

**Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies**  
at  
**St Anne's College**

**MONDAY 11 MARCH 2024**  
**SEMINAR ROOM 9**

- 9:00 – 9:10 A.M. Welcome and Introduction  
**Canon Brian Mountford**, MBE,  
Symposium Facilitator
- 9:10 – 9:40 A.M. Topic: *Contemporary Theological Resources Supporting an Anglican Claim to Greater Sharing of Roman Catholic Eucharistic Communion*  
Presenter: **Donald H. J. Hermann**,  
Professor of Law and Philosophy, DePaul University, US
- 9:40 – 10:10 A.M. Topic: *Exploring Becoming Christian in Trinitarian Terms as Theosis*  
Presenter: **Tarin Christopher Griswold**,  
Student, University of St Andrews, UK
- 10:10 – 10:30 A.M. Tea/Coffee & Biscuits – Foyer A Ruth Deech Bldg.
- 10:30 – 11:00 A.M. Topic: *Mum's the Word: Key Terminology in the Prohibition of the Blemished Priest in Leviticus 21:16-24*  
Presenter: **Jeffrey Mooney**, Professor of Old Testament Interpretation and Theology, California Baptist University, US

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- 11:00 – 11:30 A.M.    Topic: *Dialogue Between Religions Through the Promotion of Tikkun Olam*  
Presenter: **Nathalie Tremblay**, Student,  
Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada
- 11:30 – 12:00 P.M.    Topic: *Vodou, Rastafarianism, and Spiritual Aesthetics: Toward an Emancipatory Ancestral Epistemology and Praxis*  
Presenter: **Nixon S. Cleophat**, Associate Professor of Religion, Bloomfield College of Montclair State University, US
- 12:00 – 1:00 P.M.    Buffet Lunch – Foyer B Ruth Deech Bldg.
- 1:00 – 1:30 P.M.    Topic: *An Ethical Interpretation of Akedah via a Thought Experiment*  
Presenter: **Muhammet Selim Altunpinar**, Student, Central European University, Turkey
- 1:30 – 2:00 P.M.    Topic: *Scripture and Metaphysics*  
Presenter: **Gaven Kerr**, Lecturer, St Patrick's Pontifical University Maynooth, Ireland
- 2:00 – 2:30 P.M.    Topic: *Religion and Politics in the US and Japan—The Resurgence of Religious Nationalism*  
Presenter: **Katsuhiro Sasuga**, Professor, School of Global Studies, Tokai University, Japan

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- 2:30 – 2:50 P.M.      Tea/Coffee – Foyer A Ruth Deech Bldg.
- 2:50 – 3:20 P.M.      Topic: *A Half-Marxist in Exile*  
Presenter: **Yun Ding**, Associate Professor,  
Tennessee Tech University, US
- 3:20 – 3:50 P.M.      Topic: *Reading Marx in the Cold War*  
*Catholic Church: A Revisionist*  
*Interpretation of Gustavo Gutiérrez*  
Presenter: **Gerhard Stuebben**, Postdoctoral  
Teaching Fellow, Baylor University, US
- 3:50 – 4:20 P.M.      Topic: *Correlations Between the*  
*Developmental Trajectories of Religious*  
*Attitudes Among Chinese Buddhist*  
*Communities and Extrasensory Perception*  
Presenter: **Yuxin Zhao**, Student, Lancaster  
University, UK
- 4:20 – 4:50 P.M.      Topic: *Bomunjong: Bhikkhuni Buddhist*  
*Order in Contemporary Korea*  
Presenter: **David W. Kim**, Associate  
Professor, Harvard University/Kookmin  
University, US/Korea
- 4:50 – 5:00 P.M.      Adjourn

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TUESDAY 12 MARCH 2024  
SEMINAR ROOM 9

