Freethought in the Long Nineteenth Century: New Perspectives

Friday 9 and Saturday 10 September 2022

Queen Mary University of London
Graduate Centre, Room GC201, Mile End Campus
https://www.qmul.ac.uk/sed/aboutus/events/freethought/
#C19Freethought

Friday 9 September

09:00–09:20 Welcome

09:20–10:20 Panel 1: Translation and Transnationalism
Chair: TBC
James Diedrick, 'Old Faith in a New Bottle? Nietzsche and Mathilde Blind on Strauss's *The Old Faith and the New: A Confession*'
Yasmin Akhter, 'Mapping freethought in M.N. Roy's Memoirs'
Vighnesh Hampapura, 'Lead, kindly, in translation…'

10:20–10:35 Break

10:35–11:35 Panel 2: Prejudice and Persecution
Chair: TBC
Alexandros Sakellariou, 'Freethought, religious criticism and the reactions of the Orthodox Church in 19th century Greek society: The cases of Emanuel Rhoides and Andreas Laskaratos'
Michael Keller, 'Between Emerson and the Dying Infidel'
Bill Cooke, 'Were English freethinkers anti-Semitic?'

11:35–11:50 Break

11:50–13:10 Panel 3: Embodiment and Emancipation
Chair: TBC
Claudia Zilletti, 'Figurative Freethinking: Florence Claxton's Women's Work. *A Medley* (1861) and *The Adventures of a Woman in Search of Her Rights* (1871)'
Elad Carmel, 'Freethought, Republican Liberty, and Intellectual Feminism: The Case of Mary Hays'
Auréliane Narvaez, '"The question of souls is old—we demand our bodies, now": Women's bodies, freethought, and feminism in the United States (1820-1920)'
Tanya Cheadle, '"A wide-reaching modern moral code": Jane Hume Clapperton, freethought and the 'Sex Question' in Scotland, c.1880-c.1920'

13:10–14:10 Lunch

14:10–15:30 Panel 4: Freethinking Lives and Afterlives
Chair: TBC
Julia Courtney, 'From Helston to Benares: Katie Johns (1847-1903) and her journey to Theosophy'
Lydia Willsky-Ciollo, 'Thoreau in Public/Private: Freethought and Religion on the Paths to Concord'
Maite Karssenberg, 'Flaring ideas – Gertrude Kapteyn and the international freethought communities of London and Zürich'
Daniel Sharp, 'Christopher Hitchens and the Long Afterlife of Thomas Paine'

15:30–15:45 Break

15:45–16:45 Panel 5: Print Networks
Chair: TBC
Eoin Carter, 'Galileo's Ghost: science, religion and aetiologies of conflict in the British radical press'
Robert Forder, '28 Stonecutter Street'

16:45–17:00 Break

17:00–18:00 Keynote
Carolin Kosuch, 'The Gender of Secularism: Masculinities and Cremation'

Evening reception and optional conference dinner (details TBC)

Saturday 10 September

09:00–10:00 Panel 6: Conceptualising Freedom
Chair: TBC
Sukanya Bhadra, 'Emergence of Free Thinking within the Religious Arena of India in the Nineteenth-Century'
SeyedAli Baroutian, 'The discourse analysis of the first clash of tradition and modernity in Iran 1860-1910: Case study of freedom concept'
Dermot Trainor, 'Freethinkers, Humanists and Radical Democrats: The Rise and Fall of the National Liberal Party, 1870-1880'

10:00–10:15 Break

10:15–11:15 Panel 7: Freethought in Britain
Chair: TBC
Madeleine Goodall, 'Women of the early humanist movement'
David Nash, 'Atheism and the heroic in Nineteenth Century Britain'
Daniel Burrell, '"The Path of Progress": Rethinking Cremationism in Late Nineteenth-Century Britain'

11:15–11:30 Break

11:30–12:50 Panel 8: Secular Funerals in Nineteenth-Century Belgium: Freethinkers and the Confessional Domination of Public Space in Urban, Small Town and Rural Settings

Chair: TBC

Christoph De Spiegeleer, 'Secularising Funerary Culture as a Transnational Concern. The International Federation of Freethinkers and the Belgian Connection, 1880-1914'

Rik Röttger, 'Secular Funerals in Liberal Strongholds: Urbanity and Secularity in 19th-Century Liège'

Wim Lemmens, '"Glorifying the Ungodly": Small Town Secular Burials as Political and Social Statements in the Belgian province of Limburg (1860-1914)'

Jeffrey Tyssens, 'In Search of the Village Atheist. Secular Burials of Freemasons and Freethinkers in Rural Wallonia in the 1860s'

12:50–13:50 Lunch

13:50–14:50 Panel 9: Narrative Constructions

Chair: TBC

Sarah Copsey Alsader, 'Shelley's Wahabees: Islamic Iconoclasm as a function of Volneyan revolutionism in Romantic freethought'

John Attridge, 'The Fight for Freethought in the Fiction of E. M. Forster'

Misako Yora, 'Virginia Woolf and the Atheist: *Jacob's Room* and *To the Lighthouse*'

14:50–15:05 Break

15:05–16:05 Panel 10: Education and Reform

Chair: TBC

Katharina Isabel Schmidt, 'Free Legal Thought in the Pages of *Die Tat*, July 1914'

Katharina Neef, 'Moral education as a global project towards modernity'

Susannah Wright, 'Youth's Noble Path: British secularists and moral instruction in India in the early 20th century'

16:05–16:20 Break

16:20–17:20 Closing Roundtable

Chair: Clare Stainthorp

Participants: Anton Jansson, David Nash, Carolin Kosuch, Susannah Wright

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