

**ORAL
HISTORY
SOCIETY**

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017

in conjunction with Leeds Trinity University and
Newman University

Friday 14 to Saturday 15 July 2017

at Leeds Trinity University, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 5HD



Remembering beliefs – the shifting worlds of religion and faith in secular society

What can oral history bring to the study of belief and non belief? How have oral historians dealt with strongly held convictions in interviews? What part does memory play in identities of belief and non belief?

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Callum Brown

Professor of Late Modern European History, University of Glasgow, researcher into secularism and demographic change
Recent publications: *Becoming Atheist: Humanism and the Secular West*, 2017; *Religion and the Demographic Revolution: Women and Secularisation in Canada, Ireland, UK and USA since the 1960s*, 2012

For reasons perhaps of prejudice, perspective, or communal difference, oral historians have until now largely neglected the topic of belief and non belief. The conference will shift oral history's focus, both conceptually and practically, offering an ideal opportunity to understand further manifestations of belief and non belief with papers which push boundaries and extend knowledge around themes including:

Abby Day

Reader in Race, Faith and Culture, Goldsmiths, University of London.
Recent publications: *The Religious Lives of Older Laywomen: The last Active Anglican Generation*, 2017; *Believing in Belonging: Belief and Social Identity in the Modern World*, 2011

Tina Block

Associate Professor, Canadian History, Thompson Rivers University, British Columbia
Recent publication: *The Secular Northwest: Religion and Irreligion in Everyday Postwar Life*, 2017

● oral history methods ● belief and non belief in lives over time ● belief and non belief in ordinary lives ● community and religion ● secular shifts ● critical moments ● identities and their creation ● science and religion ● religious movements ● with panels on: the impact of Vatican II; religion and LGBTQ lives; women and the Catholic church; and testimonies of environmental transformation

For booking details go to www.ohs.org.uk/conferences

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Please note this
programme may be
subject to change

FRIDAY 14 JULY

- 9.30 **Registration opens**
- 10.00 – 11.00 **Special Interest Group meetings** including LGBTQ and HE SIGs
- 11 – 11.15 **Tea/coffee**
- 11.15 – 11.30 **Welcome** by Professor Margaret House, Vice Chancellor, Leeds Trinity
- 11.30 – 12.30 **Plenary**
Secularisation and the self: new theory from oral history
Callum Brown FRSE, Professor of Late Modern European History, Convenor of History Postgraduate Research, School of Humanities, University of Glasgow
- 12.30 – 13.45 **Lunch**
- 13.45 – 15.15 **Parallel sessions 1:**
Overviews of Belief and Non Belief 1
'Questioning Faith in Later Life': Older People's Reflections (1970-2010) on the Role of Religion in Their Lives, Peter Coleman, University of Southampton
Large scale oral history projects and the study of irreligion, Matt Sheard, Oxford Brookes University
'Science and religion' life stories, Dr Paul Merchant, British Library
- Methods 1**
'JEEUSUS KRISTUS RAKASTAA MINUA!' JESUS CHRIST LOVES ME! The Origins and Development of the Jesus Movement in Finland during the 1970s, Hannah Yoken, University of Glasgow
'Is Austria actually a Catholic country?' The Projection of Religious Convictions of Irish Republican Women on the interviewer-narrator-relation, Dieter Reinisch, European University Institute
Negotiating belief in oral history interviews: Is non-violent communication possible? Dr Daniela Koleva, St Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia
- Communities in Time**
Jewish traditions of faith, Judith Garfield, Eastside Community Heritage
The catholic foundation of Leeds Trinity University, Helen Kingstone, Leeds Trinity University
- 15.15 – 15.45 **Tea/coffee**
- 15.45 – 16.45 **Parallel sessions 2**
Identities 1
'What's the rabbi going to think of this?': levels of belief in an extended Scottish Jewish family in the twenty-first century, Fiona Frank, Scottish Oral History Centre, University of Strathclyde
'Dance is my religion!' Stories of contemporary conversion amongst non-professional adult dancers, Debbie Williams, University of Roehampton
Judaism, Jewishness, and Relationship with Place: an Oral History of Jewish Genealogy, Adrienne Wallman, Lancaster University

