Freethought in the Long Nineteenth Century: New Perspectives

Friday 9 and Saturday 10 September 2022

Queen Mary University of London
Graduate Centre, Mile End Campus

https://www.qmul.ac.uk/sed/aboutus/events/freethought/
#C19Freethought

Friday 9 September

08:45–09:15 Registration

09:15–09:30 Welcome

09:30–10:20 Panel 1: Translation and Transnationalism
Chair: Clare Stainthorp
James Diedrick, ‘Late-Century Freethought: Philosophical Naturalism in Friedrich Nietzsche and Mathilde Blind’
Vighnesh Hampapura, ‘Lead, kindly, in translation…’ [online]

10:20–10:35 Break

10:35–11:35 Panel 2: Prejudice and Persecution
Chair: James Diedrick
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: Clare Stainthorp
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)’ [online]
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: Madeleine Goodall
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’
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: Elad Carmel
Eoin Carter, ‘Galileo’s Ghost: science, religion and aetiologies of conflict in the British radical press’
Robert Forder, ‘Freethought publishing and bookselling at 28 Stonecutter Street, London, during the last quarter of the Nineteenth Century’

16:45–17:00 Break

17:00–18:00 Keynote
Chair: Anton Jansson
Carolin Kosuch, ‘The Gender of Secularism: Masculinities and Cremation’

18:00–19:30 Reception (Graduate Centre)

20:00 onwards, optional conference dinner

Saturday 10 September

08:45–09:00 Registration

09:00–09:50 Panel 6: Conceptualising Freedom
Chair: Katharina Neef
Sukanya Bhadra, ‘Emergence of Free Thinking within the Religious Arena of India in the Nineteenth-Century’ [online]
SeyedAli Baroutian, ‘The discourse analysis of the first clash of tradition and modernity in Iran 1860-1910: Case study of freedom concept’

09:50–10:00 Freethought Today
Emma Park, ‘Freethought and the Freethinker today’

10:00–10:15 Break

10:15–11:15 Panel 7: Freethought in Britain
Chair: Tanya Cheadle
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: Anton Jansson
Christoph De Spiegeleer, ‘Secularising Funerary Culture as an International Concern for Freethinkers. Transnational Entanglements and the Brussels’ Connection, 1850-1914’
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: Madeleine Goodall
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: Rik Röttger
Katharina Isabel Schmidt, ‘On the Confluence of Free Law and Free Pedagogy: Ernst Fuchs’s Schreibjustiz and Richterkönigtum (1907)”
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