

FRIDAY 15TH MARCH

11:00 am **Registration in Magdalen College's Old Kitchen Bar with coffee & tea**

11:30 am **The motivations of an (aspiring) literary historian** - Andrew J. Newell (Junior Research Fellow, English)

Abstract coming shortly

1:00 pm **Lunch in the Old Kitchen Bar**

2:00 pm **Christian feminism and academia as embodied practice** - Alice Brooke (Tutor, Spanish)

Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz (Mexico, 1651-1695) is often heralded as the first feminist of the Americas, based on her defence of women's participation in the intellectual life. Less frequently explored is the intersection between her understandings of womanhood and of Christian doctrine. This talk will explore these connections in two ways: first, by studying her commitment to the pursuit of truth in her critique of one of the most prominent preachers of her day, and second by examining her presentation of Mary as a model of intellectual virtue. The result, I argue, is a vision of the intellectual life that chimes with more modern calls – both Christian and secular – to cultivate academia as an embodied practice, engaging both body and mind in the pursuit of the common good. The talk will conclude with some reflections on practical ways we might realise such a vision in the present day.

3:30 pm **Coffee & tea the in Old Kitchen Bar**

4:00 pm **Narnia: The Monsters and the Sceptics** - Simon Horobin (Professor, English)

In this talk I will look at how C.S. Lewis used an encounter with a dragon in *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* to explore questions of sin and redemption. By contrasting this scene with a similar encounter in *The Hobbit*, I will consider Tolkien's different approach and explore the two writers' attitudes to allegory and the use of fairy-tales to convey scriptural truths.

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

6:00 pm **Prayer in Magdalen College Auditorium**

6:30 pm **Walking together from Magdalen College to New College**

6:40 pm **Drinks at the New College Bar**

7:30 pm **Dinner in the New College Dining Hall**

SATURDAY 16TH MARCH

9:00 am **Registration in Magdalen College's Old Kitchen Bar with coffee & tea**

9:05 am **Prayer in Magdalen College Chapel**

9:45 am **"Feet of clay" of "jars of clay"? Re-presenting a Christian 'hero' in an age of spin** - Mark Smith (Associate Professor, History, Department of Continuing Education)

The talk will explore the example of William Wilberforce to think about the crafting of historical reputations and what might be the responsibility of a Christian historian in presenting such a figure to modern audiences.

11:00 am **Coffee & tea in the Old Kitchen Bar**

11:30 pm **Panel-led discussion** - including **Andrew Dunning** (Curator, Medieval Manuscripts), **Benjamin Sharkey** (PhD, History), **Alicia Smith** (Research Fellow, Medieval Studies, Cambridge), and **Mark Smith** (Associate Professor, History, Department of Continuing Education); panel chaired by **Audrey Southgate** (College Lecturer, Medieval English)

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!

1:00 pm **Lunch in Old Kitchen Bar**

2:00 pm **Closing**

HUMANITIES STREAM

Fri 15 March (11:00am to 9:00pm) and Sat 16 March (9:00am to 2:00pm)

Venue: Lecture Room A, Magdalen College, Oxford

Senior convener: Simon Horobin (Professor, English)

Conveners: David Bernabe Romero (PhD, Literature), Jessica Shirvanian-Wolfe (PhD, History), Daniel Whitesman (MPhil, Languages)

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>

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