FRIDAY 14 JULY continued

15.45 – 16.45 cont **Critical Moments**

So was it the wind of the spirit or just a gentle summer breeze? The Quaker decision to embrace same sex marriage, Penelope Cummins, University of Birmingham

Belief and non-belief in social, political and cultural transformations, Elizabeth Chappell

Changing identities of the symbol, 'OM': crossing cultural borders and violence in Punjab, 1947, Mishika Nayyar, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Secular Shifts

Religious beliefs and secularisation in Zimbabwe: A study with special reference to confrontation between Evangelicals and the Zimbabwean state over the secularisation of the education system in Zimbabwe, Munetsi Ruzivo, University of Zimbabwe

Maintaining faith under pressure of sovietisation: a case of Russian Old Believers in Eastern Latvia, Maija Grizane

The process of secularisation amongst the children of immigrant Jews within the Manchester Jewish Community, 1920-1939 with special reference to those who became involved in the Communist Party of Great Britain, Dr Rosalyn Livshin, Freelance Historian

16.50 – 18.20 **Plenary**

Oral Histories of Unbelief: Exploring Narratives of Religious Decline in Postwar Canada

Tina Block, Associate Professor, History, Thompson Rivers University

16.45 – 18.15 **Communities Workshops**

A workshop for oral historians in community settings, giving the opportunity to discuss issues arising in community projects, network with other community groups in the region, display project work, and consider the conference theme of religion and faith, belief and non belief, in community contexts.

Available to non-delegates at a cost of £5 per person

19.30 **Conference dinner**

After dinner speaker: Bruce Kent, peace campaigner and retired priest.



SATURDAY 15 JULY

9.00am

Registration opens

9.30 – 10.30

Plenary

Generations of (un) belief

Dr Abby Day, Reader in Race, Faith and Culture, Goldsmiths, University of London

10.30 – 10.45

Tea/coffee

10.45 – 12.15

Parallel sessions 3

Overviews of Belief and Non Belief 2

Memories of Faith and Disbelief in a Digital Age, Alistair Thomson, Monash University

Generational (non)religious visions on death and afterlife in biographical and group interviews: personal and social dimensions, Dr Galina Goncharova, University of Sofia

Oral history and religious museums, Marije de Nood, Museum Catharijneconvent

Identities 2

'Being' and 'becoming' a Jewish mother: Israeli Jewish women in early-twenty-first century Britain, Angela Davis, University of Warwick

Intersecting Identities – Exploring Journeys of Faith, Race, Sexuality and Gender, Surat-Shaan Knan, The Montague Centre

Intergenerational identities of British Muslim Women, Hengameh Ashraf Emami

Margins and Boundaries

Narrating 'safe' and 'unsafe' places: oral histories of niqab wearing in the UK, Anna Piela, Leeds Trinity University

'When Two Tribes go to War': religion, identity and urban space in de-industrialising Liverpool, 1967-1985, Daniel Warner, University of Liverpool

The gender challenge in Romanian evangelical space. A case study, Lavinia Besliu

12.15 – 13.30

Lunch and OHS AGM

13.30 – 15.00

Parallel sessions 4

Panel Session 1 – Religious Subjectivities and 'Secularisation': Vatican II and Reconfigurations of Orthodoxy through the 1960s

Of Popes, Pills and Personal Morality: Hearing the Confessions of Priests, Alana Harris, Kings College

Nuns Talking: Emotions, Belonging and Social Change, Carmen Mangion, University of London

Controversial Catechetics: women religious and narratives of change surrounding Australian Catholic Education, Dr Katharine Massam, University of Divinity Melbourne

