

# Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2019

MAEVADI HALL  
HARRIS MANCHESTER COLLEGE

- 12:40 – 1:00 P.M.            Welcome and Introduction:  
**Canon Brian Mountford**
- 1:00 – 1:30 P.M.            Topic: *Muslim-Jewish Conflict Over the Temple Mount/Al Haram Al Sharif*  
Presenter: **Moshe Maoz**, Emeritus Professor, Hebrew University, Israel
- 1:30 – 2:00 P.M.            Topic: *Jesus and the Early Rabbis; the Great Paradox? Does the Talmud Resonate with Early Christian Thinking?*  
Presenter: **Aaron Gale**, Associate Professor, West Virginia University, US
- 2:00 – 2:30 P.M.            Topic: *You Don't Look Jewish: The Stigma of Multiculturalism in Judaism and Why this Should no Longer be a Factor*  
Presenter: **Fabulous Flores**, Graduate Student, Stockton University, US
- 2:30 – 3:00 P.M.            Topic: *Understanding Polarization: Perspectives from Moral Psychology and Religious Ethics*  
Presenter: **Ross Moret**, Honors Faculty, Florida State University, US
- 3:00 – 3:20 P.M.            Tea/coffee

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3:20 – 3:50 P.M.

Topic: *A Study of Young Rawls's Understanding of Reason in Morality — his Senior Thesis and its Background*  
Presenter: **Weida Zhu**, Graduate Student, Hong Kong Baptist University

3:50 – 4:20 P.M.

Topic: *Worship: The Purpose of the Church; Theological Reflections on “Purpose” and “Task”*  
Presenter: **Chris Alford**, Pastor, Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community, US

4:20 – 4:30 P.M.

Adjourn

# Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2019

MAEVADI HALL  
HARRIS MANCHESTER COLLEGE

- 8:40 – 9:00 A.M.                      Welcome  
**Canon Brian Mountford**
- 9:00 – 9:30 A.M.                      Topic: *Practicing Civility Behind Bars*  
Presenter: **Nancy Fields**, Assistant  
Professor, New York Theological  
Seminary, US
- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M.                      Topic: *Religious Symbolism of Nature and  
the Construction of an Ecological  
Civilisation: A Chinese Christian  
Perspective*  
Presenter: **Bryan Mok**, Research  
Associate, The Chinese University of  
Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR
- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M.                      Topic: *And the Documentation of Lived  
Experience Through Rock Imagery, Ritual,  
Sacred Space, the Quest of Vision: Visual  
Culture*  
Presenter: **Aaron Atencio**, Graduate  
Student, University of Montana, US
- 10:30 – 10:50 A.M.                      Tea/coffee
- 10:50 – 11:20 A.M.                      Topic: *The Absolute Weapon and the  
Broken Body: A Theological Response to  
Nuclear Testing and its Effects*  
Presenter: **Arunjana Das**, Graduate  
Student, Georgetown University, US

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- 11:20 – 11:50 A.M.      Topic: *Religion and Education as Tools of Human Dignity and Civilization: Comparative Analysis of Relevant Islamic and Secular Viewpoints*  
Presenter: **Mohammed Marzuq Abubakari**, Lecturer, University of Applied Management, Ghana
- 11:50 – 12:20 P.M.      Topic: *Ethnic Relations among Muslims in Trinidad and Tobago*  
Presenter: **Nasser Mustapha**, Senior Lecturer, The University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago
- 12:20 – 12:50 P.M.      Topic: *The Rising Conflict between Pantheism and Christian Monotheism in India: A Search for a Common Ground for the Possibilities of Interfaith Dialogue*  
Presenter: **Manjit M Bhatti**, Teaching Assistant, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, India
- 12:50 – 12:55 P.M.      Group photos
- 1:00 – 2:00 P.M.      Lunch
- 2:00 – 2:30 P.M.      Topic: *Primordial Existence and the Soul's Cosmic Journey: A Comparison of Salvation Narratives in Mormonism and Sufism*  
Presenter: **David Peck**, Professor, Brigham Young University–Idaho, US

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2:30 – 3:00 P.M.

Topic: *A Christian in India: Lessons from a Seminarian Who Finds Jesus in Hindu Temples*

Presenter: **Cescilio Chavez**, Seminarian, Southern Methodist University, US

3:00 – 3:30 P.M.

Topic: *Debating the Sagely Way: On the Apologetic Approach and Historiographical Relevance of a Nineteenth-Century Chinese Christian's Dialogue with Confucian Orthodoxy*

Presenter: **Ryan Pino**, Graduate Student, Harvard University, US

3:30 – 3:40 P.M.

Adjourn

# Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 2019

MAEVADI HALL  
HARRIS MANCHESTER COLLEGE

- 8:40 – 9:00 A.M.                      Welcome  
**Canon Brian Mountford**
- 9:00 – 9:30 A.M.                      Topic: *Making Mary Male: Some Religious Implications of a Transgender Saint*  
Presenter: **Lisa Verner**, Director, Women’s Center, University of New Orleans, US
- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M.                      Topic: *The Deification of Rebbe Menachem Schneersohn and Jesus’ Self-understanding*  
Presenter: **Andrew Loke**, Assistant Professor, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong
- 10:00 – 10:30 A.M.                      Topic: *Permission Not Will: A Swedenborgian Approach to Theodicy*  
Presenter: **Andrew Dibb**, Dean, Bryn Athyn College Theological School, US
- 10:30 – 10:50 A.M.                      Tea/coffee
- 10:50 – 11:20 A.M.                      Topic: *The Fall, Evolution, and Middle Knowledge: A Reflection on Theodicy*  
Presenter: **Daniel Spencer**, Graduate Student, University of St Andrews, UK

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- 11:20 – 11:50 A.M.      Topic: *Lament, Protest, and Hope: What Can We Learn from the Ancients in the Biblical Era to Cope with Pain and Suffering in the Modern World?* — A Reading of *Lamentations, Protest, Lament*  
Presenter: **Jiani Sun**, Graduate Student, Yale Divinity School, US
- 11:50 – 12:20 P.M.      Topic: *At the Bedside: A Theological Consideration of the Role of Silence and Touch in the Accompaniment of the Dying*  
Presenter: **Hina Khalid**, Graduate Student, University of Cambridge, UK
- 12:20 – 12:45 P.M.      Conclusion
- 12:45 – 1:15 P.M.      Lunch

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## Observer

Sara Redaelli, Docent, Universidad Del Pacifico, Peru

## About the Director

**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 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 '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.