

Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2019

SOMERVILLE COLLEGE LECTURE ROOM

- 8:50 – 9:00 A.M. Introduction and Welcome: Symposium Facilitator, **Canon Brian Mountford**, MBE, Former Vicar of The University Church of St Mary the Virgin, and Fellow of St Hilda's College, Oxford UK
- 9:00 – 9:30 A.M. Topic: *Mercy for Migrants*
Presenter: **Carrie Crisp**, Lecturer, Texas State University, US
- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M. Topic: *Reflection on the Question of Human Rights and Dignity Two Decades After Democracy in South Africa*
Presenter: **Gift Baloyi**, Senior Lecturer, University of South Africa, South Africa
- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M. Topic: *'It's So Cold in the D:' Black Community Survival of Utility Shutoffs in Detroit*
Presenter: **Charles Williams II**, Reverend, University of Michigan, US
- 10:30 – 10:45 A.M. Tea and Coffee
- 10:45 – 11:15 A.M. Topic: *God Among the Nations: An Analogous Study of Christology in the New Testament and Ela in Yoruba Tradition*
Presenter: **Ige Abiodun Simeon**, Associate Professor, Kogi State University, Nigeria

Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies

- 11:15 – 11:45 A.M. Topic: *How Vitalism has Become a/the Paradigm of/in African Philosophy and Theology?*
Presenter: **Yannick Essengue**, Student, Boston College, US
- 11:45 – 12:15 P.M. Topic: *A Comparative Introduction to the Ruhi System in Baha’I Faith and the Liberation Theory*
Presenter: **Shahla Mehrgani**, Senior Lecturer, Baha’i Institute for Higher Education, Iran
- 12:15 – 12:45 P.M. Lunch
- 12:45 – 1:15 P.M. Group photos
- 1:15 – 1:45 P.M. Topic: *The Therapeutic Value of Rituals in the Face of Death and its Painful Reality in the African Context: A Phenomenological Investigation of Death and Associated Rituals*
Presenter: **Olehile Buffel**, Associate Professor, University of South Africa, South Africa
- 1:45 – 2:15 P.M. Topic: *Arabic Poetry of Southwest Nigeria: On Religious Tolerance and Prejudice*
Presenter: **Kahar Wahab Sarumi**, Senior Lecturer, National Open University of Nigeria, Nigeria

Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies

- 2:15 – 2:45 P.M. Topic: *Quranic Interpretation and Language Diplomacy: Instruments of Peace and Stability*
Presenter: **Mohammed Marzuq Abubakari**, Lecturer, University of Applied Management, Ghana
- 2:45 – 3:05 P.M. Tea and coffee
- 3:05 – 3:35 P.M. Topic: *Toward a Maqasid Al-Sharia Based De-Radicalization Index*
Presenter: **Abubakar Abdulkadir**, Lecturer II, Umaru Musa Yar’adua University, Nigeria
- 3:35 – 4:05 P.M. Topic: *A Religious Reading on the Historical Development of John Rawls’s Understanding of Reason in Morality*
Presenter: **Weida Zhu**, Student, Hong Kong Baptist University, China
- 4:05 – 4:35 P.M. Topic: *Black Religion in Liberal Politics*
Presenter: **David Bullock**, Student, University of Michigan, US
- 4:35 P.M. Adjourn

Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2019

SOMERVILLE COLLEGE

LECTURE ROOM

- 8:50 – 9:00 A.M. Introduction and Welcome: Symposium
Facilitator, **Canon Brian Mountford**, MBE
- 9:00 – 9:30 A.M. Topic: *Convergence between Artifact and Text: A Model for the Reconstruction of Indigenous Israel in Iron Age Canaan*
Presenter: **Frederick Downing**, Professor, Valdosta State University, US
- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M. Topic: *What if Abraham Knew it Was a Test? Interpreting the Akedah in Light of Geerhardus Vos's Philosophy of Revelation in the Book of Hebrews*
Presenter: **Pengxiang Li**, Student, University of Oxford, UK
- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M. Topic: *Hildegard of Bingen: Theologian, Pastor, and Spiritual Guide*
Presenter: **Bernard Schlager**, Associate Professor, Pacific School of Religion, US
- 10:30 – 10:45 A.M. Tea and coffee
- 10:45 – 11:15 A.M. Topic: *A Second Front: Canon Garland, Chaplain Maitland Woods and Anglo-Catholicism in the Australian Imperial Force*
Presenter: **Daniel Reynaud**, Assistant Dean, Avondale University College, Australia

Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies

- 11:15 – 11:45 A.M. Topic: *Catholicism, Just War, and Pacifism*
Presenter: **Carol King**, Student, University of St Andrews, UK
- 11:45 – 12:15 P.M. Topic: *Herman Bavinck on the Reformed Dialectic Catholicity*
Presenter: **Ximian Xu**, Student, University of Edinburgh, UK
- 12:15 – 12:45 P.M. Lunch
- 12:45 – 12:55 P.M. Group photos
- 1:00 – 1:30 P.M. Topic: *From Habitus to Signum: Preliminary Evidence of a Paradigm Shift in Jewish-Christian Relations in the XIIIth Century*
Presenter: **Jamie Griffin**, Student, School of Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences, France
- 1:30 – 2:00 P.M. Topic: *Grasping the Unknowable God: The Role of Tactile Language in Augustine's Christology*
Presenter: **Thomas Graff**, Student, University of Cambridge, UK
- 2:00 – 2:30 P.M. Topic: *Ritual, Ritual Change, and Development of Early Mormon Liturgy*
Presenter: **Michael MacKay**, Associate Professor, Brigham Young University, US
- 2:30 – 2:50 P.M. Tea and coffee

Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies

- 2:50 – 3:20 P.M. Topic: *What is Known from Existing Literature About the Hinduism Perspective on Sex Education: A Scoping Review*
Presenter: **Theeba Krishnamoorthy**, Student, University of East London, UK
- 3:20 – 3:50 P.M. Topic: *Examining The Role Of Ar-Riqab Rehabilitation in Assisting Muslim LGBTQ Community: The Case Study of Men who Have Sex with Men (MSM) in Malaysia*
Presenter: **Faizul Mohd Noh**, Student, University of Northern Malaysia, Malaysia
- 3:50 – 4:20 P.M. Topic: *Women and Religious Experience: With Special Reference to Buddhism*
Presenter: **Pardeep Kaur**, Research Associate, Punjabi University, India
- 4:20 P.M. Adjourn

Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2019

SOMERVILLE COLLEGE

ANTE ROOM

- 8:50 – 9:00 A.M. Introduction and Welcome: Symposium Facilitator, **Canon Brian Mountford**, MBE
- 9:00 – 9:30 A.M. Topic: *Women Clergy in a Modern Religious Context: Cultivating Opportunity to Overcome Barriers, Bias and Patriarchal Norms*
Presenter: **Jennifer Murray**, Alumnae, Regent University, US
- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M. Topic: *Hindu Religious Symbolism as a Spiritual Guide to Indian Design Philosophy*
Presenter: **Dimple Bahl**, Associate Professor, National Institute of Fashion Technology, India
- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M. Topic: *Pukepuke 'a Fufula: Transformations of Pacific LGBTI+ Communities: Are They Transformations or Not?*
Presenter: **David Tuipulotu-Tuinukuafe**, Student, University of Auckland, New Zealand
- 10:30 – 10:45 A.M. Tea and coffee
- 10:45 – 11:15 A.M. Topic: *A Qualitative Enquiry Concerning Transcendental and Religious Identities - Bringing Them Together and Setting Them Apart*
Presenter: **Anupreet Bhalla Dugal**, Assistant Professor, NIFT - Delhi Campus, India, and **Suruchi Mittar**, Founder, Sanai Changemakers, India

Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies

- 11:15 – 11:45 A.M. Topic: *Science as Religion: ‘The Religious Foundation of Objectivity’*
Presenter: **Mohamed Almisbkawy**,
Assistant Professor, British University in
Egypt, Egypt
- 11:45 – 12:15 P.M. Topic: *A Demon, Human and God: Ravana and the Indian Problem of Evil*
Presenter: **Ruchika Jain**, Student, Indian
Institute of Technology, India
- 12:15 P.M. Conclude meeting

Other Participants

Dominic Johnson, Professor, University of Oxford, UK

Symposium Facilitator

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.