

FOUNDATIONS FOR SUCCESS

Masterclass

2024

A Level Philosophy Ethics and Religion

BIG IDEAS FOR CURIOUS MINDS

WWW.ETHIQA.ORG



About



Welcome to the A level RS Conference

Unlock a world of knowledge and inspiration at our A level Religious Studies Conference, held in the prestigious cities of London, Oxford, and Cambridge. Designed to ensure students and teachers gain confidence in the required content, these events offer exceptional value by drawing on the expertise of renowned scholars from both Oxford and Cambridge. Suitable for AQA, OCR, Edexcel & Eduqas.

ENGAGE IN UNIVERSITY-STYLE LECTURES

Throughout the day, students will immerse themselves in university-style lectures, designed to deepen their understanding and knowledge. Additionally, there will be opportunities for students to contribute and provide feedback during a structured debate, fostering an environment of respectful dialogue and the appreciation of diverse perspectives. Comprehensive notes will be provided, ensuring that you leave feeling supported and inspired.

Join us for a transformative educational experience that will not only boost academic performance but also ignite a passion for religious studies.



London



Thurs 28th November 2024

Bloomsbury Baptist Church,
Shaftesbury Avenue WC2H 8EP
10:30–16:00

[View Map](#)

Oxford



Mon 9th December 2024

Mathematical Institute
Woodstock Road OX2 6GG
09:50–15:15

[View Map](#)

Cambridge



Tues 10th December 2024

Lady Mitchell Hall
CB3 9DD
09:50–15:15

[View Map](#)

What to expect

Our face-to-face, subject-specific events with leading experts are designed to profoundly impact student outcomes. Whether you're seeking to refresh student-directed learning or equip students with the skills and knowledge to excel, the EthIQa study day is tailored to meet your needs. These events offer exceptional value and a unique opportunity to learn through the insights of renowned scholars. Don't miss this opportunity to engage with top-tier academics.

London Programme

10:20 INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

10:30–
11:20

The Politics and Philosophy of the Embryo

Julie Arliss

Discussions about embryos extend beyond developmental biology, playing a central role in legislation at national and international levels. But what exactly is an embryo, and when does human life begin? These questions are rarely clearly defined, increasingly becoming political issues. While science is often cited as an authority in these debates, its influence on personal values is complex. This session will help students understand the metaphysical and epistemological considerations essential for thinking clearly about the nature and status of embryos, equipping them with the tools to think for themselves and engage in honest, informed debate.

11:20–
12:10

Delusion or Insight? Reflections on the Rationality of Belief in God

Professor James Orr

Join us for a captivating session that examines the credibility of belief in God. Prominent philosophical and theological arguments, such as the cosmological, ontological, and religious experience arguments will be critically examined. Additionally, we will explore the problem of evil as a significant objection to the coherence of these arguments. This dynamic talk will showcase techniques of critical analysis, examining the validity and relevance of these arguments in contemporary discourse. This session will empower students to work with diverse perspectives, unravel the complexities of faith and reason, and broaden their understanding of Natural Theology in the modern world.

12:10 BREAK

12:30–
13:20

Examine the Mysteries of Death and the Afterlife

Professor Tom Greggs

Join us for an enlightening lecture on death and the afterlife, an essential topic for A Level Religious Studies. This lecture goes beyond exam preparation, offering profound insights into life's ultimate questions. Discover diverse perspectives on what happens after death, and explore how these beliefs shape our understanding of life's meaning and purpose. Engaging with this topic will not only enhance academic performance but provide a deeper, more reflective outlook on life itself. Don't miss this opportunity to gain knowledge that resonates beyond the classroom and into your personal worldview.

13:20 LUNCH

14:10–
15:00

Woman: Absent, Present, Displaced.

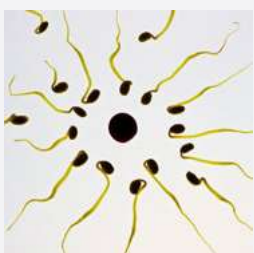
Professor Daphne Hampson

I shall consider how woman is represented in Biblical literature and Christian tradition. She is, firstly, notably absent, whether one considers Jesus' parables, the Hebrew scriptures, or Christian tradition. She is however present as a male construction of 'the feminine', more particularly in Catholic tradition with the Virgin Mary. But woman is also displaced as men take on in religion what are women's roles in nature and society. This is indicative of the male needs that religion serves and function it fulfils in establishing male superordination over women. These are themes considered in my forthcoming book Religion as Gender Politics.

15:00–
15:45

The Big Debate Natural Law: A Timeless Moral Compass or an Outdated Philosophical Concept?

Join us for a dynamic debate on Natural Law: Is it a timeless moral compass guiding human conduct, including matters of sex and sexuality, or has it become an outdated philosophical concept? Engage with leading thinkers as they explore the relevance of Natural Law in today's complex ethical landscape. Delve into its historical significance and contemporary implications, and participate in shaping the discourse on this enduring philosophical framework. Students are encouraged to participate if they wish, challenging perspectives and broadening their understanding.



Oxford Programme

09:50 INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

10:00–
10:50

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10:50–
11:40

Delusion or Insight? Reflections on the Rationality of Belief in God

Professor Alister McGrath

Join us for a captivating session that examines the credibility of belief in God. Prominent philosophical and theological arguments, such as the cosmological, ontological, and religious experience arguments will be critically examined. Additionally, we will explore the problem of evil as a significant objection to the coherence of these arguments. This dynamic talk will showcase techniques of critical analysis, examining the validity and relevance of these arguments in contemporary discourse. This session will empower students to work with diverse perspectives, unravel the complexities of faith and reason, and broaden their understanding of Natural Theology in the modern world.

