

FRIDAY 17TH MARCH: OUTRAGEOUS IDEAS: THE CALLING AND CHALLENGES OF CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY, THEOLOGY, AND RELIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIP

9:00 am **Registration in Magdalen College Old Kitchen Bar with coffee & tea**

9:30 am **The Political is Personal and the Personal is Political: Black Liberation theology, Anger, Activism and Living out 'Christian Values'** - Anthony Reddie (Director of the Oxford Centre for Religion and Culture, Regent's Park College, Oxford)

In this talk Professor Reddie will explore what are the key tenets of Black Liberation theology, and how and in what ways it is informed by issues of anger, activism and this notion of what it means to be a Christian. All this will be contextualised by the fact that for the past 3 years Professor Reddie has undertaken this explorative work whilst teaching in and being a part of Oxford University.

11:00 am **Coffee & tea in the Old Kitchen Bar**

11.30 am **Academic Theology and the Eyes of Faith** - Simeon Zahl (Theology, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge)

In this talk Professor Zahl will reflect on what it means to study Christian theology in a modern research university, where norms of study are often shaped by secular assumptions. Drawing on his own experiences, topics discussed will include the importance of academic theology for the life of the church, the Christian case for academic rigour, and the idea of theological teaching as a vocation.

1:00 pm **Lunch in the Old Kitchen Bar**

2:00 pm **What is a Vocation and Do I Have One** - John Goldingay (Professor Emeritus of Old Testament, Fuller Theological Seminary)

Many people wonder whether as a Christian they have a vocation from God for their life. The talk will look at the idea of the vocation of the church and of individuals in the Scriptures and at how we think about vocation for ourselves.

3:30 pm **Coffee & tea in the Old Kitchen Bar**

4:00 pm **Freedom and Vocation** - Kate Kirkpatrick (Philosophy and Christian Ethics, Regent's Park College, Oxford) with a response from John Olson (Theology, Oriol, Oxford)

Existentialist philosophers famously deny that particular human beings have an 'essence' that precedes their existence. It may seem counterintuitive, therefore, to claim that they have anything to say about questions of vocation. In conversation with my 2017 work *Sartre on Sin*, John Olson's 2023 engagement with it in "Mystery and Nothingness", and the moral philosophy of Simone de Beauvoir, I argue that they do.

The following events are joint with all streams at New College.

5:30 pm **Prayer in Magdalen College Auditorium**

6:00 pm **Walking together from Magdalen College to New College**

6:15 pm **Drinks at New College Bar**

6:45 pm **Dinner in New College Dining Hall**

The Friday 17th ticket also includes admission on Saturday 18th to one of the following streams: Humanities Stream, Natural Sciences Stream or the Social Sciences Stream.

PHILOSOPHY AND THEOLOGY STREAM

Friday 17th March (9:00am to 8:30pm) and Saturday 18th March (you are invited to join another stream)

Venue: Daubeny Laboratory, Magdalen College, Oxford

Senior Convener: Max Baker-Hytch (Philosophy, Wycliffe Hall)

Conveners: Jiani Sun (Theology, Oriel College), Christopher Wadibia (Theology, Pembroke College), David Williams (Theology, Keble College)

How can postgraduates, postdocs, and academics at the University of Oxford and Oxford Brookes approach their academic disciplines as Christians? What does it mean to respond to a Christian vocation and to honour God in university life?

Developing a Christian Mind: Seeking Wisdom examines these questions in four disciplinary streams: Humanities, Natural Sciences, Philosophy and Theology, and Social Sciences. Oxford academics and postgraduates speak and lead discussion for each stream. Past attendees are encouraged to come, listen to new talks, and take part in discussion with new attendees.

<https://dcmoxford.org/march>

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DEVELOPING A CHRISTIAN MIND AT OXFORD