The 16th Biennial Conference for
the International Society for Religion, Literature and Culture
University of Copenhagen, Denmark, 19–21 October 2012
Cultures of Transition: Presence, Absence, Memory

Preliminary Programme

FRIDAY 19

13.00-13.15 Welcome and Introduction

13.15–14.45

Keynote lecture: Kevin Hart,
Edwin B. Kyle Professor of Christian Studies, Chair,
Dept of Religious Studies, University of Virginia, USA,
Fields of Dharma: On T. S. Eliot and Robert Gray

15.15-16.45 Sessions:

Gender 1
Chair: Dana Mills, University of Oxford, UK,
1. Alison Jasper, University of Stirling, Scotland,
   Unsettled Pasts and Disputed Spaces: Does Christianity Have a (Gendered) Future?
2. Katja Neumann, University of Stirling, Scotland,
   Mourning the Death of God

Postcolonial Literature 1
Chair: Helga Ramsey-Kurz, University of Innsbruck, Austria,
1. Vera Alexander, University of Copenhagen, DK,
   Passage to Eden: Matthew Kneale’s English Passengers
2. Maria Cecilia Aguilar Holt, Harvard Divinity School, USA,
   Defying the Devil’s Yo-Yo: Arming the New Christian Soldier for Spiritual Warfare in Early Colonial Philippines
3. Josephine Muganiwa, University of Zimbabwe,
   Hove’s Ancestors: The Struggle to Adopt, Adapt and Preserve

Judaism 1
Chair: Marianne Schleicher, University of Aarhus, DK,
1. Claudia Welz, University of Copenhagen, DK,
   Witnessing: Memory, Trauma and (Re)Presentation between Co-Presence and Absence
2. Agata Bielik-Robson, University of Nottingham, UK,
Remembering Everything: Messianic History in Benjamin

Religion and Modernity 1
Chair: Erik Borgman, University of Tilburg, NL,

1. Jakob Egerts Thorson, Graduate School of Theology and the Study of Religion, University of Aarhus, DK,
“Don’t Look for Him on the Cross: Feel His Presence”: On the Memory and the Experience of Salvation history among Catholic Charismatics in Guatemala

2. Diana Alina Colceriu, University of Bucharest, Romania
Romantic Christianity, the Religion of a World in Transition: Chateaubriand and Schleiermacher

Literature 1
Chair: Elisabeth Jay, Oxford Brookes University, UK,

1. Myung-Joo Kim, Chungnam National University, S. Korea,
Memory and Interdependence in Gloria Naylor’s The Women of Brewster Place

2. Shewanda Riley, Tarrant County College, Texas, USA
African American Female Protagonists’ Silence, Visibility and Their Contemporary White Authors

3. Hester Jones, University of Bristol, UK,
“In Solitude, for Company”: Prayer, memory and Forgiveness in the Poetry of W.H: Auden

Film 1
Chair: S. Brent Plate, Hamilton College, NY, USA,

1. David Scott Arnold, Oregon State University, USA,
The Long Road of Memory and the Dream of Restoration: Ingmar Bergman’s Wild Strawberries Revisited

2. Daniel Cutrara, Arizona State University, USA,
Memento: the Encryption of a Secular Anamnesis or the Religious Construction of Meaning from Trauma

3. Alexander D. Ornella, University of Hull, UK
Identity and Memory as Art Forms: A Reflection on Memento and Ricoeur’s Narrative Identity

17.15-18.45 L&T Symposium
Literature and Theology: “25 Years of Critical Engagement”

A roundtable discussion involving L&T editors from the past and present discussing the issues and challenges that have marked, and continue to mark, the enterprise of religion/theology and literature so much at the centre of the ISRLC and its conferences.”

