

FRIDAY MARCH 18TH : THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND THE CHRISTIAN WORLD VIEW

9:30 am **Registration at New College with coffee & tea in the North Undercroft**

10:00 – 11:00 am **Introductions** and gathering in break-out groups

11:00 – 11:30 am **Coffee & tea in the North Undercroft**

11:30 am – 1:00 pm **Social scientific and Christian understandings of human beings in society** - Donald Hay, (Economics, Jesus College)

This session compares and contrasts Christian anthropology with evolutionary psychology, rational choice theory, and social theory.

1:00 - 2:00 pm **Lunch in the Dining Hall**

2:00 - 4:00 pm **Social ethics in the social sciences: theological and secular approaches** - Tom Simpson (Philosophy & Public Policy, Blavatnik School of Government)

In this session we explore the broad issue of how society should be structured. By the 'structure of society' is meant those laws and policies that govern how people interact with each other. The task of social science is avowedly descriptive, aiming to identify and understand how people interact. But it seldom stops there; accurate description is a precursor to intervention and change, through such policies. We address three questions. First, in what way does the practice of social science have implicit commitments about the way society should be structured? Second, is there a Christian view on how society should be structured, and if so, what is it? Third, what are the dominant secular proposals about how society should be structured, and what should a Christian make of them?

4:00 – 4:30 pm **Coffee & tea in the North Undercroft**

4:30 – 5:30 pm **The Human Flourishing Program in the Institute for Quantitative Social Sciences at Harvard**, an interview with the Director, Professor Tyler Vanderweele

The program is a major research initiative to uncover the determinants of flourishing across a wide range of human activities and contexts. The Program is focused around five central domains: happiness and life satisfaction, mental and physical health, meaning and purpose, character and virtue, and close social relationships. Current research includes a five year survey of nearly a quarter of a million respondents in 22 countries to provide the most comprehensive longitudinal global dataset on flourishing ever assembled. Tyler VanderWeele was the George Eastman Visiting Professor at Oxford 2019-20.

The following events are held jointly with all streams at New College.

5:30 pm **Prayer in the McGregor Matthews Room**

6:00 pm **Drinks at the Bar**

6:45 pm **Dinner in the Dining Hall**

SATURDAY MARCH 19TH : ISSUES RELATING TO EDUCATION

9:00 am **Registration at New College in the North Undercroft with coffee & tea**

9:15 am **Prayer in New College Chapel**

9:45 – 11:15 am **A round table discussion on 'Issues relating to Education'**, Chaired by Andrew Dilnot (Economics, Nuffield), with contributions from David Williams (DPhil, Theology), Richard Pring (Education, Green Templeton), Steve Puttick (Education, St Anne's), Edward David (Postdoc, Theology), Catherine Dilnot (Accounting, Finance and Economics, Oxford Brookes), and Hywel Clifford (Theology, Ripon College Cuddesdon). The scope of the discussion is outlined in the note appended on the Social Sciences Stream page on the DCM website.

11:15 – 11:30 am **Coffee & tea in the North Undercroft**

11:30 am – 12:45 pm **Round table discussion continued**

1:00 – 2:00 pm **Lunch in the Founders Hall**

2:00 pm **Closing**

SOCIAL SCIENCES STREAM

Fri 18th March (9:30am - 8:30pm) and Sat 19th March (9:00am - 2:00pm)

Venue: Christopher Cox Room, New College, Holywell Street, Oxford

Senior Convener: Donald Hay (Economics, Jesus College)

Convener: Tyson Rallens (Said Business School, Green Templeton)

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 five disciplinary streams: Humanities, Medical Sciences, 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>

DCM OXFORD

DEVELOPING A CHRISTIAN MIND AT OXFORD