

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

PROGRAMME

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

Meetings at **The Old Library, University
Church of St Mary**

Buffet Lunches Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
Vaults and Gardens Cafe

*See brief bios last page of this Programme

Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies
at
the University Church of St Mary
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2015 AT THE OLD LIBRARY

- 8:50 – 9:00 A.M. Welcome and Introduction
Canon Brian Mountford
- 9:00 – 9:30 A.M. Topic: *State Support for Religion and Constitutional Law: An Autonomy-based Approach*
Presenter: **Leni Franken**, Post-Doctoral Fellow, University of Antwerp, Belgium
- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M. Topic: *Faith, Belief and Religious Experience*
Presenter: **John Dreher**, Professor, University of Southern California, US
- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M. Topic: *Apophatic Perception: Eriugena's Christological Vision*
Presenter: **Axel Takacs**, Graduate Student, Harvard Divinity School, US
- 10:30 – 10:45 A.M. Tea/Coffee
- 10:45 – 11:15 A.M. Topic: *What has Charlie Hebdo Wrought? Remeasuring the Ethical and Legal Boundaries of Hate Speech*
Presenter: **Joel Campbell**, Professor, Brigham Young University, US

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

- 11:15 – 11:45 A.M. Topic: *Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Religion: The Growth of Religious Intolerance Caused by Hate Speech*
Presenter: **Enrique Montes**, Association Miraisme International, Spain
- 11:45 – 12:15 P.M. Topic: *Herder's Conceptualization of Tolerance*
Presenter: **Paul Kerry**, Visiting Scholar, Corpus Christi College, Oxford, UK
- 12:15 – 1:15 P.M. Lunch
- 1:15 – 1:45 P.M. Topic: *Is Tolerance Possible?*
Presenter: **Maria Ciurchea Barbu**, Graduate Student, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania
- 1:45 – 2:15 P.M. Topic: *The "Circle of Sensibility": Employing Spiritual Type Theory in Examining Kataphatic and Apophatic Approaches to Christian Spirituality*
Presenter: **Samuel Baker**, Professor, Corban University, US
- 2:15 – 2:45 P.M. Topic: *The American Adam and H. D. Thoreau's Nature Mysticism*
Presenter: **Mario Bosincu**, Post-Doctoral Fellow, University of Sassari, Italy

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

- 2:45 – 3:15 P.M. Topic: *The Incidence of Religion in the Processes Aimed at Achieving Lasting Peace and Sustainable Development*
Presenter: **Carlos Baena López**,
Association Miraisme International,
Colombia
- 3:15. – 3:30 P.M. Tea/Coffee
- 3:30 – 4:00 P.M. Topic: *Religious Leadership in an Era of Exponential Change*
Presenter: **Larry Bridgesmith**, Professor,
Vanderbilt Law School, US
- 4:00 – 4:30 P.M Topic: *Where the Jordan Meets the Ganges: Swami Vivekananda and the Confluence of East/West Culture*
Presenter: **Louella Moore**, Professor,
Washburn University of Topeka, Kansas,
US
- 4:30 – 5:00 P.M Topic: *Political Theology and Contemporary Politics*
Presenter: **Garrett Sheldon**, Professor,
University of Virginia, US
- 5:00 – 5:30 P.M. Topic: *Islamic Studies*
Presenter: **Tahir, Sadiq**, Graduate Student,
National University of Modern Languages,
Islamabad, Pakistan

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

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2015 AT THE OLD
LIBRARY**

- 8:50 – 9:00 A.M. Welcome
David Martin
- 9:00 – 9:30 A.M. Topic: *Islamo-Christian Christologies, Sufic
Pantheistic Monism and the Birth of New
Religious Movements in Nigeria*
Presenter: **Mujahid Hamza Shitu**, Lecturer,
Umaru Musa Yar'adua University, Nigeria
- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M Topic: *Towards an Islamic Eco-Ethics:
Theological and Social Perspectives*
Presenter: **Alan Weber**, Professor,
Weill Cornell Medicine – Qatar, Qatar
- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M. Topic: *Religious Conflicts and Education in
Nigeria: Implications for National Security.*
Presenter: **Ushe Mike**, Senior Lecturer,
National Open University of Nigeria,
Nigeria.
- 10:30 – 10:45 A.M. Tea/Coffee
- 10:45 – 11:15 A.M Topic: *Law and Religion in a Democratic
Nigeria: Islamic Preaching Board Laws and
the Challenge of Boko Haram in Perspective*
Presenter: **Ahmed Salisu Garba**, Acting
Head of Department, Bauchi State
University, Gadau, Nigeria

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

- 11:15 – 11:45 A.M. Topic: *The Fall of Man or the Ascent of the Human: Aronofsky’s “Noah” and the Rise of Human Consciousness*
Presenter: **Frederick Downing**, Professor, Valdosta State University, and **Jonathan Downing**, Screaming Shi-Tzu Productions, US
- 11:45 – 12:15 P.M. Topic: *“A Real Conversation is Never the One We Wanted to Conduct”: Why Christian-Muslim Dialogue is Not a Modest Proposal*
Presenters: **Adil Khan**, Assistant Professor, Loyola University New Orleans and **Michael Cowan**, Professor, Loyola University New Orleans, US
- 12:15 – 1:15 P.M. Lunch
- 1:15 – 1:45 P.M. Topic: *Albert Camus and Saïd Nursi on the Problem of Evil*
Presenter: **Hakan Gök**, Lecturer, Mevlana University, Turkey
- 1:45 – 2:15 P.M. Topic: *J.R.R. Tolkien and Buddhist Concepts in his Writings*
Presenter: **Brad Eden**, Dean of Library Services, Valparaiso University, US
- 2:15 – 2:45 P.M. Topic: *Spiritual Leadership - A Buddhist Approach towards Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability*

Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies

at

the University Church of St Mary

Presenter: **Mai Vu**, Graduate Student,
University of Auckland, New Zealand

- 2:45 – 3:15 P.M. Topic: *Thích Nhất Hạnh, Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Doctrine of Interbeing*
Presenter: **Marc Andrus**, Graduate Student,
California Institute of Integral Studies, US
- 3:15 – 3:30 P.M. Tea/Coffee
- 3:30 – 4:00 P.M. Topic: *Christianity in Japan before the Arrival of Europeans*
Presenter: **James Morris**, Graduate Student,
University of St. Andrews, UK
- 4:00 – 4:30 P.M. Topic: *The Lonely Non-Resistant: Adin Ballou's Struggle with Providentially Justifying Violence to Free the Slave in Antebellum America*
Presenter: **Bryce Taylor**, Graduate Student,
Heidelberg University, Germany
- 4:30 – 5:00 P.M. Topic: *An American Reckoning with Catholic Masculinity: A Men's Studies Perspective on James Carroll's "An American Requiem"*
Presenter: **Rocco Capraro**, Dean, Hobart
and William Smith Colleges, US
- 5:00 – 5:30 P.M. Topic: *Spirituality for Minorities*
Presenter: **Carole Riley**, Professor,
Duquesne University, US

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2015 AT THE OLD LIBRARY

- 8:50 – 9:00 A.M. Welcome
David Martin
- 9:00 – 9:30 A.M. Topic: *Bhakti Poetry: An Observation of
Mystical Poetry in India*
Presenter: **Jean Dsouza**, Professor, H.A.
College of Commerce, India
- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M. Topic: *Shi'ism, and its Impact on the
Inscriptions of Ikhānīd Religious Buildings
of Iran*
Presenter: **Suzan Abed**, Graduate Student,
Alexandria University, Egypt
- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M. Topic: *The Exorcism of Mary Magdalene:
Engaging Luke 8.1-3 from the Subaltern*
Presenter: **Tyler Tully**, Graduate Student,
Chicago Theological Seminary, US
- 10:30 – 10:45 A.M. Tea/Coffee
- 10:45 – 11:15 A.M. Topic: *Moving out MOVE: A Politico-
theological Case Study of Institutional
Domestic Terrorism in the USA*
Presenter: **Brandon Harrington**, Senior
Student, Salve Regina University, US

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

- 11:15 – 11:45 A.M Topic: *What Could Icons of the Mother of God Really Have to Do with Interdenominational and Interreligious Wars?*
Presenter: **Hellen Dayton**, Independent Scholar, United Arab Emirates
- 11:45 – 12:15 P.M. Topic: *Death Penalty to Drug Traffickers from the Perspective of Siyasaḥ Syariyyah*
Presenter: **Wan Norhasniah Wan Husin**, Associate Professor, National Defence University of Malaysia, Malaysia
- 12:15 – 1:15 P.M Buffet Lunch
- 1:15 – 1:45 P.M. Topic: *Religious and Other Belief Systems: Diversity and Internal Conflict in a Digital World*
Presenter: **Glorianna Pionati**, Professor, Al Akhawayn University, Morocco
- 1:45 – 2:15 P.M. Topic: *Minister for a Day – Online Ordination and the Place of Religion in the 21st Century*
Presenter: **Michel Clasquin-Johnson**, Professor, University of South Africa, South Africa
- 2:15 – 2:45 P.M. Topic: *The Origins of the Apprenticeship of Saint Thomas Aquinas in Portugal*
Presenter: **Rui Gonçalves**, Researcher University of Coimbra, Portugal

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

- 2:45 – 3:15 P.M. Topic: *Iterations of the Divine: The Pursuit of Sacred Personhood in West African Spirituality*
Presenter: **Monika Brodnicka**, Assistant Professor, The Ohio State University, US
- 3:15 – 3:30 P.M. Tea/Coffee
- 3:30 – 4:00 P.M. Topic: *Women's Social Tasks in the First Period of Islam*
Presenter: **Ayse Ambaroglu**, Graduate Student, Marmara University, Turkey
- 4:00 – 4:30 P.M. Topic: *Appropriation and Assimilation of Local Deities into Hinduism*
Presenter: **Mala Ravikumar**, Researcher, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, India
- 4:30 – 5:00 P.M. Topic: *Rituals and Fathering: Connecting Early and Modern Religious Practices with Paternal Investment*
Presenter: **David Bell**, Senior Lecturer, Georgia State University, US
- 5:00 – 5:10 Conclude and Adjourn

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

Other Participants

Richard Carp, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academics, Saint Mary's College of California, US

Willie Oliver, Director, Certified Family Life Educators, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, US

About the Directors

Canon Brian Mountford is Vicar of the University Church, Oxford and Fellow St Hilda's College. He is also an Honorary Canon of Christ Church Cathedral. 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 eighties.

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

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

Education and Development programmes at the University of
Reading.