

FCSU Fellows' Public Seminar Series 2018

Faith and the Future of Civil Society

Welcome to the 2018 lecture series curated by new Fellows of the Faiths and Civil Society Unit at Goldsmiths on: 'Faith and the Future of Civil Society'. Bringing their experience as professionals and practitioners, they critically explore how structures and practices of religion, beliefs and spirituality shape modern life and politics, both in the present and in the future.

The series of events are as follows, Tuesdays 5.30-7pm, Richard Hoggart Building, Goldsmiths, University of London, SE14.

20 March | Naomi Thompson - Young People and Church – past, present and future. Venue: RHB 256

A FCSU and Community Studies(STaCS) launch event for Naomi Thompson's new book 'Young People & Church since 1900—Engagement & Exclusion' (2018). Prof John Wolffe (Open University) will introduce the book's research context. Naomi will outline her historical and contemporary research, identifying the changing patterns in young people's engagement with organised Christianity. Andy Turner (Community Studies) will respond, exploring the future relationship between churches, civil society & young people. Naomi is lecturer in Youth & Community Work at Goldsmiths.

8 May | Mohammed Aziz – British Muslim Communities. Venue: RHB 137a

This lecture explores some of the contradictory and complex trends and emerging issues facing British Muslim communities. Through use of case studies, it explores some potential contributions of Muslim communities to the possible futures of British civil society. Mohammed Aziz is Director of the Aziz Foundation and a former Senior Advisor to the UK govt.

22 May | Roger Bolton - Religion- Is Broadcasting fit for purpose? Venue: RHB 137a

How well equipped are our broadcasters to help ensure that our society is religiously literate? How important is this task to the future well-being and flourishing of UK society? Broadcaster Roger Bolton, who has extensive experience of making programmes on religion and ethics, examines whether newsrooms, programme makers, and commissioners, are properly equipped to deal with this vital part of human experience.

12 June | Beth Crisp - Spirituality and religion: Sustaining individuals and communities or replicating colonisation? Venue: RHB 137a

Centuries of disrespect for indigenous peoples and their spiritualities by the European settlers has ongoing consequences in postcolonial societies. There is a growing acceptance that redressing past colonial injustices cannot occur while continually ignoring the religions and spiritualities of indigenous peoples. This lecture explores the role of religion and spirituality in sustaining individuals and communities, rather than replicating colonisation. Beth Crisp is Professor in Health and Social Development at Deakin University, Australia.

9 October | Lucy Vickers - Future directions and challenges for law, religion and belief in the public space.
Venue: tbc

This lecture explores how law tackles some of the challenges involving religion and belief in public space. How does law attend to the intersections between varying groups in civil society, including those of different religions, sexual orientations and genders? Does the law have a role in addressing the current 'culture wars'? And what does the future hold for the relationship between law, religion and the public space? Lucy Vickers is Professor of Law at Oxford Brookes University. Lucy's latest book is 'Religious Freedom, Religious Discrimination and the Workplace (2016).

13 November | Jorella Andrews - The Courage to Persevere: Contemporary re-interrogations of faith and their public implications. Venue: tbc

Philosophical and theological scholarship arguably remain key sites for new perspectives on life which then filter into shaping everyday assumptions, attitudes and behaviours. This lecture builds on a series of talks on faith organised by the Goldsmiths Visual Cultures Department entitled 'A Fearless Look at the Unspeakable', and evaluates the new ideas and cultural shifts that emerged from this series for their potential contribution to 'faith and the future of civil society'. Jorella is senior lecturer in Visual Cultures at Goldsmiths.

The events are free. No booking is required.

Accessibility

If you are attending an event and need the College to help with any mobility requirements you may have, please contact the event organiser in advance to ensure we can accommodate your needs.

More info at gold.ac.uk/events