

2017 AC COLLOQUIA

4 April 2017: Speakers – Prof Paul Oslington and Prof Shane Clifton

Christian theology and the formation of economics as a discipline in 18th and early 19th century Britain

Prof Paul Oslington

Christian theology shaped political economy as a discipline, and facilitated its rise to cultural dominance across the English speaking world. This paper outlines these theological influences (especially the British tradition of scientific natural theology of Bacon and Newton, and the moderate Calvinism of the Scottish Enlightenment). It connects doctrines such as divine providence and the future hope to economists' belief in the coordinating and beneficent powers of markets. It then discusses changes in the religious context in the mid-19th century that eroded the religious significance of economics and allowed the secularization of economics by the late 19th century in Britain and the early 20th century in America.



Disability, Grace, and the Virtue of Letting Go of Control

Prof Shane Clifton

This presentation is the fruit of a disabled reading of the virtue tradition – and has its basis in my forthcoming book, *Crippled Grace: Disability, Virtue Ethics, and the Good Life*. It takes a disabled perspective on character traits needed to deal with the out-of-controlness of life; reflecting on humility, pride, anger, and forgiveness.

9 May 2017: Speakers – Amy Choi and Dr Michael Frost

Breaking the cultural ceiling in Australian organisations: Examining the barriers experienced by workers of Asian cultural background in progressing to senior leadership positions.

Amy Choi

This research aims to examine and identify the barriers that workers of Asian cultural backgrounds (WACB) face in progressing to the executive management level in Australian organisations. Australia is an ethnically diverse country, and multiculturalism is a core aspect of Australia's national identity. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2011 census indicated that 28% of the Australian resident population was born overseas, and a further 20% have at least one parent born overseas. Immigrants from Asian countries have increased in particular in recent years from 24% of the population born overseas in 2001 to 33% in 2011. Despite the increased numbers of Australians that have Asian heritage, there is an absence of WACB in executive management positions in Australian businesses.

This study will explore the barriers that the WACB face in progressing to executive management in Australian organisations. Furthermore, this study will suggest methods that Australian organisations can use to better develop and promote WACB to their executive management.

Redeeming Pentecostal Prosperity: From materialism to materiality

Dr Michael Frost

This paper proposes a shift from prosperity to materiality in Pentecostal thinking. Despite its many faults, I argue that certain instincts of the prosperity gospel—for example, that Christian faith and spirituality should impact on one's socio-political life—can be affirmed. However, such an affirmation requires a transition from shallow and dubious spiritual guarantees of 'prosperity' towards a holistic understanding of the kingdom of God that can redeem an emphasis on the transformed materiality of the lived life.

7 June 2017: Speakers – Dr Robyn Wrigley-Carr and Kylie Dragan

Evelyn Underhill's *Prayer Book*

Dr Robyn Wrigley-Carr

Evelyn Underhill (1875-1941) was the first female theologian invited to give lectures at Oxford University. After Underhill's death, *The Times* described her theology lectures as "unmatched by any of the professional teachers of her day." Alongside her theological teaching and more than 40 books, Underhill led many spiritual retreats in

the 1920's and 1930's in England. Central to her spiritual retreats were the prayers that Underhill read from her two personal *Prayer Books*.

Last year I discovered Underhill's two books of unpublished prayers that scholars had assumed were lost many decades ago. I am currently editing these *Prayer Books* and preparing them for publication with SPCK in January, 2018.

In this presentation, I tell the story of how I discovered Underhill's *Prayer Books* and provide a taste of the types of prayers she chooses to include. Underhill draws upon theologians and spirituality writers from all branches of the Christian church from the 3rd to the 20th century. Towards the end of the second *Prayer Book*, we see Underhill's own personal prayers, which are passionate, earthy, poetic and "feel" remarkably contemporary.



Sweet Salvation: The Visual Theology of Beyoncé's Visual Album *Lemonade*

Kylie Dragan

Beyoncé's visual album *Lemonade* has been the subject of much praise and criticism; specifically in relation to its controversial visual imagery. However, what is missing from this body of literature is an analysis of the implicit and explicit visual theology which is prevalent in the work, especially in relation to womanist theology. This paper will analyse the visual theology of *Lemonade* through thematic analysis and present implications of this study for white women.

3 August 2017: Speaker – Prof Mark Hutchinson

Spin Cycle: "Crisis what Crisis" in the Humanities, and what it says to AC

Prof Mark Hutchinson

AC (and several other providers) are attempting to become "Christian Universities" in an age that has declared the standard offerings of such institutions (the literae humaniores) to be "in crisis". As we are tacking towards the shore of the University, it seems that the University in its modern guise, is retreating before us. How are we to address these challenges, and what do they mean for AC? Using the teaching of academic history as an example, this short paper calls for AC to rethink the fundamental unity of its curriculum around an agreed form of "new humanities".



5 September 2017: Speaker – Dr Adam White

"Three Strikes, You're Out!" A Reflection On Church Discipline, Then And Now.

Dr Adam White

In 1 Cor. 4.21, Paul threatens to return to Corinth with a rod of discipline in order to deal with certain arrogant members of the Christian community. In addressing the passage, scholars generally gloss over the metaphor with little regard to its meaning. Those who do comment assume it refers to some kind of rebuke on Paul's part but go no further in their interpretation. This article seeks to discuss the metaphor's intended meaning, arguing that the rod comes on the back of two prior warnings outlined in 1 Cor. 4.14–20 and is itself the final act of discipline to divisive members of the church: excommunication.

3 October 2017: Speakers – Dr Caroline Batchelder and Jeremy Abbatacola

Yahweh Knows the Way: Living Yahweh’s way through Tō rā in the Psalter, beginning with Psalm 1

Dr Caroline Batchelder

While the correspondence between Torah and Psalter is widely recognised, the specific response made by Psalm 1 to the way wrongly taken by humanity in Genesis’ opening chapters has not. This paper argues that Psalm 1 performs the wisdom act of opening its audience’s eyes to the consequences of their actions so that they may turn aside from the way of the wicked to re-join Yahweh’s way which the first humans abandoned. This reading pays attention to details of form, language, and imagery of Psalm 1, and to its unique connections to Psalm 2 that are foundational to the Psalter. It shows how Psalm 1 is the basis from which all the following Psalms may be more fully understood. It seeks to demonstrate that the Psalter is about the recovery of human happiness and a life of true worship lived according to tōrā (Yahweh’s instruction), beginning at the Psalm 1 ‘entrance way’ into the Psalter.



John and the Family of God

The μονογενῆς υἱός in the Fourth Gospel

Jeremy Abbatacola

The purpose of this study is to investigate the doctrine of the ‘unique Son’, μονογενῆς υἱός, in relation to ‘the Father’, ὁ πατήρ, in the Gospel of John. Now, much attention has been given in biblical scholarship to this special relationship in the Fourth Gospel, and rightly so.

However, there is another member in the Johannine ‘Family of God’: believers. In the Fourth Gospel, those who believe in Jesus, the unique Son, are given the right to become ‘children of God’, τέκνα θεοῦ (1:12). This paper insists that before one can adequately articulate the doctrine of the τέκνα θεοῦ in John’s Gospel, one must first adequately articulate the doctrine of the μονογενῆς υἱός. Very little has been done in biblical scholarship to connect these two Johannine relationships. Thus, in examining the key texts in their historical and literary context, this study will focus on the doctrine of the μονογενῆς υἱός in the Gospel of John as the necessary first step in understanding the Johannine motif of the ‘Family of God’.