

Centre for Textual Studies and the Heythrop Institute Religion and Society:

A two day conference on the place of scripture and sacred texts in contemporary Religious Education (in the British Isles).

Tuesday 21 Wednesday
& 22 March 2017,
9:30AM – 5PM

September 2016 saw the introduction of important changes to examination courses in Religious Studies. Absent from GCSE and A' Level syllabi in recent years, the teaching of Christian scripture and theology is now back on the curriculum in Catholic schools in England and Wales. Indeed, the teaching of scripture remains important in some other traditions, particularly in Muslim tradition. These changes present a timely opportunity to explore the place of scripture and sacred texts in contemporary Religious Education. This is an issue which is pertinent to the wider debates about the nature and purpose of religious education throughout the British Isles and beyond.

This conference provides an exceptional opportunity to engage in one of the most important debates in religious education - namely what role scripture and sacred texts should play within the religious education curriculum. The conference brings together experts in education and in the sacred texts to examine the case for the increased focus on scripture within all religious education. The speakers include leading scripture scholars from Heythrop and other UK higher education institutions along with advocates of Religious Education in the UK. To be examined is not only how those in higher education can support teachers in their implementation of the 2016 changes, but also how teachers can support students for what follows, including paths in higher education. The project is one of mutual and general benefit.

Religious literacy defines religious identity which enables inter-cultural dialogue. There is a growing need to appreciate how a working knowledge of scripture, in Christian and other religious traditions, informs the sense of identity essential for religious engagement within and across interfaith and secular life. High quality religious education should support foundational knowledge and engagement with religious scripture. Both what this means and how it is best achieved raises challenging questions. This conference provides the opportunity to consider these questions and identify the most coherent answers.

Confirmed speakers: Professor Susan Doherty, Dr Jonathan Norton, Dr Charlotte Naylor-Davis, Dr Sean Ryan, Professor Stephen McKinney, Dr Bob Bowie, Dr Farid Panjwani, Dr Sean Whittle

Call for papers:

Submissions to present short papers (15-20 minutes) are invited on the conference theme of what ought to be the place of sacred texts in contemporary religious education. Abstracts of up to 300 words should be submitted to Dr Sean Whittle (s.whittle@heythrop.ac.uk) by the 31st January 2017. Notification of acceptance of a paper will be made by 14th February 2017. Full text of the papers should be submitted by email attachment no later than the 7th March 2017.

Conference organisers: Dr Johnathan Norton and Dr Sean Whittle, Heythrop College, University of London.

Registration

The full conference is £95 and a single day rate of

£55 is available. www.heythrop.ac.uk/scripture-RE

Campus-services@heythrop.ac.uk 020 7795 4195



Heythrop College

The Specialist Philosophy and Theology College
of the University of London