19.00 Reception hosted by the Journal Literature and Theology (Oxford University Press)
SATURDAY 20

9.00-10.30 Sessions:

Gender 2
Chair: Pamela Anderson, University of Oxford, UK,

1. Stephanie Riley, Boston University, USA,
   A Post-Apocalyptic Interpretation of the Holy, Whole Body in Cormac McCarthy’s The Road

2. Dana Mills, University of Oxford, UK,
   Isadora Duncan and the Non-Precarious Body

3. Maria Cecilia Aguilar Holt, Harvard Divinity School, USA,
   The Filipino Male Catolona and the Magdalen: An Imitation of the Holy Transgender

Postcolonial Literature 2
Chair: Helga Ramsey-Kurz, University of Innsbruck, Austria,

1. Annabell Marinell, University of Innsbruck, Austria,
   Cultural Encounters and Homecomings in Larissa Behrendt’s Home (2004)

2. Khairul Chowdhury, University of Wollongong, Australia,
   White Masculine Violence and Exploitation of Faith: Sexuality and the Violence of Colonization in Holy Day

3. Derek Coyle, Carlow College, Ireland,
   ‘Escaped from the Massacre’: Re-conceiving the Masculine and the Natural in the Late Poetry of Michael Longley

Continental Philosophy 1
Chair: Daniel Whistler, University of Liverpool, UK,

1. Mattias Martinson, Uppsala University, Sweden,
   Mythical Dialectics: Adorno, Benjamin and the Theology of Aesthetic-Philosophic Construction

2. Sarah Egan, University of Liverpool, UK,
   Memory as Theatre, City as Stage: Walter Benjamin and the Presence and Absence of Jewish Religion and Culture in the Palimpsest of Berlin

3. Arianne Conty, American University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates,
   They have Eyes that they Might Not See: Walter Benjamin’s Aura and the Optical Unconscious

Biblical Studies 1
Chair: Christine Joynes, University of Oxford, UK,

1. Hannah Strommen, University of Glasgow, Scotland,
   Biblical Beasts and Religious Animals: Presenting the Posthuman in Daniel
2. Mary Mills, Liverpool Hope University, UK,  
The Female Body and Urban Destruction in Lamentations 1-2 and Isaiah 49-52

3. Gerhard Van den Heever, University of South Africa,  
The Discomfiting Persistence of the End. The Changing Fate of an Apocalyptic Imaginaire

Literature 2  
Chair: Elisabeth Jay, Oxford Brookes University, UK,

1. David Scott Arnold, Oregon State University, USA,  
Mixing Memory and Desire in the Luxembourg Gardens

2. Jean Ward, Instytut Anglistyki I Amerykanistyki Uniwersytet Gdański, Poland  
Wounded faith: R.S. Thomas Interpreted by Tomas Halik

3. Jennifer Reek, Centre for Literature, Theology and the Arts, University of Glasgow, Scotland,  
“What Was Without Light”: Transfigured Memory in the Poetics of Yves Bonnefoy

Film 2  
Chair: James Thrall, Knox College, USA,

1. Kumar Parag, National Institute of Technology, Jalandhar, India,  
Ethnicity in Bhojpuri Movies

2. Sujaya Dhanvantari, Concordia University, Canada,  
French Algeria in Transition: Gillo Pontecorvo’s The Battle of Algiers

11.00-12.00

Keynote lecture: Elleke Boehmer,  
Professor of World Literature in English, University of Oxford, UK,  
The Zig-Zag Lines of Early Indian Migration

13.00-14.30 Sessions:

Modern Theology 1  
Chair: Trevor Hart, St Andrews University, Scotland

1. Andrew Kaethler, St Andrews University, Scotland,  
Alexander Schmemann’s Eschatological Symbolism as a Corrective to Broad Sacramentalism

2. Linn Tonstad, Yale Divinity School, USA,  
Ecclesial Distributions of Christ’s Present-Absent Body

3. Cole Matson, St Andrews University, Scotland,  
Towards a ‘New Mass’: Grotowski’s ‘Secular Sacrum’ & the Eucharistic Presence
Postcolonial Literature 3
Chair: Helga Ramsey-Kurz, University of Innsbruck, Austria,

1. Cheryl Stobie, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
   The Guilt of Men: Re-Visioning the Virgin Birth in Thando Mgqolozana’s
   *Hear Me Alone*

2. Ileana Dimitriu, University of KwaZulu-Natal-Durban, South Africa,
   Spiritual Certainties Lost and Found: Coming-to-Faith Stories in select
   Postcolonial Novels from South Africa

3. William Purcell, Nanzan University, Nagoya Japan,
   Christianity Brewed in an African Pot: Christianity and the Fiction of
   Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Continental Philosophy 2
Chair: Andrew Hass, Stirling University, Scotland,

