

PROGRAMME 2023

CHRISTIANITY AND THE LIFE OF THE MIND: AN INTRODUCTION

Friday 27 - Saturday 28 January 2023

Ship Street Conference Centre, Jesus College, Oxford

FRIDAY 27 JANUARY

1:45 p.m. Registration, coffee, & tea

2:15 p.m. Welcome & introduction

2:20 p.m. The discipleship of the mind: reflections on integrating faith and scholarship - Donald Hay (Economics)

This lecture outlines the intellectual challenges for Christian scholars and researchers implicit in our calling 'to seek the shalom of the modern university'. It explores why we need to develop a systematic understanding of Christian thought; how that can relate to how we set about research and study; and how we evaluate the wider significance of our work.

3:10 p.m. Discussion

3:50 p.m. Coffee & tea

4:25 p.m. The calling of Christian postgrad students and academics - Ard Louis (Theoretical Physics)

Based on his own academic career and experience with postgraduate ministry in several countries, Professor Ard Louis will discuss the main themes of the conference in the light of questions such as: What does our calling to be disciples of Christ mean for our academic vocation (whether temporary as students or longer term as a career)? What are some of the promises and pitfalls of the scholarly life? How can academics and postgraduate students serve and relate to the wider body of Christ (the Church)?

5:15 p.m. Prayer

5:30 p.m. Drinks reception

6:15 p.m. Travel to designated dinner location

See your name tag for which dinner group you are in (i.e. yellow star). Your dinner location and transportation details will be communicated to your dinner group leader ahead of time.

7:00 p.m. Dinner and discussion with faculty hosts

Dinner will be with a subset of your discussion group and will be hosted by various faculty members within their homes or colleges throughout Oxford. Formal dinner and discussion should conclude no later than 9pm.

SATURDAY 28 JANUARY 2023

9:00 a.m. Light breakfast, coffee & tea

9:30 a.m. What is our response to creation? – Stephen Blundell
(Physics)

The aim of science, as usually practiced, is to try to understand, model, and control nature, the “created order”. But does our particular understanding of that created order have any bearing on the way we do science? Or how we think about nature? Or how we respond to creation? And what difference does that, or should it, make?

10:30 a.m. What does it mean to be human? - Elaine Storkey
(Philosophy and Sociology)

This lecture discusses how the Christian understanding of the human being steers a course between individualism and collectivism, between fatalism and personal freedom, between materialism and ‘idealism’; and how its personal and communitarian understanding of the human being is grounded in the Trinitarian God.

11:20 a.m. Coffee & tea

11:50 a.m. Discussion

12:30 p.m. Sartre and Sin - Kate Kirkpatrick (Philosophy)

Jean-Paul Sartre is one of the twentieth century's most famous philosophers—and one of its better-known atheists. Yet Sartre's early philosophy, Kirkpatrick argues, is indebted to the Christian doctrine of original sin. Focusing on Being and Nothingness, Kirkpatrick explains that Sartre's concept of 'nothingness' has a Christian genealogy which has been overlooked in philosophical and theological discussions of his work. Tracing this line to Saint Augustine and his interpreters, Kirkpatrick asks how Sartre's reception of the doctrine of sin can illuminate our thinking about human life today.

1:25 p.m. Lunch

2:30 p.m. Understanding Christian eschatology: myths, truths, and God's ultimate plan for creation - Christopher Wadibia (Theology)

For many Christians, the subject of eschatology (generally defined as how events will play out during the end times, final judgement, and God's establishment of the New Creation) brings to mind feelings of confusion, anxiety, and even fear. However, this talk explains why the eschatological visions outlined in the Bible should instead fill Christians with joy, excitement, and confidence in Christ. The purpose of this talk will be to point out popular myths that Christians unknowingly associate with biblical eschatological ideas, and to explicate why the Christian's career and professional life in this world matters in light of the new world to come.

3:20 p.m. Discussion

4:00 p.m. Coffee & tea

4:30 p.m. Panel discussion: Faith and scholarship – Session chaired by Mary Louis (Senior Fellow in Management Practice, Said Business School) and includes:

- John Durodola (Mechanical Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, Oxford Brookes University)
- James (Jimmy) Kim (Professor for Graduate School of Education, Harvard)
- Elaine Storkey (Consultant and lecturer in Social Science, Philosophy and Theology; Former Senior Research Fellow, Wycliffe Hall, University of Oxford)
- Lionel Tarassenko (President of Reuben College, AI & Machine Learning, Lead; Professor of Electrical Engineering)

5:15 p.m. Prayer

5:30 p.m. Day closing