

CALL FOR PAPERS: MYSTICAL THEOLOGY NETWORK CONFERENCE 2024

MYSTICISM AND ACTION

St. John's College, Oxford University

19-21 March, 2024



Featuring keynote addresses by :

Joy Bostic (Case Western Reserve University)

Dylan Esler (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)

Ben Morgan (Oxford University)

Andrew Prevot (Georgetown University)

Simon D. Podmore (Liverpool Hope University)

Tine Van Osselaer (Ruusbroec Institute, University of Antwerp)

And a public lecture by **Cole Arthur Riley** (NYT bestselling author of *This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories That Make Us*)

Mystics throughout history and across religious traditions have played seminal roles in the public sphere, in political activism, and social reform. Yet the relationship between mysticism and action remains contested. This interdisciplinary conference will bring together theologians, historians, philosophers, literary scholars, art historians, artists, psychologists and specialists in the areas of religion, gender and race to examine this dynamic and its importance for past and present theoretical considerations of mysticism. Artists are also making important contributions to our understanding of this topic and the conference will dialogue with artistic and other practical responses.

We welcome papers on both historical and contemporary approaches to the theme, as well as artistic and practical approaches, and those that bring these into dialogue.

Possible themes and approaches include: Mysticism and...

- Action (e.g., traditional and untraditional responses to Mary and Martha, Bees and other busy animal imagery in mystical texts, Quietism and antinomianism)
- Comparative religious approaches to contemplation, action, and non-action
- Politics and/or social action
- Black Theology, Feminist Theology and Liberation Theology
- Negative work and other philosophical considerations
- Other approaches to and/or interpretations of the theme

The call for papers will close on **30th November 2023**, but we will review abstracts on a rolling basis to facilitate applications for travel grants etc.

Please send abstracts of **max 300 words** to **Louise Nelstrop** : louise.nelstrop@theology.ox.ac.uk