Panel Session 2 – Religion and its place in LGBTQ lives Chair: Emma Vickers

Bethany – where stigma was challenged through faith, Alan Butler, Plymouth University

Life events, religion and HIV, George J. Severs, Pembroke College, Cambridge

'I'm made in the lesbian image of god': intersections of faith, belief and sexuality, Jane Traies, Sussex Centre for Cultural Studies

Parson's Pleasure, 1845-1992, George Townsend

Panel Session 3 – Environment and Climate Change

Testimonies of environmental transformation through oral history: indigenous beliefs or evidence? Diana Salazar

An accidental utopia in Wales: faith, hope and climate change at the Centre for Alternative Technology, Allan Shepherd

Faith in Nature: Learning to adapt to a changing environment, Dr Rebecca Pearce

SATURDAY 15 JULY continued

13.30 – 15.00 cont **Panel Session 4 – Catholicism and the Female Body**

The Function of Oral History in the Catholic Birth Control Debate and the Function of Catholicism in the Oral History Debate, David Geiringer, University of Sussex

We would never support that now: Catholic Pro-Life Activists and the David Alton Bill (1988), Olivia Dee, Royal Holloway, University of London

The Interaction between Religion and Genetics: Prenatal Testing in the West of Scotland, Paula Blair, University of Glasgow

15.00 – 15.20 **Tea**

15.20 – 16.50 **Parallel sessions 5**

Methods 2

Speaking in Tongues: Oral Testimony, Religious Belief and The Exorcist, Martin Smith, Northumbria University

(Re) Framing Cannabis as an Entheogen: Oral History and Rastafari Subjectivities, Yewande Okuleye

Oral Histories of Blasphemy. Windows onto offence, religious ‘feelings’ and identity, Professor David Nash, Oxford Brookes

Movements

Shifting Memories: An Oral History Study of Canton Young Women’s Christian Association in the 1940s, Dr WONG Wai-Yin Christina, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Education and the Evolution of the ‘New Age’ – A College in a Stately Home, Sharon Clancy, University of Nottingham

Evangelization of the Poor: Exploring the Relationship Between Faith and Community Through Spiritan Oral Histories, Megan de Fries

Belief and Non Belief in Ordinary Lives

Role of belief legends in secular society, Tiina Mattila, University of Oulu

Organised Religion and Shifting the Oral Narratives of Belief System in India, Rajesh Prasad, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

Responses and Resistances

Young People: Stories of faith, action and identity, Justine Huxley, St Ethelburga’s Centre for Peace and Reconciliation

From passivity to criticism. Shifting beliefs in Basque Catholic laywomen after the Second Vatican Council, Raúl Mínguez, University of the Basque Country

The Oral History Narrative as a Means of Understanding of Faith in the Triangle of Religion, Society and Politics: A Case Study, Michael Pfann

16.50

Conference ends





By Air:

Leeds Trinity University is only 2 miles from Leeds/Bradford Airport (5 mins drive). To travel from the airport to Leeds Trinity, we suggest you use the taxi rank at the airport operated by Arrow Private Hire with whom we have negotiated a preferential rate to and from the campus.

By Rail:

Leeds Trinity is situated approx. 1 mile from Horsforth Station on the Leeds-York line. Leeds is well served by suburban rail lines and stations and it is easy to travel in or out of the city centre by train.

Directions from Horsforth Station to Leeds Trinity:

The campus is only a 10-15 minute walk away from the Station. Exit the Station and turn right, walk past a parade of shops on your right, until you reach a roundabout and the Old Ball pub. Turn right onto Brownberrie Lane (Leeds Trinity is signposted) and continue (passing the Cricket Club on your left) until you see Leeds Trinity on your left hand side.

