

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

PROGRAMME

MONDAY, 1 AUGUST 2016
THE OLD LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY CHURCH

- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M. Keynote: **Canon Brian Mountford**, MBE,
Former Vicar of the University Church of St
Mary the Virgin, and Fellow of St Hilda's
College, Oxford
- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M. Topic: *Reflections on Religion and Science
in America a Decade after the Dover Trial*
Presenter: **Eric Plumer**, Associate
Professor, University of Scranton, US
- 10:30 – 11:00 A.M. Topic: *Roman Catholic Ambivalence
Toward Religious Freedom: Harmonizing
Change And Continuity In Dignitatis
Humanae Personae*
Presenter: **Donald H.J. Hermann**,
Professor, DePaul University, US
- 11:00 – 11:15 A.M. Tea/Coffee and Biscuits
- 11:15 – 11:45 A.M. Topic: *What Is the Meaning of the Term
"Religion"?*
Presenter: **Tatyana Lifintseva**, Professor,
Higher School of Economics, Russia
- 11:45 – 12:15 P.M. Topic: *The (Overwhelming) Improbability of
Classical Theism*
Presenter: **Raphael Lataster**, Teaching
Fellow, The University of Sydney, Australia

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- 12:15 – 12:45 P.M. Topic: *Towards a Permeable Spirit
Ecclesiology in the Northern Indian Context*
Presenter: **Swarup Bar**, Graduate Student,
University of Edinburgh, UK
- 12:45 – 1:15 P.M. Topic: *Reclaiming Identity: Government and
Self-Representations of the Naga Indigenous
People in India*
Presenter: **Ranjan Bandyopadhyay**,
Associate Professor, Mahidol University,
Thailand
- 1:15 – 2:00 P.M. Buffet Lunch at the Church (Vaults and
Gardens Café)
- 2:00 P.M. Adjourn

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TUESDAY, 2 AUGUST 2016
THE OLD LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY CHURCH

- 9:15 – 9:30 A.M. Welcome **Canon Brian Mountford**, MBE
- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M. Topic: *American Sex and Sects: Comparing Mormon Polygamy, Shaker Celibacy, and Oneida Complex Marriage*
Presenter: **Stewart Davenport**, Associate Professor, Pepperdine University, US
- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M. Topic: *Freedom from Fear: The U.S. Military's Unexpected Use of Chaplains during the Second World War*
Presenter: **Andrew Polk**, Assistant Professor, Middle Tennessee State University, US
- 10:30 – 11:00 A.M. Topic: *To Sing with Other Tongues: Examining Pentecostal Themes in the Scat Vocals of Louis Armstrong's "The Heebie Jeebies Dance"*
Presenter: **Elijah Smith**, Graduate Student, Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada
- 11:00 – 11:15 A.M. Tea/Coffee and Biscuits
- 11:15 – 11:45 P.M. Topic: *Paradigms of Masculinity in Late Antique Manichaeic Cosmology*
Presenter: **Susanna Towers**, Graduate Student, Cardiff University, Wales

Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies
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- 11:45 – 12:15 P.M. Topic: *Towards a Theology of Liberation from Anorexia Nervosa*
Presenter: **Hannah Stammers**, Graduate Student, University of Birmingham, UK
- 12:45 – 1:15 P.M. Topic: *From Surreptitious to Open Worship of Afro-Cuban Gods*
Presenter: **Teresita Pedraza**, Associate Professor, Miami-Dade College, US
- 1:15 – 2:00 P.M. Buffet Lunch at the Church (Vaults and Gardens Café)
- 2:00 P.M. Adjourn

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WEDNESDAY, 3 AUGUST 2016
THE OLD LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY CHURCH

- 9:15 – 9:30 A.M. Welcome, **Canon Brian Mountford**, MBE
- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M Topic: *Immigration and Biblical Migrant Narratives*
Presenter: **J. Dwayne Howell**, Professor,
Campbellsville University, US
- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M. Topic: *Understanding a Mormon Phenomenon: A Case Study in Religiosity and Higher Education*
Presenter: **Nathan Williams**, Professor,
Brigham Young University – Idaho, US
- 10:30 – 11:00 A.M. Topic: *If The Church Fails to Adapt, Death Is Inevitable*
Presenter: **Billy Gisher**, Teacher, US
- 11:00 – 11:15 A.M. Tea/Coffee and Biscuits
- 11:15 – 11:45 A.M. Topic: *Athletic Hijabs Are Not a Form of Accommodation: An Application of 'Deep Equality'*
Presenter: **Keelin Pringnitz**, Graduate Student,
University of Ottawa, Canada

Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies

at
the University Church of St Mary

- 11:45 – 12:15 P.M. Topic: *Friendship Without Compromise? Exploring Social Cohesion Between Protestants, Catholics, and Vaudissants in Haiti.*
Presenter: **Roger Abbott**, Research Associate, Faraday Institute for Science & Religion, UK
- 12:15 – 1:00 P.M. Buffet Lunch at the Church (Vaults and Gardens Café)
- 1:00 – 3:00 P.M. Tour of Oxford University College Chapels

Other Participants

Debra Osborne, Pennsylvania, US

Symposium Facilitator

Canon Brian Mountford MBE is former Vicar of the University Church, Oxford, and Emeritus 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

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Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge before becoming Vicar of Southgate in North London for seven years in the eighties.