



The Religious Experience Research Centre Conference 2019: The Future of the Study of Religious and Spiritual Experience: 50th Anniversary of the Religious Experience Research Centre

In 1969 Sir Alister Hardy invited scholars to Oxford to discuss whether a scientific approach to the study of religious and spiritual experience was possible. Following this symposium, he founded the Religious Experience Research Centre (RERC). Now, 50 years on, we continue to engage with the study of spiritual and religious experience, albeit with greater urgency in the context of progressive secularisation. This conference celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Religious Experience Research Centre. We will look back at the work of the research centre during the past five decades and look forward to the future.



Time	Monday (1 July 2019)	Tuesday (2 July 2019)	Wednesday (3 July 2019)	Interfaith Conference (4/5 July 2019)
9.00 - 10.30		<p><u>Session 3 with panels 2 + 3</u></p> <p><u>Panel 2: Types of Religious Experience (Arts 1)</u></p> <p><u>Panel 3: Religious experience in different communities Arts building (Arts 5)</u></p>	<p><u>Session 7 with panels 8 + 9</u></p> <p><u>Panel 8: Religious experience from a medical anthropological perspective (Arts 1</u></p> <p><u>Panel 9: Religious experience and interfaith Arts building (Arts 5)</u></p>	
10.30 - 11.00		Tea/coffee Arts Building, Foyer	Tea/coffee Arts Building, Foyer	
11.00 - 12.30	Registrations open (with Tea/coffee) Old Building	<p><u>Session 4 with panels 4 + 5</u></p> <p><u>Panel 4: Spiritual experience and health (Arts 1)</u></p> <p><u>Panel 5: Shamanism and Mysticism Arts (Arts 5)</u></p>	<p><u>Session 8</u></p> <p>Keynote by Prof Leslie Francis</p> <p>Exploring the fruit of religious experience within the Greer tradition: Effects on personal affect and on religious affect</p> <p>Old Hall</p>	

12.30 - 2.00	Lunch Cloisters, Old Building	Lunch Arts Building, Foyer	Lunch Arts Building, Foyer	
2.00 - 4.00	<p><u>Session 1</u></p> <p>Alister Hardy Lampeter Lecture by Prof Ann Taves</p> <p>What Counts as Religious / Spiritual Experience? Contextualizing the Hardy data in light of a five culture study of nonordinary experiences</p> <p>Old Hall</p>	<p><u>Session 5</u></p> <p>Keynote by Prof Jeremy Carrette</p> <p>The Mystical Kiss: William James, Love and Attentive Consciousness</p> <p>Old Hall</p>	Departure or programme for delegates of the Interfaith conference	
4.00 - 4.30	Tea/coffee Cloisters	Tea/coffee Arts Building, Foyer		
4.30 - 6.00	<p><u>Session 2 with Panel 1:</u></p> <p><u>Panel 1: Religious Experience</u></p>	<p><u>Session 6 with panels 6 + 7</u></p> <p><u>Panel 6: Dialogic approaches to</u> <u>the ethnographic study and</u></p>		

	<p><u>Research Centre</u></p> <p>Old Hall, Old Building</p>	<p><u>written narratives of spirit mediumship and esoteric or religious phenomena (Arts 1)</u></p> <p><u>Panel 7: Analysing religious and spiritual experience Arts (Arts 5)</u></p>		
6.30	<p>Drink reception followed by dinner</p> <p>Lloyd Thomas</p>	<p>Dinner</p> <p>Lloyd Thomas</p>		

Session 1 (Monday, 2.00 - 4.00pm): Alister Hardy Lampeter Lecture

Chair: Prof Bettina Schmidt

Alister Hardy Lampeter Lecture by Prof Ann Taves: What Counts as Religious/Spiritual Experience? Contextualizing the Hardy data in light of a five culture study of nonordinary experiences

Session 2 (Monday, 4.30 - 6.00pm):

Panel 1: Religious Experience Research Centre

Chair: Peggy Morgan, former director of the RERC

Wendy Dossett	Wisdom's Garden and Higher Power in Addiction Recovery.
Marianne Rankin	The 'Fruits' of Religious and Spiritual Experience
Anne Morgan	Female conversion experience: a comparative study of gender experience within Christianity

Dinner Reception (6.30pm)

Speakers are Peggy Morgan, former director of RERC, and Dr Tom Farley, grandson of Sir Alister Hardy

