



BSA Sociology of Religion Study Group

Teaching and Studying Religion Symposium

Teaching and Studying Religion: Choices and Challenges

BSA Meeting Room, Imperial Wharf, London

15 December 2011, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Each presentation will be 10 minutes, followed by 10 minutes of discussion, with a discussant-led response and general discussion for each session. Presenters in each session will prepare their presentation by considering other papers in their session, to allow them to explore how the choices and challenges in teaching and studying they have identified intersect with those addressed by others in different disciplines and contexts. All participants registering for the symposium are asked to read and print the presenters' summaries, which will be circulated via email to allow a fully participative and interactive event. Please also print the timetable as there will be no paper hand-outs on the day.

Programme:

From 9.30 am: Registration

10.00: Welcome and opening remarks: Abby Day (Chair, Socrel)

10.10: Keynote speaker

Adam Dinham (Faith and Civil Society Unit, Goldsmiths College)

Religious Literacy Leadership in Higher Education

11.15: Break

11.30: *Teachers' and students' experiences and methodological challenges*

Chair and Discussant: Chris Cotter (Department of Religious Studies, University of Edinburgh)

Saeed A. Khan (Near East and Asian Studies, Department of Classical and Modern Languages, Literature and Cultures, Wayne State University)

Current Challenges Facing Instructors of Islamic Studies: a Minefield or Marketplace of Ideas?

Stephen E. Gregg (School of Theology, Religious Studies and Islamic Studies, University of Wales, Trinity St David), Lynne Scholefield (School of Theology, Philosophy and History, St Mary's University College, Twickenham)

"But is it Hinduism?" Changing the Subject in Religious Studies

Saeko Yazaki (Centre of Islamic Studies, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Cambridge)

Teaching Religion: Far From Spurious Objectivity and Unrestrained Subjectivity

Alison Scott-Baumann (Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion, University of Lancaster), Sariya Contractor (Faculty of Education, Health, and Sciences, University of Derby)

Women-led Curriculum Development for Modern British Islam

1.00: Lunch

1.45: *The effects of pre-university experience on teaching and studying religion*

Chair and Discussant: Anna Strhan (Department of Religious Studies, University of Kent)

Anna Van der Kerchove (Institut Européen en Sciences des Religions, École Pratique des Hautes Études, Sorbonne)

Teaching about religious issues in France: from University to classroom. Some remarks about curricula and their implementation in classrooms

Sławomir Sztajer (Department of the Study of Religion, Adam Mickiewicz University)

Teaching Religion and Teaching about Religion in Today's Poland

Christina Davis (Surbiton High School and Forum of Religious and Spiritual Education, King's College London)

Discriminating Tolerance and Religious Education: Dealing with incompatible truth-claims in the classroom

3.00: Break

3.20: *Different disciplinary constructions of religion*

Chair and Discussant: Paul-Francois Tremlett (Department of Religious Studies, Open University)

Jeroen Bouterse (Institute for Philosophy, University of Leiden)

Religion in the Scientific Revolution: Concepts and Theories in Historiography

Sahaya G. Selvam (Psychology of Religion, Heythrop College, University of London)
Positive Psychology: a viable theoretical and methodological framework for the psychological study of religion

Emma Bell and Scott Taylor (University of Exeter Business School)
Spiritual Management Education: Tensions and Contradictions

Cosimo Zene (Department of the Study of Religions, SOAS)
Studying and Teaching the Religion of the Subalterns: a Critical Gramscian Perspective

4.50: Closing remarks: Anna Strhan