

Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies

MONDAY, 19 MARCH, 2018

THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD LECTURE ROOM A

- 9:00 A.M. Introduction and Welcome: Symposium Facilitator, **Canon Brian Mountford**, MBE, Former Vicar of The University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford, and Fellow of St Hilda's College, Oxford University
- 9:10 – 9:50 A.M. Topic: *The Symbolism of Secular Rituals*
Presenter: **Jan A. Kozák**, Researcher, Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic
- 9:50 – 10:30 A.M. Topic: *Secular Relevance of Religious Language: The Case of Christian Construction of Ecological Concepts of God*
Presenter: **Bryan Mok**, Graduate Student, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR
- 10:30 – 10:45 A.M. Tea/Coffee and Biscuits
- 10:45 – 11:25 A.M. Topic: *Smiling at Fear: Theorising Parrhesia and Sustained High-Risk Nonviolent Action*
Presenter: **Paul Alexander**, Visiting Scholar, University of Birmingham, UK

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- 11:25 – 12:05 P.M. Topic: *Rivers, Caves, and Trees: Corporeal Realizations of Maternal Ecologies in South Asia*
Presenter: **Anna Thurston**, Graduate Student, Yale University, US
- 12:05 – 1:30 P.M. Lunch
- 1:30 – 2:10 P.M. Topic: *The Kitab-I-Aqdas in Light of the Bible and the Qur'An: An Interreligious Hermeneutic Approach*
Presenter: **Robert Bianchi**, Assistant Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University, Qatar
- 2:10 – 2:50 P.M. Topic: *Al-Ghazali's Integral Epistemology: A Critical Analysis of the Jewels of the Quran*
Presenter: **Amani Mohamed Elshimi**, Senior Instructor, The American University in Cairo, Egypt

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TUESDAY, 20 MARCH, 2018

THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE LECTURE ROOM A

- 9:00 A.M. Welcome, **Canon Brian Mountford**, MBE, Symposium Facilitator
- 9:10 – 9:50 A.M. Topic: *Describing Muslim Hindutva in Contemporary India*
Presenter: **Ana de Souza**, Graduate Student, Concordia University, Canada
- 9:50 – 10:30 A.M. Topic: *On the Services of Blessing and Sanctification of Icons: Spirituality and Politics*
Presenter: **Hellen Dayton**, Independent Scholar, UAE
- 10:30 – 10:45 A.M. Tea/Coffee and Biscuits
- 10:45 – 11:25 A.M. Topic: *God's Paintbrush: A Case Study of Congregational Response to Bible-Based Murals at Trinity Baptist Church in San Antonio, Texas*
Presenter: **Debbie Potter**, Professor, Trinity Baptist University of the Americas, US

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- 11:25 – 12:05 P.M. Topic: *Consecrated for Your Service: Notions of Female Authority and Sacred Space*
Presenter: **Maryanne Saunders**, Graduate Student, King's College London, UK
- 12:05 – 1:30 P.M. Lunch
- 1:30 – 2:10 P.M. Topic: *Self-Immolation Among the Suruwahá: A Case Study on Human Sacrifice in Brazil*
Presenter: **Braulia Ribeiro**, Graduate Student, Yale University, US
- 2:10 – 2:40 P.M. Summation, **Brian Mountford**, MBE

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WEDNESDAY, 21 MARCH, 2018

THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE

- 9:00 A.M. Tour of University Church and College Chapels

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Dana Stubblefield, San Antonio, Texas, US

SYMPOSIUM FACILITATORS

Canon Brian Mountford MBE is former Vicar of the University Church, Oxford, and 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 Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge before becoming Vicar of Southgate in North London for seven years in the '80s.

Dr David Martin is a former Headmaster of a state school in the United Kingdom. He taught leadership courses at the University of Amsterdam and lectured at Oxford University. Dr Martin has been an International Consultant for Secondary School Modernization in Trinidad and Tobago and in Guyana. He has, also, worked for the Inter-American Development Bank, and has served as Co-Director of Developing Schools and Services for Democracy in Europe and in Oxford. In addition, he has served as a Research Fellow in Comparative Education and Development programmes at the University of Reading.

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