1. Daniel Schultz, University of Chicago, USA,
   The Excessive Saint: Presence, Absence, and Signification

2. Daniel Whistler, University of Liverpool, UK,
   Intemporality in Hölderlin’s Last Poems

3. Martin de Nys, George Mason University, USA,
   Identity and Manifestation, presence and Absence

Biblical Studies 2
Chair: Christine Joynes, University of Oxford, UK,

1. Jonathan Downing, University of Oxford, UK,
   William Blake and the Suppression of New Jerusalem

2. Mette Bundvad, University of Oxford, UK,
   Time in Ecclesiastes and Eliot

3. Samuel Tongue, University of Glasgow, Scotland,
   The End of Biblical Interpretation; the Beginning of Reception History?
   Reading in the Secular-and-Religious ‘Spaces of literature’

Literature 3
Chair: Lynn Robson, University of Oxford, UK,

1. Andrew Rudd, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK,
   ‘Watch it Closely’: Anne Carson and the Poem as Monument

2. Rebecca Ziegler, Georgia Southern University, USA,
   Sacraments for the Secular Man: David Lodge’s Paradise News and Therapy

3. Joanna Rzepa, University of Warwick, UK,
   The Art of memory, the Art of Prayer: Psalmic Intertext in Modernist Poetry
Film 3  
Chair: Alexander D. Ornella, University of Hull, UK

1. James Thrall, Knox College, USA,  
   Memory, Loss, and Return in Koreeda Hirokazu’s *Still Waking* (Aruitemo aruitemo)

2. Zoran Maric, York University, Canada,  

3. S. Brent Plate, Hamilton College, NY, USA,  
   Celebrating the Celluloid, Celestial City: the Absence and Presence of Sacred Spaces on Film

15.00-16.30  
Sessions:

Modern Theology 2  
Chair: Trevor Hart, St Andrews University, Scotland

1. Dave Reinhardt, St Andrews University, Scotland,  
   God with Us? Discerning the Presence of the Divine in Embodied Expression

2. Tanya Walker, St Andrews University, Scotland,  
   Documentation of Ephemeral Art: An Eucharistic Encounter? Re-presenting the Presence

3. Christian Hjortkjær, University of Copenhagen, DK,  
   Kierkegaard and Grundtvig on the Subject of Spirit

Visual Arts 1  
Chair: Aaron Rosen, King’s College London, UK,

1. Charles Lock, English Literature, University of Copenhagen, DK,  
   The Displaced and the Unframed: Portable Icons in Emigration

2. Nancy Langham, Oxford Brookes University, UK,  
   Individual and Incarnation: Victorian Art’s Theological Anxiety

Judaism 2  
Chair: Marianne Schleicher, University of Aarhus, DK,

1. Line Søgaard Christensen, University of Aarhus, DK,  
   Israelite Religion and Cultural Evolution

2. Hans J. Lundager Jensen, University of Aarhus, DK,  
   The Necessity to Forget in Early Judaism and in Religions

3. Søren Holst, University of Copenhagen, DK,  
   Reminding God: Memory in Prayer Texts from Qumran
Religion & Modernity 2
Chair: Erik Borgman, University of Tilburg, NL,

1. Michael Purcell, +, The Christian as the Stranger


Literature 4
Chair: Lynn Robson; University of Oxford, UK,

1. Matthias Bauer and Janina Zimmerman, University of Tübingen, Germany, The Sidney Psalter, Presence and Poetic Faith

2. Anne-Kari Skardhamar, Oslo and Akershus University College, Norway, The Kingdom of God: Hope and Challenge in Contemporary Norwegian Hymns

3. Aneel Kumar Raina, Dept. of English & Cultural Studies, Panjab University, Chandigarh, India Cultural Displacement in Post-1990 Kashmiri Hindu Writing

Music 1
Chair: Nils Holger Petersen, Centre for the Study of the Cultural Heritage of Medieval Rituals, Univ. of Copenhagen, DK,

1. Hugh S Pyper, University of Sheffield, UK, James MacMillan’s 2011 Chamber Opera Clemency

2. Férdia J.Stone-Davis, Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen, Germany, Music and Beauty: Continuity within Change

3. Martin J.M. Hoondert, Music, Religion & Ritual, Tilburg University, NL, The Requiem in the Contemporary Culture: Transition and Appropriation

