

# Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies

WEDNESDAY, 15 MARCH, 2017

## THE OLD LIBRARY UNIVERSITY CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN

- 8:50 – 9:00 A.M. Introduction and Welcome: Symposium Facilitator, **Brian Mountford**, MBE, Former Vicar of The University Church of St Mary the Virgin, and Fellow of St Hilda's College, Oxford
- 9:00 – 9:30 A.M. Topic: *Spirit of Capitalism as a Philosophical and Spiritual Potential for Entrepreneurs and Managers*  
Presenter: **Dušan Kučera**, Assistant Professor, University of Economics, Czech Republic
- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M. Topic: *When Solovjev's Theology is Re-Worked to a Governmental Ideology: Sacrifices for the Sake of Like-Mindedness During the Serbo-Bulgarian Conflict in World War I*  
Presenter: **John Dayton**, Associate Professor, Rochester Institute of Technology, UAE, and **Hellen Dayton**, Independent Scholar, UAE
- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M. Topic: *Rhetorical Criticism & New Testament Hermeneutics: A Heideggerian Reading*  
Presenter: **Troy Doucet**, Associate Professor, Collin College, US
- 10:30 – 10:45 A.M. Tea/Coffee and Biscuits

## Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies

- 10:45 – 11:15 A.M.      Topic: *Religion and Work: Organisational Identity in a Post-Secular World*  
Presenter: **Tom Vine**, Senior Lecturer,  
University of Suffolk, UK
- 11:15 – 11:45 A.M.      Topic: *The Application Methods of the Holy Quran's Interpretations in Islamic-Related Research*  
Presenter: **Abdul Hanis Embong**, Lecturer,  
University Malaysia Terengganu (UMT),  
Malaysia
- 11:45 – 12:15 P.M.      Topic: *Islamic Research Methodology Based On Fatwa: An Assessment*  
Presenter: **Wan Mohd Khairul Firdaus Wan Khairuldin**, Senior Lecturer, University  
Sultan Zainal Abidin, Malaysia
- 12:15 – 1:15 P.M.      Lunch
- 1:15 – 1:45 P.M.      Topic: *Reconciling History and Faith: Approaching Jesus' Resurrection with Pannenberg, Wright, and the 'Third Millennials'*  
Presenter: **Aaron Chidgzey**, Student,  
Murdoch University, Australia
- 1:45 – 2:15 P.M.      Topic: *Theologies and Politics in Hong Kong: An Analysis of Prayers and Sermons of Protestant Churches During the Umbrella Movement in 2014*  
Presenter: **Ho Siu Pun**, Student,  
Chinese University of Hong Kong, China

## Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies

- 2:15 – 2:45 P.M.      Topic: *The Medieval Conception of the Internal Forum*  
Presenter: **Samuel Klumpenhouwer**,  
Student, University of Toronto, Canada
- 2:45 – 3:00 P.M.      Tea/Coffee
- 3:00 – 3:30 P.M.      Topic: *The Tax Injustice in the Last Umayyad Period and the Abbasid Revolution*  
Presenter: **Oznur Ozdemir**, Student,  
University of Leeds, UK
- 3:30 – 4:00 P.M.      Topic: *Sacred Groves and Tree Shrines in West African and Caribbean Folk Religions*  
Presenter: **Robert Nicholls**, Professor,  
University of Virgin Island, St Thomas US  
Virgin Island

# Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies

THURSDAY, 16 MARCH, 2017

## THE OLD LIBRARY

### UNIVERSITY CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN

- 8:50 – 9:00 A.M. Welcome: **Brian Mountford**, MBE
- 9:00 – 9:30 A.M. Topic: *The Question About God in View of the Evil*  
Presenter: **Winfried Schlotter**, Independent Scholar, Germany
- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M. Topic: *The Concept of Soul in a Sūfī-Yogī Dialogue of 17th Century India*  
Presenter: **Perwaiz Hayat**, Lecturer, Concordia University, Canada
- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M. Topic: *Eco-Mindfulness in Buddhism*  
Presenter: **Kenneth Lee**, Associate Professor, California State University, US
- 10:30 – 10:45 A.M. Tea/Coffee and Biscuits
- 10:45 – 11:15 A.M. Topic: *John Cottingham and the Existence of God*  
Presenter: **Rick Costa**, Humanities Specialist, Carnegie Mellon University, US
- 11:15 – 11:45 A.M. Topic: *Re-Mapping of Faith and Violence: The Ordeals of Hidden Christians in Endo Shusaku's Silence (1966) and Tsushima Yuko's Jakka Dofuni (2016)*  
Presenter: **Masami Usui**, Professor, Doshisha University, Japan

# Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies

- 11:45 – 12:15 P.M. Topic: *Prophecy as Dissident Literature: A Reexamination of the Oraculum Angelicum Cyrilli*  
Presenter: **Vajra Regan**, Student, University of Toronto, Canada
- 12:15 – 1:15 P.M. Lunch
- 1:15 – 1:45 P.M. Topic: *New Faces and Black Spaces: How Can Insights from Religious Studies Support Educators Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students in Australia?*  
Presenter: **Barbara Kameniar**, Senior Fellow, The University of Melbourne, Australia
- 1:45 – 2:15 P.M. Topic: *The Importance of Religion in the Life of the Indus Man*  
Presenter: **Sarah Umer**, Assistant Professor, LCW University, Pakistan
- 2:15 – 2:45 P.M. Topic: *Racial Discourse at the Wake of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793: The Sick, the Dying, and African Methodism*  
Presenter: **Tremaine Sails-Dunbar**, Student, Vanderbilt University, US
- 2:45 – 3:00 P.M. Tea/Coffee
- 3:00 – 3:30 P.M. Topic: *Incorporating Islamism into Secular Education System: An Attempt of Gradual Islamization of the State and Society by an Indonesian Jemaah Tarbiyah Movement*  
Presenter: **Suaidi Asyari**, Senior Lecturer, State Islamic University, Indonesia

# Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies

FRIDAY, 17 MARCH, 2017

## THE OLD LIBRARY

### UNIVERSITY CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN

- 8:50 – 9:00 A.M. Welcome: **Brian Mountford**, MBE
- 9:00 – 9:30 A.M. Topic: *The American Jewish Response to Christian Clergy Advocating for Persecuted Jews and Christians in the Soviet Union, 1972-1988*  
Presenter: **Fred Lazin**, Professor Emeritus, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel
- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M. Topic: *Where Does Israel Belong? The Debate over What Constitutes Jewish Studies*  
Presenter: **Mitchell Bard**, Executive Director, American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE), US
- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M. Topic: *Comparison of Islamic and Dutch Tax Principles and its Relation to Freedom of Religion*  
Presenter: **Ayla Yayla**, Lecturer, Inholland, Netherlands
- 10:30 – 10:45 A.M. Tea/Coffee and Biscuits
- 10:45 – 11:15 A.M. Topic: *Reading Theories as Rhetorical Markers for the Public Life of Religion and Politics*  
Presenter: **Ruth Smith**, Associate Professor, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, US

# Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies

- 11:15 – 11:45 A.M. Topic: *Digital Study of the Protestant Market: Taipei and Provincial Capital Cities in China's Southeast Coast as Case Studies*  
Presenter: **George Hong**, Professor, Fordham University, US
- 11:45 – 12:15 P.M. Topic: *Origin/Beginning Narratives as a Site of Enquiry: A Study of Syrian Christians in Kerala, India*  
Presenter: **Bivitha Easo**, Doctoral Fellow, University of Hyderabad, India

## SYMPOSIUM FACILITATOR

**Brian Mountford** was honored on the Queen's List in 2015 as a Member of the British Empire (MBE). He is former Vicar of the University Church, Oxford, and Fellow of St Hilda's College. He is also an Honorary Canon of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. Interested in public theology, he has been instrumental in making the University Church a centre for interdisciplinary debate. His bestselling book, *The 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 '70s, he was Fellow and Chaplain of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, before becoming Vicar of Southgate in North London for seven years in the '80s.