

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

PROGRAMME

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2016
THE OLD LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY CHURCH

- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M. Keynote: **Canon Brian Mountford**, MBE,
Vicar of The University Church of St Mary
the Virgin, Oxford
- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M. Topic: *The American Adam and H. D.
Thoreau's Nature Mysticism*
Presenter: **Mario Boscincu**, Post-Doc,
University of Sassari, Italy
- 10:30 – 11:00 A.M. Topic: *Medieval Men Writing Litanies of the
Holy Mary, and Renaissance Women
Addressing Them to Holy Jesus –
Contrasting Models of Devotional
Expression*
Presenter: **Magdalena Kowalska**, Assistant
Professor, University of Warsaw, Poland
- 11:00 – 11:30 A.M. Tea/Coffee and Biscuits
- 11:30 – 12:00 P.M. Topic: *When Storytelling Goes Wrong: How
Fiction Misinformed Medieval European
Attitudes to Islam*
Presenter: **Helen Nicholson**, Professor,
Cardiff University, UK

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- 12:00 – 12:30 P.M. Topic: *Saint George the Warrior and Great Martyr: Defender of the Orthodox, Helper of Muslims*
Presenter: **Hellen Dayton**, Professor,
Independent Scholar, UAE
- 12:30 – 2:00 P.M. Buffet Lunch at the Church (Vaults and Gardens Café)
- 2:00 – 2:30 P.M. Topic: *Intersectionality in Intentional Communities: The Struggle for Inclusivity in a Multicultural US Protestant Congregation, 1940-1980*
Presenter: **Assata Zerai**, Associate Professor, University of Illinois, US
- 2:30 – 3:00 P.M Topic: *State-funded 'Faith' Schools: The Myth of Parental Choice*
Presenter: **Jay Harman**, British Humanist Association, UK
- 3:00 -- 3:30 P.M. Topic: *Teaching Islam to Non-Muslims: Normative Challenges and Creative Pedagogy*
Presenter: **Joshua Patterson**, Graduate Student, and **Tyler Kelley**, Graduate Student, University of Georgia, US
- 3:30 P.M. Adjourn

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TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016
THE OLD LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY CHURCH

- 9:15 – 9:30 A.M. Welcome **Canon Brian Mountford**, MBE
- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M. Topic: *Theorizing the Invisible: The Inclusion of Women Metaphysicians in the Enlightenment Tradition and Philosophical Canon*
Presenter: **Emily Jane Pascoe**, Graduate Student, University of Toronto, Canada
- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M. Topic: *Secularism as Modern Secularity*
Presenter: **Michael Rectenwald**, Associate Professor, New York University, US
- 10:30 – 11:00 A.M. Topic: *Speak for Yourself: The Spiritually Formative Experiences of Seminary Wives*
Presenter: **Benjamin Forrest**, Department Chair, Liberty University School of Divinity, US
- 11:00 – 11:30 A.M. Tea/Coffee and Biscuits
- 11:30 – 12:00 P.M. Topic: *Did Early Christians Practice Baptism on Behalf of Their Dead Relatives: Revisiting the Discussion on 1 Corinthians 15:29*
Presenter: **Vahan Hovhannessian**, Independent Scholar, France

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- 12:00 – 12:30 P.M. Topic: *The Strategic Religious Voters*
Presenter: **Baodong Liu**, Professor, The
University of Utah, US
- 12:30 – 2:00 P.M. Buffet Lunch at the Church (Vaults and
Gardens Café)
- 2:00 – 4:00 P.M. Tour of Oxford University College Chapels

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2016
THE OLD LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY CHURCH

- 9:15 – 9:30 A.M. Welcome, **Canon Brian Mountford**, MBE
- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M Topic: *Darwinian and Pragmatic Epistemologies: A Defence of Religious Belief*
Presenter: **Matthew Crippen**, Assistant Professor, American University in Cairo, Egypt
- 10:30 – 11:00 A.M. Topic: *Toward a Further Understanding of the Extreme Asceticism and Athleticism of the Tendai Buddhist Monks of Mt. Hiei*
Presenter: **Mark Toole**, Assistant Professor High Point University, US
- 11:00 – 11:30 A.M. Tea/Coffee and Biscuits and Conclusion of the Symposium

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Other Participants

Nancy Tan, Professor, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, China

Symposium Facilitator

Canon Brian Mountford MBE is 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 eighties. .