16.45-18.15 Sessions:

Modern Theology 3
Chair: Trevor Hart, St Andrews University, Scotland

1. Jenn Craft, St Andrews University, Scotland, Presence, Memory, and Hope in the Incarnation: Implications for Human Artistry Grounded in Place

2. Cath McKinney, MCD University of Divinity, Melbourne, Australia, Leading Saturday Lives: Disappointment and Belonging: the Reign of God in the Here and Now, as Reflected within Communities of Hope

3. Patrik Fridlund, University of Lund, Sweden, Dialogue and Conversion: An Attempt to Transform the Tension
Visual Arts 2
Chair: Aaron Rosen, King’s College London, UK,

1. Richard A. Rosengarten, The University of Chicago Divinity School, USA,
   *Frida Kahlo*, Retablo, and the Anxiety of Transition from Life to Death

2. David Le, Religion and Critical Thought, Brown University, USA,
   Reflecting Absence: Representation of/after 9/11

3. Roland Biermann, London-based artist, UK,
   Presence/Absence/Transformation

Judaism 3
Chair: Marianne Schleicher, University of Aarhus, DK,

1. Tal Ilan, University of Berlin, Germany,
   The Rabbis and History Again: New Insights Based on a Comparison between
   Rabbinic Texts and the Writings of Flavius Josephus

2. Reuven Kiperwasser, Independent, Israel,
   Mnemosyne and Rabbis

3. Marianne Schleicher, University of Aarhus, DK,
   Characteristics of Medieval Jewish Religion from the Perspective of Cultural
   Evolution

Transcendence & Memory I
Chair: Svein Aage Christoffersen, Dept. of Systematic Theology, University of Oslo, Norway

1. Svein Aage Christoffersen,
   Introduction

2. Mette Bundvad, University of Oxford, UK,
   “In the Days to Come All Will Have Been Long Forgotten”: The Thesis about
   the Failure of Memory in the Book of Ecclesiastes

3. Meike Sprecher, Eberhard Karls University, Tübingen, Germany
   Transcending Memory: Presence and Absence in *The Old King in His Exile*

Theological Humanism 1: Theological Humanism and Atheist Theology
Chair: W. David Hall, Centre College, USA,

1. J. Sage Elwell, TCU, USA,
   Theological Humanism and the Arts After Atheism

2. Daniel Boscaljon, University of Iowa, USA,
   The Unconscious Foundations of Atheist Communities; or, Defining the Space
   of God in Post-Freudian Psychoanalysis

Music 2
Chair: Nils Holger Petersen, Centre for the Study of the Cultural Heritage of Medieval Rituals, Univ. of
Copenhagen, DK,
1. Heike Omerzu, Dept. of Biblical Studies, University of Copenhagen, DK,
   Memorializing Jesus in Rhythm and Rhyme – Kanye West’s Song “Jesus Walks” as an Example of Identity Formation in Contemporary Musical Culture

2. Kristin Rygg, Musicology, Hedmark College, Hamar, Norway,
   Religious Palimpsests and Existential Exploration in Popular Song

3. Brian W. Nail, The Centre for the Study of Literature, Theology and the Arts, University of Glasgow, Scotland
   Bards of Prayer: Liturgical Experience and Gift in the Music of Alasdair Roberts and Sam Amidon

18.15-19.00 Business meeting

19.30 Conference banquet (The Great Hall of the University of Copenhagen)

During the banquet
Eric Ziolkowski, Charles A. Dana Professor of Religious Studies, Chair, Department of Religious Studies, Lafayette College, USA will give a talk:

Confessions of an Encyclopedist, or,
My Life with The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception

SUNDAY 21

9.00-10.30 Sessions
Modern Theology 4
Chair: Trevor Hart, St Andrews University, Scotland

1. David Jasper, University of Glasgow, Scotland,
   Returning to Thinking Theologically: The Encounter Between East and West

2. Trevor Hart, St Andrews University, Scotland,
   Conversation after Pentecost? Rethinking the Nature of Theological Engagement with Otherness

Transnational & Migration Studies
Chair: Inge Birgitte Siegumfeldt, TRAMS, University of Copenhagen, DK

