**PROGRAM DRAFT**

SERMON STUDIES CONFERENCE 2022

“THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, BEFORE, AND BEYOND”

8-10 September 2022

All times are British Summer Time (BST)

THURSDAY

**NOTE: In-person Paper Presentations are in Bold**

 **All sessions are in Windsor 4**

1:00-1:50 PM

**SESSION I: HISTORY-MAKING DISCUSSION**

Sermon Studies as a Discipline: The Story Thus Far

Discussion Historians: Robert Ellison (Marshall University)

 Keith A. Francis (Oxford Brookes University)

2:00-2:50 PM

**SESSION II: BRILL PUBLISHERS SESSION**

Reviving the New History of the Sermon (NHOS) Series

Chair (sort of): Robert Ellison (Marshall University)

Presenter: Tessel Jonquière (Brill Publishers)

3:00-3:25 PM

**COFFEE BREAK**

THURSDAY

(8 September)

3:30-4:20 PM

**SESSION III**

The Sermon in the Twentieth Century: Hearers’ Reactions

Chair: Robert Ellison (Marshall University)

Presenters: Samuel Davis (South England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists)

 ***“Congregations Around the World React to Preaching”***

 Cary Dabney (Walsh University)

 *“‘Act-centered’ Preaching to ‘Goal-Centered’ Preaching – Recovery of the*

*Preaching of the Christian Tradition in the 20th Century”*

4:30-5:20 PM

**SESSION IV**

Understanding the Preacher

Chair: Robert Ellison (Marshall University)

Presenters: Eileen Lyon (State University of New York at Fredonia)

 ***“St. Maximilian Kolbe: Preaching the Primacy of Love”***

 Paul Kerry (Brigham Young University)

 ***“George Bancroft’s sermons through the lens of his doctoral studies in***

***Germany”***

7:00 PM

**DINNER**

Beaumont Restaurant

FRIDAY

(9 September)

9:00 AM

**SESSION V: POST-BREAKFAST CHAT**

Future Book Projects in Sermon Studies

Lead Chatters: Tessel Jonquière (Brill Publishers)

 Robert Ellison (Marshall University)

Keith A. Francis (Oxford Brookes University)

William Gibson (Oxford Brookes University)

10:00-10:30 AM

**SESSION VI**

Preaching and Imperial Legacies

Chair: Keith A. Francis (Oxford Brookes University)

Presenters: ~~Joanna Cruickshank (Deakin University)~~

 *~~“‘Can the Subaltern Preach?’ Sermons, Audiences, and Imperial Hierarchies”~~*

 Syed Alam (Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi)

 *“Indian Mass Conversions to Christianity: Causes and Sermons”*

11:00-11:45 AM

**SESSION VII**

The Current State of the Field I

Chair: Keith A. Francis (Oxford Brookes University)

Presenters: Syed Alam (Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi)

 *“Asian Muslim Sermons in Twentieth Century: State of Scholarship”*

 Robert Ellison (Marshall University)

 ***“From Repertorium to Database: Research Resources for Sermon Scholars”***

FRIDAY

(9 September)

12:00-12:30

**WRITERS’ MEETING**

Meeting for Contributors to “A Companion to Preaching and the Sermon…”

Anyone Writing a Survey of Developments in a Continent is Invited to this Meeting

12:30-1:50 PM

**LUNCH**

2:00-3:20 PM

**SESSION VIII**

The GEMMS Project: A Demonstration

Coordinator: Robert Ellison (Marshall University)

Presenter: Catherine Evans (GEMMS/University of Manchester)

3:30-4:20 PM

**SESSION IX**

Launch of the Sermon Studies Association (SSA)

Guilty Parties: Robert Ellison (Marshall University)

 Keith A. Francis (Oxford Brookes University)

FRIDAY

(9 September)

4:30-5:20 PM

**SESSION X**

Broadcast Technology and the Sermon

Chair: Keith A. Francis (Oxford Brookes University)

Presenters: Mark Ward Sr. (University of Houston-Victoria)

 *“‘For Ye Shall Speak into the Air’: A Century of the Broadcast Sermon”*

 William Skiles (Regent University)

*“Broadcasting Law and Gospel: Paul Tillich’s Wartime Ministry to Nazi*

 *Germany”*

Curry Kennedy (Virginia Military Institute)

 *“‘Saturation Coverage’: Technology and Billy Graham's Sermonic Success”*

5:30-6:10 PM

**SESSION XI**

Preaching Styles or What is a Sermon?

