Welcome and Introduction: Symposium Facilitator, Canon Brian Mountford, MBE

Topic: Katzenelson’s Theology of Despair
Presenter: Moshe Shner, Senior Lecturer, Oranim College of Education, Israel

Topic: A Theology for Social Engagement
Presenter: Kenneth Young, Professor, University of Northwestern St. Paul, US

Topic: A Divided Discourse: The Use of Walls and Religious Doctrine in the Politics of Fear
Presenters: Carrie Crisp, Lecturer, Jennifer Garcia, Lecturer, and Leah Butterfield, Student, Texas State University, US

Tea/Coffee
Presenter: Laura Sabia, Student, Boston University, US

11:15 – 11:45 A.M.  Topic: The Closer to God, the Farther From the USSR: Religious Choices and Immigrant Identities
Presenter: Katia Yurguis, Adjunct Professor, Fordham University, US

Presenter: Magdalena Pycinska, Assistant Professor, Jagiellonian University, Poland

12:15 – 1:00 P.M.  Buffet Lunch

1:00 – 1:30 P.M.  Topic: Islamism in Francophone Literature
Presenter: Sana Alaya Seghair, Student, University of Virginia, US

1:30 – 2:00 P.M.  Topic: Ambedkrite Buddhism
Presenter: Reena Sablok, Assistant Professor, SSN College, Delhi University, India

2:00 – 2:30 P.M.  Topic: Tolerance or Liberty: The Impact of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Politics on Understanding Religious Liberty in America
Presenter: Lloyd Harsch, Professor, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, US

2:30 – 3:00 P.M.  Topic: The Contested Concept of Secularism
Presenter: Md Jahid Hossain Bhuiyan, Postdoctoral Fellow, North-West University, South Africa

3:00 – 3:15 P.M.  Topic: “Helping the Poorest of the Poor” Globalization of Suffering, White Savior Complex, Mother Teresa, Religion and Modernity
Presenter: Ranjan Bandyopadhyay, Associate Professor, Duy Tan University, Vietnam

Tea/Coffee
Presenter: Artur Boháč, Assistant Professor, Technical University of Liberec, Czech Republic

4:15 – 4:45 P.M.  Topic: Religion, Politics and Public Discourse: Framing ISIL’s Soldiers’ Belief that They Carry out Allah’s Will in the World by Executing Muslims, Christians and Jewish Hostages
Presenter: Alexandra Herfroy-Mischler, Lecturer, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2018
The Old Library
University Church, Oxford

8:50 – 9:00 A.M.  Welcome and Introduction

9:00 – 9:30 A.M.  Topic: Religion as Emotional Management: the Case of Sorrow and Death
Presenter: Stephen Asma, Professor, Columbia College, US

9:30 – 10:00 A.M.  Topic: Strategy of Ontological Negativity in Meister Eckhart’s Metaphysics and in Philosophical Traditions of India
Presenter: Tatyana Lifintseva, Professor National Research University - Higher School of Economics, Russian Federation

10:00 – 10:30 A.M.  Topic: Muscular Secularism and the Governance of Hindu Identity in Singapore
Presenter: Pravin Prakash, Associate Research Fellow, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore

10:30 – 10:45 A.M.  Tea/Coffee
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 – 11:15 A.M.</td>
<td><strong>Sacred Landscape: Memory and Re-appropriating Historicity Through Political Discourses</strong>&lt;br&gt;Presenter: Parul Lau Gaur, Assistant Professor, Ram Lal Anand College, India</td>
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<td>11:15 – 11:45 A.M.</td>
<td><strong>Mormon Soul Searching: The Distinctive Religiosity of Latter-day Saint Youth</strong>&lt;br&gt;Presenter: John Bartkowski, Professor, University of Texas at San Antonio, US</td>
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<td>11:45 – 12:15 P.M.</td>
<td><strong>Faith by Seduction: The Children of God in Singapore</strong>&lt;br&gt;Presenter: Christopher Chok, Student, Durham University, UK</td>
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<td>12:15 – 1:00 P.M.</td>
<td>Buffet Lunch</td>
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<td>1:00 – 1:30 P.M.</td>
<td><strong>Spiritual Meanings’ Influence on Future Job Satisfaction</strong>&lt;br&gt;Presenter: Dominick Sturz, Associate Professor, California Baptist University, US</td>
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<td>1:30 – 2:00 P.M.</td>
<td><strong>Teaching Religious Language and Culture to High School ESL Students</strong>&lt;br&gt;Presenter: Mikayla Sievers, Student, University of Idaho, US</td>
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<td>2:00 – 2:30 P.M.</td>
<td><strong>Configuring “Traditional” Authority: Religious Knowledge and the Place of Ulama in Sunni Muslim Self-Fashioning, Kerala, South India</strong>&lt;br&gt;Presenter: Visakh Madhusoodanan Subha, Student, IIT Madras, India</td>
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Oxford Symposium for Religious Studies

Friday, December 7, 2018
The Old Library
University Church, Oxford

8:40 – 9:00 A.M. Welcome and Introduction

9:00 – 9:30 A.M. Topic: Why Did Medieval Commentators and Scholars Assume that the Sages Knew the Peshat (Sensus Literalis)?
Presenter: Eran Viezel, Professor, Ben Gurion University, Israel

9:30 – 10:00 A.M. Topic: The Impact of God on Ethical Concerns in the Early Church
Presenter: Nancy Enright, Professor, Seton Hall University, US

10:00 – 10:30 A.M. Topic: Gregory the Great on the Conversion of Jews
Presenter: Bernard Schlager, Associate Professor, Pacific School of Religion, US

10:30 – 10:45 A.M. Tea/Coffee

Presenter: Shahla Mehrgani, Lecturer, Baha’i Institute for Higher Education (BIHE), Iran

11:15 – 11:45 A.M. Topic: Scarlet and Christ: A Tale of Two Dragons and One Human Family
Presenter: Timothy Cooke, Student, University of Nevada, US

11:45 – 12:15 P.M. Topic: Female Figures Understood Through Judges 4-5
Presenter: Sydney Beckmann, Student, University of Notre Dame, US

12:15 – 1:00 P.M. Buffet Lunch

1:00 – 1:30 P.M. Topic: Gender Construction and Performativity in Religious Folklore – Insights from Hindu Vrat Kathas
Presenter: Neha Zaidka, Student, University of Oulu, Finland

1:30 – 2:00 P.M. Topic: Race and the American Catholic Imagination
Presenter: Cary Dabney, Adjunct Professor, Walsh University, US
Oxford Symposium for Religious Studies

Other Participants

Herbert Mandl, Kansas, US

Barbara Toltzis Mandl, Kansas, US

About the Facilitator

Canon Brian Mountford, MBE, is currently acting Chaplain of Corpus Christi College. He 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 latest book is Friday's Child: Poems of Suffering and Redemption. 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.
Oxford Symposium for Religious Studies