By Bus:

Leeds Trinity is served by bus services between the City Centre and Horsforth. The 97 bus stops right outside the campus entrance and can take you into Leeds City Centre via Headingley. The 50 and 50A services stop about a 10 minute walk from campus and takes you into Leeds via Kirkstall and Burley. The 6 service stops next to Horsforth Station (and the Shuttle Bus stop) and travels through Headingley en route to the City Centre. For further information and timetables please visit: www.wymetro.com.

By taxi:

A Taxi transfer, using Arrow Taxis 0113 258 5888, from Horsforth Station will take approximately 5 minutes and cost in the region of £3.00, alternatively a taxi from Leeds Station will cost in the region of £11.50.

By Road:

Leeds has good motorway links from the M1, M62, M621 and A1(M). A number of route planners are available on the internet to find personalised directions to Leeds Trinity University, or if using a Sat Nav, your destination is: Leeds Trinity University, Leeds, LS18 5HD.

Car Parking:

The University will, as far as resources permit, provide car parking spaces for staff, students and visitors. For further details and information please visit our website: www.leadstrinity.ac.uk or contact Hospitality Services on 0113 2837100 ext 406.

BOOKING FORM

(please complete all relevant details – one form per person)



I would like to register to attend the Oral History Society Annual Conference; **Remembering Beliefs – the shifting worlds of religion and faith in secular society** on Friday 14th and Saturday 15th July

Name:

Organisation (if any):

Address:

..... Postcode:.....

Email: Telephone:.....

If you have any special access requirements or mobility issues please give details, or for more information contact Polly Owen, polly.owen@ohs.org.uk :

Conference Fee: Includes all conference sessions (inc. community session), lunch & daytime refreshments on both days.

Please provide details of any special dietary requirements:

<input type="checkbox"/> Conference Fee: £	<input type="checkbox"/> £150.00 Standard Conference Fee
<input type="checkbox"/> New Membership Fee: £	<input type="checkbox"/> £110.00 Oral History Society Member Fee* <i>Joining now entitles you to the reduced conference rate and saves you up to £40. For more membership details see www.ohs.org.uk/about/joinsubscribe/ If you wish to join please include the appropriate payment</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Workshop: £	<input type="checkbox"/> £65.00 Concessionary Fee for full time students/unwaged/pensioners (please provide evidence)
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference Dinner: £	<input type="checkbox"/> £5.00 per non-delegate to attend Community Workshop only (max fee £15.00 per community group)
<input type="checkbox"/> Accommodation: £	<input type="checkbox"/> £20.00 Conference Dinner (including wine) <i>Pre-booking essential</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Total Payment:	<input type="checkbox"/> £45.00 Single occupancy Bed & Breakfast on campus on Friday 14th July
£	<i>(Please complete accommodation booking section below)</i>

Payment Method:

I enclose payment of £..... Cheques must be made payable to Oral History Society, **OR**

I wish to pay online using a Credit or Debit Card, please send Pay-By-Link email for £....., **OR**

Please send an Invoice for £..... to (if different from above).....

..... Signature:

<p>Accommodation Booking Details:</p> <p>Accommodation is available in <u>single occupancy</u> en-suite bedrooms at a cost of £45.00 for Bed & Breakfast on Friday 14th July. Rooms allocated on arrival unless specifically requested. <u>Early booking is recommended to secure campus accommodation</u> (alternative local accommodation details are available on request).</p> <p>Please give details of any special access or mobility requirements:</p> <p>Rooms are grouped into apartments with shared living areas, please indicate if you wish share apartments with other named delegates:</p> <p>Please indicate if additional nights are required (£39.00 on a room only basis):</p>
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Please return this completed form by Friday 30th June 2017 to the Conference Administrator: Polly Owen, Oral History Society Conference, The Old Quarry House, Upper Aston, Montgomery, Powys, SY15 6TA or email: polly.owen@ohs.org.uk. The final programme will be available on www.ohs.org.uk at the end of June.

* **Oral History Society Subscription Rates** – all subscriptions run yearly from 1st January
UK Individual Membership £30.00 / Overseas Individual Membership £45.00