

Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies
at
St Anne's College

MONDAY 15 JULY 2024
SEMINAR ROOM 9

- 9:50 – 10:00 A.M. Welcome and Introduction
Canon Brian Mountford, MBE,
Symposium Facilitator
- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M. Topic: *A Classical Understanding of
καταστολή and Implications Toward its
Meaning and Function in Isaiah 61:3 LXX
and 1 Timothy 2:9*
Presenter: **Courtney Veasey,**
Instructor/Research Fellow, BibleMesh
Institute, US
- 10:30 – 11:00 A.M. Topic: *“A Man Devoid of Strength”:
Psalm 88, Gerard Manley Hopkins’ Sonnet 65, and
the Poetics of Depression*
Presenter: **Matthew Arakaky,** Student,
Duke University, US
- 11:00 – 11:30 A.M. **TEA, COFFEE & BISCUITS**
- 11:30 – 12:00 P.M. Topic: *Latter-day Saint Women
Missionaries: 125 Years of Remaking
Identity, Image and Community in the
United Kingdom*
Presenter: **Savanna Shiman,** Student
Research Assistant, Brigham Young
University, US

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- 12:00 – 12:30 P.M. Topic: *Two Dogmas of Religious Studies*
Presenter: **Richard Sherlock**, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, Utah State University, US
- 12:30 – 1:00 P.M. Topic: *Are Exclusive Truth-Claims in Religion Possible? Epistemological Limit and the Problem of Privileged Access*
Presenter: **Finney Premkumar**, Research Scholar, University of Birmingham, UK
- 1:00 – 2:00 P.M. **BUFFET LUNCH**
Marquee
- 2:00 – 2:30 P.M. Topic: *Navigating Norms and Law: An Empirical Study of Abortion Legislation in Pakistan*
Presenter: **Komal Jamshid**, Student, University of Gujrat, Pakistan
- 2:30 – 3:00 P.M. Topic: *Israel, the Abraham Accords, and War with Hamas*
Presenter: **Moshe Maoz**, Professor Emeritus and Senior Fellow, Hebrew University, Israel
- 3:00 – 3:10 P.M. **ADJOURN**

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TUESDAY 16 JULY 2024
SEMINAR ROOM 9

- 10:00 A.M. Welcome
Canon Brian Mountford, MBE,
Symposium Facilitator
- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M. Topic: *Reading Marx in the Cold War Catholic Church: A Revisionist Interpretation of Gustavo Gutiérrez*
Presenter: **Gerhard Stuebben**, Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, Baylor University, US
- 10:30 – 11:00 A.M. Topic: *Jesus & George Lincoln Rockwell: William F. Buckley, Jr., Catholic Conscience, & the American Nazi Party, 1961-1967*
Presenter: **Charles R. Gallagher**, Professor, Boston College, US
- 11:00 – 11:30 A.M. **TEA, COFFEE & BISCUITS**
- 11:30 – 12:00 P.M. Topic: *The Evolution of African Witchcraft as a Response to Misfortune: A Study of African Spirituality in Nairobi, Kenya and Black Diasporic Communities in London, United Kingdom.*
Presenter: **Bidi Broderick**, Post Doctoral, York St John University, UK

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St Anne's College

- 12:00 – 12:30 P.M. Topic: *An Eco-Spirituality of Wonder: The Anthropocene Paradox and New Ways of Being and Becoming Human*
Presenter: **Carol Wayne White**, Professor, Bucknell University, US
- 12:30 – 1:00 P.M. Topic: *Un/Doing Wor(l)ds*
Presenter: **Donna Matthews**, Student, University of Glasgow, Scotland
- 1:00 – 2:00 P.M. **BUFFET LUNCH**
Marquee
- 2:00 – 2:30 P.M. Topic: *Sacred Synthesis: Exploring Parallels and Contrasts between Hindu Goddesses and Greek Goddesses in Comparative Religious Perspective*
Presenters: **Juhi Gupta**, Senior Assistant Professor, Aligarh Muslim University, India; **Andrew Davies**, Professor, University of Birmingham, UK
- 2:30 – 3:00 P.M. Topic: *Sinicized Heretics and the Color Symbolism of Infidelity in Pre-modern Persianate Literatures*
Presenter: **Kristof Szitar**, Student, Université de Lausanne, Switzerland

Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies
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- 3:00 – 3:30 P.M. Topic: *United and Divided: Young Voices on Being Muslim (in Austria)*
Presenter: **Mehmet H. Tuna**, Assistant Professor, Institute of Islamic Theology and Religious Education, University of Innsbruck, Austria
- 3:30 – 3:40 P.M **ADJOURN**

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WEDNESDAY 17 JULY 2024
SEMINAR ROOM 9

- 10:00 A.M. Welcome
Canon Brian Mountford, MBE,
Symposium Facilitator
- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M. Topic: *The Progress of Christianity in North Korea Under Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Il, and Kim Jong Un*
Presenter: **C. Tim Chang**, Professor,
Liberty University, US
- 10:30 – 11:00 A.M. Topic: *Decolonizing Korean Christian New Religious Movements: Unraveling and Revealing the Legacy of Protestant Missionaries in South Korea*
Presenter: **Yumi Kang**, Student, Colby College, US
- 11:00 – 11:30 A.M. **TEA, COFFEE & BISCUITS**
- 11:30 – 12:00 P.M. Topic: *Beyond Religion: The Inclusive Way of Life of the Baha'i Faith in Modern Society*
Presenter: **Shahla Mehrgani**, Academic Tutor, University of Sheffield, UK

Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies
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- 12:00 – 12:30 P.M. Topic: *Uncovering 'Islamicate Christianity': Examining the Faith and Culture of North India's Urduophone Protestant Christians, c. 1854-1914*
Presenter: **Spencer Pennington**, Student,
University of California, Los Angeles, US
- 12:30 – 1:00 P.M. Topic: *Empowering Social Liberation: A Case Study of Buddhist Co-Operative Credit Union Ltd. (BCCUL) in Bangladesh*
Presenter: **Sajal Barua**, Visiting Lecturer,
The Buddha-Dharma Centre of Hong Kong
Limited, Hong Kong, China
- 1:00 – 2:00 P.M. **BUFFET LUNCH**
Marquee
- 2:00 P.M. **ADJOURN**

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OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Robin Adhikari, Secretary and Religion Teacher, Gautami Buddha Vihar, India

Rakesh Barua, Assistant Abbot, Indian Buddhist Meditation Centre, India

Ramesh Sadhen Barua, Chief Abbot, Sudatt Buddha Vihar, India

Supal Bangsha Bhikkhu, Chief Abbot, Middle Madarsha Sarbajanin Shantiniketan Buddha Vihar, Bangladesh

Sanjay Kumar, Deputy Abbot, Bhogal Buddha Vihar, India

Siddharth Naik, Secretary, Triratno Buddha Vihar, India

Hannah Shimwell, Student, The Open University, UK

Neamat Ullah, Chairman, Tr Bangla Ltd, Turkey

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SYMPOSIUM FACILITATOR

Canon Brian Mountford MBE was Vicar of the University Church, Oxford, from 1986-2016 and is a 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 main interests are in the area of contemporary questions of faith and doctrine, and currently is working on religious intuition, and also on how contemporary nano-science presents a way of looking at reality which might be helpful to theological reflection.

He is Publisher at Large for the Circle Books imprint of Collective Ink Books Ltd., a publishing house which specialises in religion & mind, body, and spirit. His memoir *Church Going Gone* – a biography of religion, doubt and faith is available on Amazon or at Blackwells. His 2022 book titled *Religion and Generation Z – why 70% of 18-24-year-olds say they have no religion speaks for itself*. His bestselling book, *Christian Atheist* (2011), explores the phenomenon of those who find Christianity compelling, but struggle with its metaphysical beliefs.

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SYMPOSIUM COORDINATOR

Phoebe Lane is the Oxford Education Research Symposium Coordinator. She holds a BA in Political Science from the University of North Texas, complemented by a minor in Women's and Gender Studies. With extensive experience in coordinating academic conferences within higher education institutions, including the University of North Texas and the University of Houston, Phoebe is dedicated to fostering scholarly discourse and engagement within academic communities.

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