisdiction of Islamic Law*
Presenter: **Ahmed Al-Dawoody**, Assistant
Professor, Zayed University, United Arab
Emirates
- 3:45 – 4:00 P.M. Adjourn

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2014
THE OLD LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY CHURCH

GROUP I

- 8:50 – 9:00 A.M. Welcome **Canon Brian Mountford**
- 9:00 – 9:30 A.M. Topic: *There is No Free-Will Defense*
Presenter: **James P. Sterba**, Professor,
University of Notre Dame, USA
- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M. Topic *Affliction, Free Will and Theodicy*
Presenter: **John Pauley**, Professor, Simpson
College, USA
- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M. Topic: *The Risk of Sacrifice: Theoretical
Reflections on the Akedah and the Jātaka*
Presenter: **David Weddle**, Professor
Emeritus, Colorado College, USA
- 10:30 – 10:45 A.M. Tea/Coffee and Biscuits
- 10:45 – 11:15 A.M. Topic: *God's Sacrifice in the Vedas and in
Christianity's*
Presenter: **Krzysztof Byrski**, Professor,
Collegium Civitas, Poland
- 11:15 – 1:00 P.M. Buffet Lunch at the Vaults and Gardens
Cafe

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2014
BRASENOSE COLLEGE, LECTURE ROOM XI

GROUP II

- 8:50 – 9:00 A.M. Welcome **David Martin**
- 9:00 – 9:30 A.M. Topic: *The Role of the Black Church in Abolition and Anti-Slavery Idealism: Using Religion as a Consciousness as a Form of Liberation Theology Against Slavery*
Presenter: **Donna King**, Lecturer,
Pennsylvania State University, USA
- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M. Topic: *Towards 'Thick Description' of the Religio-Moral Economy of Penal Transportation: A Vandemonian Moment, 1821*
Presenter: **Richard Ely**, Research Fellow,
University of Tasmania, Australia
- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M. Topic: *“How Spiritual Should a Pastor Be?” Identifying the Haunting Spiritual Concerns of Pastors*
Presenter: **Rene Drumm**, Professor,
Andrews University, USA
- 10:30 – 10:45 A.M. Tea/Coffee and Biscuits

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- 10:45 – 11:15 A.M. Topic: *"Stand Firm in Faith": The Theology of Trust and Its Elements in Isaiah 7:1-9*
Presenter: **Matthew Lee**, Emory University, USA
- 11:15 – 11:45 A.M. Topic: *And These Signs Shall Follow Them That Believe: A Religious Economics Approach to Serpent Handling and Other Potentially Hazardous Practices Among Pentecostals in the Southeastern United States.*
Presenter: **Katia Yurguis**, Graduate Student, Fordham University, USA
- 11:45 – 1:00 P.M. Buffet Lunch at the Vaults and Gardens Cafe-

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Other Participants

Ayedh Saad Aldosari, Assistant Professor, King Saud University,
Saudi Arabia

Yutian Chen, Graduate Student, McGill University, Canada

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About the Coordinators

Canon Brian Mountford, Canon Brian Mountford read theology in Newcastle upon Tyne before going to Westcott House, Cambridge, and being ordained in 1968 in St Paul's Cathedral. He served curacies at St Stephen's, Rochester Row and Christ Church, Lancaster Gate in the late sixties. He then became Fellow and Chaplain of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge until 1978 when he was appointed Vicar of Southgate, one of the leading parishes of the liberal catholic tradition.

In 1986 he was appointed Vicar of the University Church in Oxford, which combines ministry to the University, the City, and about 300,000 tourists each year. He is an Honorary Canon of Christ Church Cathedral and Fellow St Hilda's College, Oxford. He has written many books including:

- *Christian Atheist* ('O' Books, 2011)
- *Happiness in 10 minutes* ('O' Books, 2006)
- *Christianity in Ten Minutes* ('O' Books, 2006)
- *Perfect Freedom* ('O' Books, 2003)

He has broadcast for the BBC, written for the Times and Guardian. He is married to Annette Mountford MBE, the Director of 'Family Links' - a national charity that promotes family nurturing with parents, in schools, and in prisons as part of the Social and Health Education curriculum.

Dr. David Martin Symposium Coordinator is a former Headmaster. He has taught at the University of Amsterdam and lectured at Oxford University. Dr. Martin has been an International Consultant in Trinidad and Tobago and in Guyana. He has worked for the Inter-American Development Bank, and has served as Co-Director of Developing School and Services for Democracy in Europe, Oxford; and as a Research Fellow in Comparative

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Education and Development programmes at the University of
Reading.