- 9:00 – 9:10 A.M. Welcome and Introduction:  
**Canon Brian Mountford**, MBE,  
Symposium Facilitator
- 9:10 – 9:40 A.M. Topic: *Chinese Religion in Postwar  
American Literature: The I Ching and The  
Man in the High Castle*  
Presenter: **John T. P. Lai**, Professor, The  
Chinese University of Hong Kong, China
- 9:40 – 10:10 A.M. Topic: *Defamiliarizing the Scriptures:  
Literary Representations of the Sacred in  
Endō Shūsaku's Fiction*  
Presenter: **Massimiliano Tomasi**, Professor  
of Japanese, Western Washington  
University, US
- 10:10 – 10:30 A.M. Tea/Coffee & Biscuits – Foyer A Ruth  
Deech Bldg.
- 10:30 – 11:00 A.M. Topic: *Nietzsche's Views on Islam*  
Presenter: **Nans Mousset**, PhD, Aix-  
Marseille Université, France
- 11:00 – 11:30 A.M. Topic: *Who Objects to Religious Freedom?*  
Presenter: **John Gee**, William (Bill) Gay  
Research Professor, Brigham Young  
University, US

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- 11:30 – 12:00 P.M.    Topic: *“And the wall came tumbling down.”  
The U.S. Supreme Court and the  
Dismantling of the Wall of Separation  
Between Church and State*  
Presenter: **Fred Glennon**, Professor, Le  
Moyne College, US
- 12:00 – 1:00 P.M.    Buffet Lunch – Foyer B Ruth Deech Bldg.
- 1:00 – 1:30 P.M.    Topic: *Lies We Can no Longer Tell: White  
Christian Supremacy in the Interfaith  
Movement*  
Presenter: **J. Cody Nielsen**, Director, Center  
for Spirituality and Social Justice, Dickinson  
College, US
- 1:30 – 2:00 P.M.    Topic: *Subversively Orthodox – Hermann  
Müller's Biblical Criticism*  
Presenter: **Tamar Kojman**, PhD Fellow,  
Hebrew University, Israel
- 2:00 – 2:30 P.M.    Topic: *Religious Nationalism and the  
Gender Alibi*  
Presenter: **Nandini Deo**, Associate  
Professor, Lehigh University, US
- 2:30 – 2:50 P.M.    Tea/Coffee – Foyer A Ruth Deech Bldg.
- 2:50 – 3:20 P.M.    Topic: *The Misappropriation of Ancient  
Law in Contemporary Society*  
Presenter: **Jordyn de Veer**, Student,  
Wellesley College, US

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- 3:20 – 3:50 P.M.      Topic: *The Politics of Procreation: The Evolution of Female-Led Negotiation in Genesis*  
Presenter: **Eliza Powers**, Student, Pomona College, US
- 3:50 – 4:20 P.M.      Topic: *Teaching About Jesus as Feminist Praxis in 2023*  
Presenter: **Lydia Bremer-McCollum**, Postdoctoral Fellow in Digital Humanities, Oklahoma University, US
- 4:20 – 4:50 P.M.      Topic: *Teaching About Jesus as Feminist Praxis in 2023*  
Presenter: **Kimberly Arevalo Diaz**, Student, University of California - Riverside, US
- 4:50 – 5:00 P.M.      Adjourn

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**WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2024**  
**SEMINAR ROOM 9**

- 9:00 – 9:10 A.M. Welcome and Introduction:  
**Canon Brian Mountford**, MBE,  
Symposium Facilitator
- 9:10 – 9:40 A.M. Topic: *Tolkien's Tree and Leaf: Cross Cultural Comparisons with Indigenous Mesoamerican Ontologies*  
Presenter: **Miguel Aguilera**, Associate Professor, Arizona State University, US
- 9:40 – 10:10 A.M. Topic: *Demonic Depiction of Karakondjol During 'The Twelve Unbaptised Days' in the Orthodox Folk Tradition in the Republic of North Macedonia*  
Presenter: **Lidija Kovacheva**, Assistant Professor, University Euro Balkan Skopje, North Macedonia
- 10:10 – 10:30 A.M. Tea/Coffee & Biscuits – Foyer A Ruth Deech Bldg.
- 10:30 – 11:00 A.M. Topic: *The Use of Digital Simulations of Religious Behaviors in the Classroom*  
Presenter: **Donald Braxton**, J Omar Good Professor of Religious Studies, Juniata College, US