Session 3 (Tuesday, 9.00 - 10.30am):

Panel 2: Types of Religious Experience

Chair: Andy Burns, secretary of the Alister Hardy Trust

Mara Steenhuisen-Siemonsma	Harbingers of shadows or messengers of light? Spiritual experiences with orbs in the perception of orb enthusiasts
Nicole Graham	Laughter as Religious Experience

Panel 3: Religious experience in different communities

Chair: Dr Thomas Jansen, Ass. Prof, UWTSD

Jennifer Uzzell	Gods, Weights and Ancestors: The Varieties of Pagan Religious Experience at Ancient Sacred Sites
Julia Wright	Agriculture and spirituality: can farming systems be sustainable if they ignore the hidden half of nature?

Session 4 (Tuesday, 11.00am - 12.30pm):

Panel 4: Spiritual experience and health

Chair: Rev Dr Jeff Leonardi, Honorary Research Fellow at RERC

Emily Pierini	Beyond Belief: Therapeutic Trajectories and Mediumistic Experiences in the Vale do Amanhecer'
Nicole Holt	Spiritual Experiences and Health: Perceived effects of spirituality on the health of the those who identify as Spiritual but Not Religious (SBNR) in the UK?'
Olivia Luijnenburg	Exploring the spiritual needs of older people in residential care

Panel 5: Shamanism and Mysticism

Chair: Dr Jessica Keady, UWTSD

Tish Marrable	Becoming shamanic – how do people talk about their experiences of finding shamanism as a spiritual practice?'
Paul Marshall	Pursuing the 'wild facts': Metaphysical implications of mystical experience
Zsuzsanna Szugyiczki	Mysticism - Then and Now

Session 5 (Tuesday, 2.00 - 4.00pm): Second Keynote Lecture

Chair: Dr Thomas Jansen, Ass. Prof, UWTSD

Keynote by Prof Jeremy Carrette, Kent University: The Mystical Kiss: William James, Love and Attentive Consciousness

Session 6 (Tuesday, 4.30 - 6.00pm):

Panel 6: Dialogic approaches to the ethnographic study and written narratives of spirit mediumship and esoteric or religious phenomena (panel organised by Fabian Graham)

Chair: Dr Fabian Graham

Terence Palmer	The Remote Spirit Release Database: Adding Value to Medicine
Fabian Graham	Enlisting the dead to cure the living – Enlisting the living to cure the dead. A comparison between Chinese healing rituals in contemporary Singapore and Taiwan

Panel 7: Analysing religious and spiritual experience

Chair: Dr Wendy Dossett, University of Chester

Adam Powell	The Conditions and Cognitions of Spiritualist Experience: A Mixed-Methods Phenomenology
James Murphy	Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis and the Study of Religious and Spiritual Experiences
Alison Robertson	"You're shutting out everything except you and the other person": The Co-Construction of BDSM Experience

Session 7 (Wednesday, 9.00 - 10.30am):

Panel 8: Religious experience from a medical anthropological perspective

Chair: Dr Emily Pierini, Honorary Research Fellow at RERC and Adjunct Professor at the American University of Rome

Simon Dein	The Efficacy of Religious Healing
Arjan Braam and Annemarie Noort	Religiousness as a possible correlate of religious delusions: a study among older patients with affective and non-affective psychosis
Eva Ouwehand	Explanatory models for religious and spiritual experiences in patients with bipolar disorder

Panel 9: Religious experience and interfaith

Chair: Dr Angus Slater, UWTSD

Johnson Elijah Amamnsunu	Negotiating Experience, Meaning and Social Realities of Faith Communities: A Case Study of the Nasrul-lahi-li Fathi Society (NASFAT) in Nigeria
Julia Kuhlin	Knowing God through experience: an ethnographic study of middle-class women in two Pentecostal churches in Gurugram, India
Martin Lockley	The Kundalini Awakening phenomenon: a high energy species of Spiritually Transformative Experience.

Session 8 (Wednesday, 11.00am - 13.00pm): Third Keynote

Chair: Rev Dr Jeff Leonardi, Honorary Research Fellow at RERC

Keynote by Prof Leslie Francis, University of Warwick, Chairman of the Alister Hardy Trust: Exploring the fruit of religious experience within the Greer tradition: Effects on personal affect and on religious affect

Farewell