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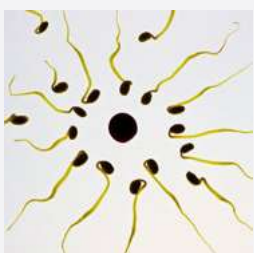
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Cambridge Programme

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Mikolaj Slawkowski-Rode

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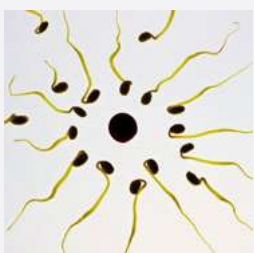
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Speakers



Julie Arliss — A Farmington Scholar at Harris Manchester College, Oxford, Julie Arliss is a highly accomplished teacher and author. Julie Arliss is a well-known international educator of gifted students with a gift for making the complex simple, and the simple complex. She is committed to the provision of world-class extension activities for these students, to extend their reach well beyond the curriculum to new areas of knowledge. She is on the examining team for Cambridge International Examinations and founder of Academy Learning.



Professor James Orr — Professor James Orr left corporate law ten years ago to become a student again and has recently secured a lectureship at Cambridge University. Formerly McDonald Postdoctoral Fellow at Christ Church, Oxford, Professor Orr holds a PhD and MPhil from St. John's College, Cambridge, and a Double First in Literae Humaniores from Balliol College, Oxford. His publications and policy papers cover many fields including 'The Discarded Mind' 'Created Equal' and 'Being and Eternity'. An impressive polymathic mind keen to inspire curious young minds in the search for knowledge.



Professor Daphne Hampson — Daphne Hampson holds doctorates in history from Oxford, in theology from Harvard and a master's in Continental Philosophy from Warwick. She is Professor Emerita of Divinity at the University of St Andrews, where she held a personal Chair in Post-Christian thought. In her retirement she is an Associate of the Department of Theology and Religion at Oxford and a Life Member of Clare Hall, Cambridge. Daphne has published and lectured widely on the challenge that feminism represents to Christianity, bringing together a theological realism and an ethical critique of Christian mythology. Otherwise, she has worked on the Lutheran tradition and on Kierkegaard. She is in the process of completing a new book *Religion as Gender Politics: Theology, Feminism, and Continental Philosophy*.



Dr Mikolaj Slawkowski-Rode — Dr. Mikolaj Slawkowski-Rode is a distinguished philosopher and theologian, renowned for his expertise in the intersection of faith and reason. He serves as an Associate Professor at the University of Warsaw, is a fellow of the Dalai Lama Centre for Compassion, Oxford; holds a research position at the University of Oxford. He is also a visiting lecturer at the University of Buckingham teaching on their MA course in Philosophy.

In addition to his academic pursuits, Dr. Slawkowski-Rode is an engaging lecturer and sought-after speaker, known for his ability to elucidate complex ideas in an accessible and thought-provoking manner. His dynamic presentations encourage students and audiences to explore diverse perspectives, deepening their understanding. He is a founding member and organiser of the Humane Philosophy Society and organiser of the Human Philosophy Project.



Professor Alister McGrath — Professor Alister McGrath holds three doctorates from the University of Oxford; a doctoral degree in molecular biophysics, A Doctor of Divinity degree in theology and a Doctor of Letters degree in intellectual history.

He is best known for his work examining the relationship between science and religion, and, as a former atheist, his opposition to New Atheism and antireligion. Among his best known books are *The Dawkins Delusion? Dawkins' God: Genes, Memes and the Meaning of Life*. He is the former principal of Wycliffe Hall and most recently held the Andreas Idreos Professorship of Science and Religion at Oxford. He is currently developing a series of accessible video presentations which are available free of charge on his website.



Professor Tom Greggs — After being awarded a starred Double First Class Honours Degree from Oxford, Tom completed his Phd at Cambridge. He has taught at Manchester Grammar school but is now a university lecturer and researcher with a commitment to making his work accessible to young people. He has a weekly slot on radio 4 and holds various political offices at local regional and national levels with a general focus on education policy. He is widely regarded as a 'rising star'.



"I found the conference to be very interesting and enriching – both for the content and philosophy as a whole. It rejuvenated our passion for philosophy and I am so grateful I had the opportunity to attend. Thank you very much!"



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Bookings & Admin



BOOKINGS

These events fill quickly but we appreciate that some schools need time to organise their students. We are keen to help if you need more time. If your group is smaller than five, please get in touch and we can help you with your booking.

Bookings are made on behalf of pupils by their teacher. If you are studying the online EthIQa A level or do not have a teacher, please make contact and we will be happy to advise: headoffice@academy-ltd.com.

ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION

To ensure a smooth and enjoyable experience, please note the following:

The programme will begin promptly as scheduled. Given the large audience, it may take some time for everyone to be seated. To secure the best seats and to sit together, please plan to arrive at least 30 minutes before the programme starts. Your early arrival will help ensure a seamless beginning to our event.

STUDY DAY FEES

Student £37.50 (£35 for early bird online ticket sales before 7 October T&C apply).

Staff £37.50 1 free place with every 12 students (£35 for early bird online ticket sales before 7 October T&C apply) Unaccompanied teachers attending for PD £220.

Please bring your own refreshments.



“I am so glad I got to go to this conference. Speaking to others, we all agreed that it allowed us to see our course in a different and broader context. It was lovely engaging in our subject in a way that goes beyond our textbooks. Listening to speakers who knew about Philosophy and were passionate about it, reminded me why I chose to study RS”.



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