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- 11:00 – 11:30 A.M.    Topic: *A Multiversity Approach to Inter-religious Education in Qatar*  
Presenters: **Robert Bianchi**, Associate Professor of English, Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar, Qatar; **Akintunde Akinade**, Professor in Comparative Literature, Georgetown University, Qatar; **Muhammad Modassir Ali**, Senior Researcher, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar
- 11:30 – 12:00 P.M.    Topic: *Dialogism in the Classroom: Teaching the Memoirs of Palestinians and Israelis*  
Presenter: **Daphne Desser**, Associate Professor, University of Hawaii, US
- 12:00 – 1:00 P.M.    Buffet Lunch – Foyer B Ruth Deech Bldg.
- 1:00 – 1:30 P.M.    Topic: *Distorted Stories: When Textbooks Misrepresent Zoroastrians in the Islamic Republic of Iran*  
Presenter: **Khodadad (Khodi) Kaviani**, Education Professor, Central Washington University, US
- 1:30 – 2:00 P.M.    Topic: *Interpreting Qur'an from an Exclusivist Salafi Perspective*  
Presenter: **Alina Isac Alak**, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Vienna, Austria



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- 2:00 – 2:30 P.M.      Topic: *Exploring Mental Health and Wellbeing of Imams in a Muslim Majority Society*  
Presenter: **Malik Muhammad Sohail**, Assistant Professor, Center for Religion, Science, and Social Wellbeing, Department of Sociology, University of Chakwal, Pakistan
- 2:30 – 2:50 P.M.      Tea/Coffee – Foyer A Ruth Deech Bldg.
- 2:50 – 3:20 P.M.      Topic: *Comprehensive Approach to Counter Terrorism*  
Presenter: **Alhaji Khuzaima Mohammed Osman**, Chairman of the Fundraising and Finance Committee, National Peace Council of Ghana, Ghana
- 3:20 – 3:50 P.M.      Topic: *The Intersection of Science and Miracles*  
Presenter: **Micaella Trulli**, Learning Assistant, Hartford Community College, US
- 3:50 – 4:20 P.M.      Topic: *Religion and Resilience in Disasters: Experiences of Brazilian Air Force Service Members*  
Presenters: **Cláunei Cristian Delgado Dutra**, Student, Universidade da Força Aérea, Brazil; **Henrique de Souza Rocha**, Collaborator Professor, Universidade da Força Aérea, Brazil

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4:20 – 4:30 P.M.      Adjourn

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**OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

**Despina Kovacheva Aleksovska**, Student, University Euro  
Balkan Skopje, North Macedonia

**Shourav Barua**, Deputy Abbot, Wat Yannawa, Thailand

**Sramom Plabon Barua**, Vice President, Historical Rangkut  
Banasram Pilgrimage Mahavihara, Bangladesh

**Ashok Chowdhury**, Buddhist Monk, Mahasthaveer Chandramani  
Buddha Vihar, India

**Ven Bhikkhu K Sree Jyotisen**, Director, Historical Rangkut  
Banasram Pilgrimage Mahavihara, Bangladesh

**Morad Kaviani**, US

**Patricia Kaviani**, US

**Apurba Saha**, Deputy Abbot, Bano Vihar Buddha Ashram, India

**Haideh Salehi-Esfahani**, Retired Professor, University of  
Washington, US

**Suman Sarkar**, Deputy Abbot, Nagarjun Buddha Vihar, India

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**SYMPOSIUM 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. His main interests are in the area of contemporary questions of faith and doctrine, and currently is working on religious intuition, and also on how contemporary nano-science presents a way of looking at reality which might be helpful to theological reflection.

He is Publisher at Large for the Circle Books imprint of Collective Ink Books Ltd., a publishing house which specialises in religion & mind, body, and spirit. His memoir *Church Going Gone* – a biography of religion, doubt and faith is available on Amazon or at Blackwells. His 2022 book title *Religion and Generation Z* – why 70% of 18-24-year-olds say they have no religion speaks for itself. His bestselling book, *Christian Atheist* (2011), explores the phenomenon of those who find Christianity compelling, but struggle with its metaphysical beliefs.

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**SYMPOSIUM COORDINATOR**

**Phoebe Lane** is the Symposium Coordinator. She holds a BA in Political Science from the University of North Texas, complemented by a minor in Women's and Gender Studies. Her academic interests primarily revolve around political theory and feminist studies. With extensive experience in coordinating academic conferences within higher education institutions, including the University of North Texas and The University of Houston-Downtown, Phoebe is dedicated to fostering scholarly discourse and engagement within academic communities.

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