

CALL FOR PAPERS

A POSTSECULAR AGE?

NEW NARRATIVES OF RELIGION, SCIENCE, AND SOCIETY

2016 IRC CONFERENCE
27-30 JULY
ST. ANNE'S COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
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IAN RAMSEY CENTRE FOR
SCIENCE & RELIGION



Introduction

The past 20 years have seen the development of the interdisciplinary subfield of 'secularism studies' or 'critical secularism studies.' Previous theories of secularisation typically presupposed the steady march of human civilisations toward non-religion — in part under the influence of scientific advance. By contrast, these new approaches view secularism and narratives of secularisation as ideological artefacts corresponding to specific times and places and in need of critical framing.

Are we then living in what some have called a 'postsecular' age? Why have atheism and secularism become so fascinating for scholars—and in popular culture—for the past two decades? Has the secularisation narrative gone away (or changed shape?), putting religion back on the agenda of scholarship, global politics, law-making, and commerce?

Are developments in science contributing to these trends? What effect have the New Atheism and new deployments of scientific authority had on secularisation theory? Why do secularisms look different in different times and places? What is the role of globalisation in the emergence and transformation of secularisms?

Plenary Speakers

Cassie Adcock (Washington University in St. Louis), Courtney Bender (Columbia University), Matthew Engelke (London School of Economics), Alister McGrath (University of Oxford), Ann Pellegrini (New York University), Mary-Jane Rubenstein (Wesleyan University), Graham Ward (University of Oxford).

Call for Papers

Short papers are invited on topics relevant to the conference themes, to be delivered in parallel sessions of 30 minutes duration (20-minute paper, 10 minutes discussion). Those wishing to contribute a paper should submit a title, a 300-word abstract that situates the paper against its scholarly backdrop, and institutional affiliation by email to irc.admin@theology.ox.ac.uk with the subject line: "A Postsecular Age Conference Abstract."

Closing date for abstract submissions: Friday, 15 April

Notification of acceptance: Friday, 6 May

Further information available at the Ian Ramsey Centre website. For questions on paper submissions, please contact donovan.schaefer@theology.ox.ac.uk.

Registration

All those wishing to attend are invited to register via the University of Oxford online shop, the link for which is on the Ian Ramsey Centre website.

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