

# HUMANITIES STREAM

**Friday 19 March (2:30pm to 6:00pm) and Saturday 20 March (9:45am to 5:15pm) 2021**

**Meeting Virtually via Zoom**

**Senior convenors:** Siân Grønlie (English, St Anne's College), Jonathan Patterson (Fellow in French, St Edmund Hall)

**Student conveners:** Emilie Lavallee (History, St Cross), Jose Maria Andres Porras (History, St Hugh's), Becky Short (Medieval and Modern Languages, St Hilda's)

What does it mean to be a follower of Christ in the world of academia and within the humanities in particular? How is our scholarship and creativity inspired by our faith in the Creator God? What are the implications of faith in Christ for assurance in our identity, motivation in our studies, and freedom as a scholar? How can we respond with intellectual humility to the challenges of academic life? Join us as we grapple with these questions, encourage one another in prayer, and share experiences of how our faith impacts our academic life as researchers, lecturers, colleagues, and writers.

**\*\*Please note our eligibility criteria: This event is for University of Oxford and Oxford Brookes postgraduates, postdocs, academic staff and DCM Alumni.**

**If you do not fit these criteria, please complete this form and we will review your request**

**Alumni: please scroll to the bottom of the registration form and select the 'Alumni' ticket.**

Register here

## FRIDAY 19TH MARCH

**Please note that the three talks for this stream will be pre-recorded and circulated to participants to watch in advance.** You will receive an email with links to the talks approximately one week in advance of the conference. Please set aside approximately 1.5 hours the week prior to complete this pre-work. Thank you!

2:30 p.m. **Welcome & ice breaker**

3:00 pm Discussion on, '**Acts of Faith: The White Rose Circle**' - Alex Lloyd (Fellow in German, St Edmund Hall)

In 1943 five students and a professor at the University of Munich were executed for their part in the White Rose (Die Weiße Rose), a group that secretly wrote and distributed pamphlets calling on Germans to resist Hitler. In this talk I introduce the group through their own words, using excerpts from their letters and diaries in a new English translation by undergraduate students at Oxford. I focus on the role that faith and religion played in the lives of the White Rose members and in their decision to mount resistance.

4:15 pm **Stretch break**

5:00 pm **Panel-led discussion** speakers to be announced

This is an opportunity to hear a range of graduate students and scholars further along in their careers in conversation about their experiences and insights as Christians in the academy. Please come with questions!

6:00 pm **Closing**

*The following evening event is held jointly with all discipline streams*

7:30 pm **All-Conference Celebratory Dinner** - Enjoy a joint Zoom celebration dinner with postgraduates, lecturers, and faculty from all discipline streams. Featuring your choice of takeaway meal\*, an interview with special guest speaker Alister McGrath, lively discussion groups, and an optional time of mixing and mingling with new and old friends via Gather.Town. This event is designed to inspire attendees and give a sense of the larger Christian community at the University of Oxford and Oxford Brookes.

\*Conference admission is free, however if you would like to receive a Just Eat takeaway meal voucher worth £20 for the Friday Celebratory Dinner you can purchase a ticket for £10 during registration. Please note that you must be in the UK on the evening of 19th March to select this option.

**SATURDAY 20TH MARCH**

9:45 am **Welcome**

10:00 am Discussion on, '**Writing, Teaching and Applying the History of Religion When Not Writing Church History**' - Steven Gunn (Early Modern History, Merton College)

11:15 am **Stretch break**

12:00 pm **Group discussion of reading:**

A short chapter of Alan Jacob's new book *Breaking Bread with the Dead*, on 'The Sins of the Past' found [here](#)

1:00 pm **Lunch break**

2:00 pm Discussion on, '**Your Research May Lead You Where You Do Not Want to Go: Studying Villainy as a Christian**' - Jonathan Patterson (Fellow in French, St Edmund Hall)

Is it ever right to kill a tyrant? What if you think God is telling you to kill the king? Who or what is a terrorist in early seventeenth-century France and how do you punish a regicide? These kinds of questions pose an anthropological conundrum: the problem of containing transgressive behaviour that overflows the limits of human punishment. We will explore these themes and discuss moving beyond anthropology, the satanic dimension of villainy, and towards the theology of containment, feeling the offense, and responding with grace.

3:15 pm **Stretch break**

4:00 pm **Sharing of poetry and prose selections**

For our closing session, we invite each participant to bring a work that has been a source of inspiration in your development as a Christian scholar. What has encouraged you -- or challenged and convicted you -- and what might challenge and encourage other followers of Christ in the academy? Be it visual (a painting) or audible (music) or textual, be it poetry or prose, fiction or non-fiction, a quote or a story, a personal note or Scripture, we look forward to this final opportunity to build one another up as we conclude our conference.

5:15 pm **Closing**