

# Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies

## PROGRAMME

### MONDAY 2 AUGUST, 2021

- 8:20 – 8:30 AM Introduction and Welcome  
**Canon Brian Mountford**, Symposium Facilitator
- 8:30 – 9:00 AM Topic: *Religion as Brand: an Analogy to Conceptualize Religion*  
Presenter: **Razieh Mahdieh Najafabadi**, Lecturer, Tehran University, Iran
- 9:00 – 9:30 AM Topic: *The future of Religion as means is secure, God as an end is in question*  
Presenter: **Ritoo Antil**, MPhil, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India
- 9:30 – 10:00 AM Topic: *Children of Abraham: Inter-religious Commonality in Small Town Iowa*  
Presenter: **Alan Garfield**, Professor, University of Dubuque, USA
- 10:00 – 10:30 AM Topic: *Joseph of Arimathea: the “hidden” disciple or the guardian of Mary*  
Presenter: **Federica Calabrese**, PhD, University of Iasi, Romania
- 10:30 – 11:00 AM Topic: *Navigating the Nova: The Clarity of Christ in a Confusing Culture*  
Presenter: **Alex Wendel**, Associate Director of Counseling Center, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, USA
- 11:00 - 11:15 AM *Adjourn*

# ***PROGRAMME***

## ***TUESDAY 3 AUGUST, 2021***

- 10:30 – 10:45 AM     **Canon Brian Mountford**, Symposium Facilitator
- 10:45 – 11:15 AM     Topic: *The ‘Katanuxis’ according to the Desert Fathers in Light of the COVID-19 Epidemic*  
Presenter: **Hellen Dayton**, Independent Scholar, UAE
- 11:15 – 11:45 AM     Topic: *A Mixed-Methods Investigation: Ethical Leadership Perspectives of Superintendents in the State of California*  
Presenter: **Joshua Hagans**, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, USA
- 11:45 – 12:15 AM     Topic: *Creating Identity Workspaces for Leaders in Higher Education*  
Presenter: **Maggie Buckridge**, Researcher, University of Delaware, USA
- 12:15 – 12:45 PM     Topic: *Grounding the best interests of students in wisdom and knowledge traditions*  
Presenter: **John-David Holloway**, Law Graduate, Pepperdine University, USA
- 12:45 – 13:15 PM     ***Adjourn***

## OBSERVER

**Chrysanthi Leon**, University of Delaware, USA

### Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies

#### Coordinators

**Lydia Allen** is the Oxford Symposium Coordinator. She has worked as a senior researcher at a political consultancy firm in Johannesburg, South Africa, and as a research assistant at the McGill University's Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Occupational Health in Montreal, Canada. She did freelance editing during the years she lived in Princeton, US, and is currently the Technical Editor at Education Policy Research, Inc. She received her BA (Political Science and Law) and MA (Political Science) from the University of Johannesburg.

**Michele Hill** is the Co-Coordinator for this year's Oxford Symposium. She received her BA in English and Creative Writing from Augustana College, where she minored in Religion. Post-graduation, she worked on international conferences on a wide range of subjects, and is now the Associate Editor for the *Journal of Education Finance*.

## Facilitator

**Canon Brian Mountford** MBE was Vicar of the University Church, Oxford, from 1986-2016 and is a Fellow St Hilda's College, Oxford. He is also Canon Emeritus of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. He was previously Fellow and Chaplain of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge and Vicar of Southgate in North London.

His bestselling book, *Christian Atheist* (2011), explores the phenomenon of those who find Christianity compelling, but struggle with its metaphysical beliefs. 2021 will see the publication of his Memoir 'Church Going Gone – a biography of religion, doubt and faith'. *Friday's Child*, is an anthology of poetry about suffering and redemption with a short commentary on each piece. All available on Amazon.

His main interests are in the area of contemporary 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.

He is 'Publisher at Large' for the 'Christian Alternative' imprint of John Hunt Publishing, UK.