Chair: Robert Ellison (Marshall University)

Presenters: Barry Levis (Rollins College)

 *“Transatlantic Sermonizing: The Influence of Changing Sermon Styles in*

*England on Anglican Clergy in Colonial Philadelphia”*

 Hussain Muhammad (University of Erfurt)

 *“Sermons or Political Speeches? Islam(ism), ʿUlama and Khuṭbāt”*

 Mohammad Shahidul Islam Chowdhury (East Delta University, Bangladesh)

 *“Friday Sermons and Preaching in Islam in Bangladesh”*

7:00 PM

**DINNER**

Beaumont Restaurant

SATURDAY

(10 September)

9:00-9:50 AM

**SESSION XII: POST-BREAKFAST CHAT**

The Future and Direction of the SSA

Lead Chatters: Robert Ellison (Marshall University)

 Keith A. Francis (Oxford Brookes University)

 William Gibson (Oxford Brookes University)

 Frances Knight (University of Nottingham)

10:00-10:30 AM

**SESSION XIII**

Current State of the Field II

Chair: Keith A. Francis (Oxford Brookes University)

Presenters: Philipp Reisner (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz)

*“The Sermon in Twentieth-Century Europe”*

~~Gulniza Taalaibekova (Goethe University)~~

*~~“Do the Terms a Sermon and a Preacher Translate Well into the Islamic~~*

*~~Tradition?”~~*

11:00-11:55 AM

**SESSION XIV**

Preaching Styles…

Chair: Keith A. Francis (Oxford Brookes University)

Presenters: Emily Cope (York College of Pennsylvania)

 ***“The Place of Delivery in Late 20th-Century Latin American Homiletics***

***Debates”***

 Seidel Abel Boanerges (Spurgeon’s College)

 ***“Holistic Apologetic Preaching for the 21st Century Indian Context”***

SATURDAY

(10 September)

12:00-12:45 PM

**SESSION XV**

The Sermon and the Treatment of Indigenous Peoples

Chair: Keith A. Francis (Oxford Brookes University)

Presenters: Bradley W. Havenar (Phillips Theological Seminary)

 ***“Come Over and Help Us: W. U. Witt, the Oklahoma Indian Missionary***

***Conference, and the Continued Assimilation and Annihilation of Indigenous Identity in Twentieth-Century Oklahoma”***

 Jacqueline Mullen (Florida Atlantic University)\*

 *“William Apess’s Divergent Rhetoric Against Eurocentric Epistemologies of*

*Church Doctrine and the Restoration of Indigenous Sovereignty Against the Plantation” [Summarized by Keith Francis]*

1:00-1:50 PM

**LUNCH**

2:00-2:50 PM

**SESSION XVI**

You Can/Can’t Preach?

Chair: Robert Ellison (Marshall University)

Presenters: Marilyn Button (Lincoln University)

 Jessica Sheetz-Nguyen (University of Maryland Global Campus)

 *“Without Official Sanction: Preaching Women, 1870-1920”*

 ~~Veronice Miles (Wesley Theological Seminary)~~

 *~~“Preaching Women in the Post World War II Era”~~*

 Cipto Wardoyo (Coventry University)

 ***“Delivering Advice through Stories in the ISO (Islamic Sermons Online)***

***Corpus”***

SATURDAY

(10 September)

3:00-3:50 PM

**SESSION XVII**

Analyzing Preaching and the Sermon

Chair: Empty

Presenters: Finbar Benjamin (Oakwood University)

 ***“Hermeneutics for Collaborative Preaching”***

Keith A. Francis (Oxford Brookes University)

 ***“‘And the beat goes on’: Charles Spurgeon, Sermon Book Series, and the***

***Enduring Impact of the Sermon”***

 Ishaya Anthony (Stellenbosch University)

 Huma Tariq and Maria Tariq (Fatima Jinnah Women University)

 *“Sermons on Logics of Supplication of God: An Analytical Study”*

4:00-4:50 PM

**SESSION XVIII: DISCUSSION**

What Have We Learned So Far?

Session Leaders: Keith A. Francis (Oxford Brookes University)

 Robert Ellison (Marshall University)

7:00 PM

**DINNER**

Beaumont Restaurant

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON THE SPEAKERS**

Syed Alam is Assistant Professor of World Religions at Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi. He is also the director of the Alam Institute in Islamabad.