1. David Le, Brown University, USA,
   Geographies of the Sacred After 9/11

2. Rosemary Chikafa, University of Zimbabwe,
   Writing Free: The Zimbabwean Short Story Anthology of Crossing Borders

3. Ulla Rahbek, University of Copenhagen, DK,
   Repping Your Ends – Imagined Borders in recent British Multicultural Fiction

4. Kumar Parag, National Institute of Technology, Jalandhar, India,
   Exile, Alienation and Identity Crisis in V.S.Naipaul’s Half a Life
Continental Philosophy 3
Chair: Mattias Martinson, Uppsala University, Sweden,

1. Staffan Bengtsson, Uppsala University, Sweden,
   Pantheism as the Secret Religion in Goethe’s Poem *Prometheus*

2. Alexander Hampton, Clare College, University of Cambridge, UK,
   Religion for an Immanent Frame: the Foundations of the Romantic Religious Aesthetic in Jacobi, Herder and Moritz

Transcendence & Memory 2
Chair: Svein Aage Christoffersen, Dept. of Systematic Theology, University of Oslo, Norway,

1. Leonora Onarheim, University of Oslo, Norway,
   Remembrance – and Reconciliation? A Study of the Elegiac Form of Anselm Kiefer’s Memory Works

2. Margunn Sandal, University of Oslo, Norway,
   Memory as Identification with an Atmosphere in Jørn Utzon’s Church at Bagsværd

Theological Humanism 2: Theological Humanism and Religions in Transitions
Chair: Daniel Boscaljon, University of Iowa, USA,

1. Amber Griffioen, University of Konstanz, Germany,
   Emotion, Aesthetic Experience, and Transcendence: On the Possibility of Atheist Religious Experience

2. Mattias Martinson, Uppsala University, Sweden,
   Positive, Friendly, and Struggling Atheisms: On Atheistic Attitudes and Incitements

Music 3
Chair: Kristin Rygg, Musicology, Hedmark College, Hamar, Norway,

1. Pauline Mateveke, English and Media studies, University of Zimbabwe,
   Recasting Zimbabwean Cultural Identity: A Study of Chiwoniso Maraire’s Selected Lyrics

2. Lea Wierød, Grundtvig Center, University of Aarhus, DK,
   The Intermedial Church Hymn

11.00-12.00

Keynote lecture: Mette B. Bruun,
Professor of Church History, University of Copenhagen
Meaning in the Void: Presence, Absence and Memory from Roland Barthes to Bernard of Clairvaux
12.15-13.45  Sessions

Gender 3
Chair: Dana Mills, University of Oxford, UK,

1. Pamela Anderson, University of Oxford, UK,
   A Subject’s Loss of her Own Ability to Understand Herself: Gendering in Cultures of Transition

2. Richard A. Rosengarten, The University of Chicago Divinity School, USA,
   Memory, Absence, and the Powers of Art in Flannery O’Connor and Frida Kahlo

3. Heather Walton, University of Glasgow, Scotland,
   Dwelling Amongst the Ruins: The Fascination of Broken Faith in the Late Works of Rose Macaulay

Continental Philosophy 4
Chair: Andrew Hass, Stirling University, Scotland

1. Karin Nisenbaum, University of Toronto, Canada,
   Schelling and Rosenzweig on the Ethical Significance of Theological Categories

2. Elisabeth Loevlie, University of Oslo, Norway,
   Faith in Literature’s Secrets: Exploring Derrida’s Notion of the Secret as Common Origin of Literature and Religion

Transcendence & Memory 3
Chair: Svein Aage Christoffersen, Dept. of Systematic Theology, University of Oslo, Norway,

1. Tanya Walker, St Andrews University, Scotland
   Re-Presented Absence: Documentation, memory, and the Ephemeral Work of Art

2. Nicoletta Isar, Art History, University of Copenhagen, DK,
   Shining Time: material Radiance and the Anachronism of Image
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We gratefully acknowledge that the conference has been generously sponsored by:

The Danish Council for Independent Research: Humanities (FKK)

The Faculty of Theology, University of Copenhagen

The Journal *Literature and Theology* (published by Oxford University Press)

TRAMS, the doctoral training programme in Transnational and Migration Studies at the Faculty of Humanities, University of Copenhagen

EBR, The *Encyclopedi of the Bible and its Reception* (published by Walter De Gruyter, Berlin New York)

SAS, Scandinavian Airlines System