

Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies



Online
17-18 March 2022



Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies

THURSDAY, 17 MARCH 2022

- 8:30 – 9:00 A.M. Welcome
Brian Mountford, Symposium Facilitator,
UK
Sara Hoke, Symposium Coordinator, USA
- 9:00 – 9:30 A.M. Topic: *The Ethical Emphasis on Religious
Identity*
Presenter: **Nisha Keshwani**, Independent
Scholar, India
- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M. Topic: *Abū Madyan al-Ghawth and Divine
Unity in His Lāmiyya Ode*
Presenter: **Omneya Ayad**, Assistant
Professor, Uskudar University, The Institute
of Sufi Studies, Turkey
- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M. Break
- 10:30 – 11:00 A.M. Topic: *Shaiva Imagery in the Paintings of
Shri Ghulam Rasool Santosh*
Presenter: **Harshika Mann**, Research
Scholar, Maharishi Dayanand University,
India
- 11:00 – 11:30 A.M. Topic: *Nature in Balance*
Presenter: **Asger Trier Engberg**,
Independent Scholar, Denmark

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- 1:30 – 12:00 P.M. Topic: *Female Christ Figures in Contemporary Film: Reading Disney's Moana as a Filmic Christ Figure*
Presenter: **Belinda Du Plooy**, Senior Manager of Academic Engagement, Nelson Mandela University, South Africa
- 12:00 – 12:30 P.M. Break
- 12:30 – 1:00 P.M. Topic: *Revisiting the Importance of Faith and the Invisible*
Presenter: **William Jeynes**, Senior Fellow, Witherspoon Institute, Princeton University, and Professor, California State University at Long Beach, USA
- 1:00 – 1:30 P.M. Topic: *Does Religious Expression Have a Price Tag?*
Presenters: **Claire Murphy**, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Music Education, Stephen F. Austin State University, USA; **Barbara Qualls**, Associate Professor/Program Director for M.Ed.-Leadership, Stephen F. Austin State University, USA
- 1:30 P.M. Adjourn

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FRIDAY, 18 MARCH 2022

- 8:20 – 8:30 A.M. Welcome
Brian Mountford, Symposium Facilitator,
UK
Sara Hoke, Symposium Coordinator, USA
- 8:30 – 9:00 A.M. Topic: *Religious Populism: Between
Modernophobia and Islamophobia*
Presenter: **Jorge Botelho Moniz**, Director
of the B.A. in European Studies and
International Relations & Assistant
Professor, Lusófona University, Portugal
- 9:00 – 9:30 A.M. Topic: *Appraising Transformation,
Fragmentation and Contestation among
Ulama in Northern Nigeria Since the 20th
Century, A Study of Urban Islam in Nigeria*
Presenter: **Nura Aliyu**, Senior Lecturer,
Umaru Musa Yaradua University Katsina
State, Nigeria
- 9:30 – 9:45 A.M. Topic: *The Influence of Religion on
Elementary Preservice Teachers’
Perceptions of Science*
Presenters: **Ian Binns**, Associate Professor,
The University of North Carolina at
Charlotte, USA; **Mark Bloom**, Professor,
Dallas Baptist University, USA
- 9:45 – 10:00 A.M. Topic: *Evolution in the Scriptures*
Presenter: **Ali Abubakar Sadiq**, Columnist,
Leadership Newspaper Group, Nigeria

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- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M. Break
- 10:30 – 11:00 A.M. Topic: *Bridging Role of the Sufi Intellectuals between the Late Ottoman Empire and Early Republican Turkey*
Presenter: **Arzu Eylul Yalcinkaya**, Faculty Member, Institute for Sufi Studies, Uskudar University, Turkey
- 11:00 – 11:30 A.M. Topic: *The Spiritual Commonwealth: Southern Nigeria's Delegation to the Pan-Anglican Congress of 1908*
Presenter: **Adrian Deese**, Assistant Professor, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA
- 11:30 – 12:00 P.M. Topic: *Moses, Plato's True Philosopher*
Presenter: **Graham Lee**, Elizabeth D. Rockwell Center Fellow, University of Houston, USA
- 12:00 – 12:30 P.M. Topic: *Charles Darwin: Man of Science and Man of God*
Presenters: **Nola Stewart**, Retired Science Teacher, Australia
- 12:30 – 1:00 P.M. Topic: *Analysing the Religious Pluralism and the Quality of Life in India*
Presenter: **Shashank Shukla**, Assistant Professor, C.M. College, India
- 1:00 P.M. Adjourn

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Observers

Richard Ely, Adjunct Senior Lecturer, University of Tasmania, Australia

Megan Grant, PhD Student, University of Massachusetts, USA

Syifa Hana Zulkifli, Operational Manager, Akademi Dr Har, Malaysia

Symposium Facilitator

Brian Mountford MBE was Vicar of the University Church, Oxford, from 1986-2016 and is a Supernumerary 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 memoir *Church Going Gone – a biography of religion, doubt and faith* is now available on Amazon or at Blackwells. This year will also see the publication of *Religion and Generation Z – why 70% of 18-24-year-olds say they have no religion*, which he edited and contributed to. His bestselling book, *Christian Atheist* (2011), explores the phenomenon of those who find Christianity compelling, but struggle with its metaphysical beliefs. His main interests are in contemporary questions of faith and doctrine, but he has diversified into other areas giving seminars on leadership and ethics in corporate life for the Saïd 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. He is currently Acting Chaplain of Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

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Symposium Coordinators

Michele Hill is the Associate Editor for the Journal of Education Finance, which is distributed by the University of Illinois Press and Johns Hopkins University Press, Project MUSE. She graduated from Augustana College with a degree in English and creative writing. She has experience in conference planning including event management and facilitating sessions spanning several topics from the humanities and publishing to religion and food studies.

Sara Hoke is the Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies Coordinator. She earned her Bachelor of Science in management, with a concentration in international business, and in marketing from the College of Business at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. She is currently pursuing her Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Delaware. She has over 5 years of experience managing academic events and has an extensive international travel background.