Ishaya Anthony is an Anglican priest and a research fellow at the Department of Practical Theology and Missiology, Stellenbosch University, and the Desmond Tutu Centre for Religion and Social Justice, University of the Western Cape, South Africa. Anthony is a joint PhD candidate at the Faculty of Humanities, University of the Western Cape and the Faculty of Educational Science, Ghent University, Belgium. His PhD focuses on religious media as sites for public pedagogy and its relationship to literacy development in Africa. His research interests intersect on the nexus between religion, media, and education in Africa.

Finbar Benjamin is an Associate Professor in the School of Theology at Oakwood University. He was ordained as a pastor in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1996. He holds a PGDip in Applied Theology from Oxford University and a D.Min. in Preaching from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Chicago. He is also a Clinical Chaplain, trained at Emory University Center for Pastoral Services. His current areas of research are practical theology, the critical integration of faith and learning, and the theological significance of African Diaspora ethnography for faith and social empowerment.

Seidel Abel Boanerges is a British Baptist Minister and the Dean of Ministerial Formation at Spurgeon’s College. In addition, he teaches subjects such as professional ministerial practice, mission, evangelism, apologetics, preaching and world religions. Seidel has a degree (BA Hons) in Applied Theology (University of Gloucestershire); a Master of Theology (MTh) degree in preaching (University of Wales); and he is currently finishing a doctorate in practical theology at the University of Chester. He is a Fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy (AdvanceHE) and has a Higher Education Teaching Certificate from the Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning at Harvard University. Recently, he has been selected as a Baptist Scholar for the Baptist Scholars International Roundtable (BSIR) organized by Baylor University, Texas

Marilyn Button is Professor of English at Lincoln University, PA. In addition to articles on women’s literature, her publications include two co-edited collections of essays: *The Foreign Woman in British Literature: Exotics, Aliens, and Outsiders* with Toni Reed (Greenwood 1999) and *Victorians and the Case for Charity: Essays on Responses to English Poverty by the State, the Church and the Literati* with Jessica A. Sheetz-Nguyen (McFarland 2014.) Her current research and interests include Victorian women travelers in Italy and the city mission movement in Victorian England as a model for contemporary urban ministry.

Emily Murphy Cope is an associate professor of Rhetoric and Writing Studies at York College of Pennsylvania. Her research interests center on rhetorical education and religious rhetorics, specifically the rhetorical education of American evangelicals.

Joanna Cruickshank is Senior Lecturer in History at Deakin University, Australia. She contributed “The Sermon in the British Colonies” to *The Oxford Handbook of the British Sermon, 1689-1901*. Her chapter will be part of a larger project exploring how nineteenth and twentieth-century encounters between white audiences and Indigenous, Black, and Asian preachers were structured by or challenged racial hierarchies.

Cary Dabney is Assistant Professor of Theology at Walsh University, Ohio. He holds a BA in Philosophy and Religious Studies, with a minor in Interdisciplinary Greek from Youngstown State University, Ohio and received his Master of Divinity from Harvard University’s Divinity School. He is currently a doctoral candidate at Duquesne University, Pennsylvania, specializing in Catholic Moral Theology, American Catholicism, and Black Catholic Studies.

Samuel Davis is a minister of the Seventh-day Adventist Church who has taken early retirement to pursue his passion in natural medicine. He served the SDA Church as a pastor, youth director, and church administrator for thirty years in the United Kingdom. Three of those years were on secondment in South Africa. He has preached all over the world. He holds an M.A. from Andrews University, Michigan, in Church History and a doctoral degree in natural medicine from the International School of Original Medicine (IIOM), Virginia, USA.

Keith A. Francis is an independent scholar who holds a visiting fellowship at Oxford Brookes University. He edited, with William Gibson, the *Oxford Handbook of the British Sermon, 1689-1901* (OUP 2012). Apart from his work on the sermon and preaching, his research interests include religion and evolutionary science in the nineteenth century and British Anglicanism in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. He is presently working on a biography of Samuel Wilberforce, son of William Wilberforce and Anglican bishop of the dioceses of Oxford and Winchester.

Bradley W. Havenar is a student at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, OK, an independent research scholar, and a candidate for ordination in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Bradley’s research interests include goddess worship, religious storytelling, Christianity on the margins, and post-Christian religious development. Bradley’s current/ongoing research projects include a book on the future of religion in a post-Christian world titled *Don’t Say God: Redefining, Reconstructing, & Renaming Divinity,* as well as an interactive map and storytelling tool that follows the practice of goddess worship around the globe called *Mapping Mother: Goddess Worship Through Time and Space*.

Curry Kennedy is a PhD candidate in English at the Pennsylvania State University, where he studies the relationship between rhetoric and religion. His dissertation focuses on the interanimation of rhetorical education and religious practice in Early Modern England He has published articles on the sermonic rhetoric of John Milton's *Areopagitica* and the theological stylistics of Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Frances Knight was President of the Ecclesiastical History Society in 2021-22, and is Emeritus Professor in the History of Christianity at the University of Nottingham, UK. She has worked on the history of the Church of England in the long nineteenth century for many years, and more recently on *Victorian Christianity at the* *fin de siècle*, which was the title of her most recent book (2015). She is also interested in Christian social thought and town planning and is currently finishing a book on Ebenezer Howard and the Garden City Movement. She has contributed to the *Oxford Handbook of the British Sermon* and has published in the online journal *Sermon Studies.*

R. Barry Levis is Professor of History Emeritus at Rollins College, Florida, where he taught for forty-five years. His research has focused on the relationship between church and state in eighteenth-century England and more recently in colonial America. He just published a monograph, *Render Unto Caesar: Ecclesiastical Politics in the Reign of Queen Anne* (Cambridge, England: James Clarke and Co., 2022).

Veronice Miles is Associate Professor of Preaching at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. She has taught preaching for more than 16 years. Veronice is also an ordained Baptist minister. She is interested in the formative and transformative potential of preaching, including the role of preaching in redressing persistently threatening challenges that pervade US culture. Her book, *Embodied Hope: A Homiletical Theology Reflection* (November 2021, CASCADE Books) explores the implication of an embodied theology of Hope to enhance preachers’ ability to amplify Hope’s resonance within and nurture purposeful Hope-filled action.

Hussain Muhammad is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Erfurt, Germany, as a Ph.D. candidate. His doctoral project explores the diverse ways in which *Taqwā* (Islamic Piety) interacts, relates and fuses with, but also resists, politics by focusing on Pakistan’s religio-political landscape. He investigates these complex dialectics through the textual analysis of the documented speeches of Pakistani Theologian-Politician Fazlur Rahman (1953-), President of Jamʿiyyat ʿUlamā-i Islam (Society of Scholars of Islam, JUI). His research focusses on questions of South Asian Islamism, with a special focus on Pakistani Ulama, politics and Islamic piety. He a Lecturer at Islamia College Peshawar (ICP), Pakistan. He also co-taught several graduate and undergraduate courses at the University of Erfurt, Germany.

Philipp Reisner teaches as a lecturer at the Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz. In his multidisciplinary research, he focuses on biblical theology, religion and contemporary New English and American literature. His dissertation on the New English theologian Cotton Mather (1663–1728), in which he examines Mather’s theological role in the context of early modern society, appeared in 2012. He completed his habilitation thesis on contemporary Anglo-American poetry at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz in 2021.

Jessica Sheetz-Nguyen is Professor Emeritus at the University of Central Oklahoma and teaches for the University of Maryland Global Campus. Her publications on the sermon include “Evangelical and Mission Sermons: The Imperial Stage.” in *The Oxford Handbook of the British Sermon, 1689-1901* (OUP 2012)and “Catholic Preaching in Britain,” in *A New History of the Sermon: Nineteenth Century* (Brill 2010). Her research interests include Foundling Hospital sermons which provide a lens into eighteenth and nineteenth-century British social values. She serves on the Sermon Studies Editorial Board.

William Skiles is Assistant Professor of History at Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He earned a PhD in European History from the University of California, San Diego, and a Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary. He teaches courses in Western Civilization, World History, and modern European History, including a course on Nazi Germany and the Holocaust. His research focuses on Confessing Church preaching in Nazi Germany and the ministries of German pastors of Jewish descent. He is currently working on a manuscript, *Preaching to Nazi Germany*, under contract with Fortress Press.

Mark Ward Sr. is Associate Professor of Communication at the University of Houston-Victoria. His research on American evangelical culture and media has been published in four books and more than thirty articles and essays. He is a winner of the Clifford G. Christians Ethics Research Award for *The Electronic Church in the Digital Age*(Praeger, 2016), David R. Maines Narrative Research Award, Digital Religion Research Award, and multiple Article of the Year awards from the Religious Communication Association. In 2018, he was named his institution’s scholar of the year. His broadcast experience ranges from local religious radio to national syndication.