



Social-Scientific Criticism and Christian Origins: Past, Present and Future

Friday 25th May 2018

The Centre for the Social-Scientific Study of the Bible
St Mary's University, Twickenham

'Social-Scientific Criticism' now serves in New Testament studies as an umbrella term for a variety of critical approaches to early Christianity, which include cultural anthropology, social identity theory, social history, ancient and modern media studies, memory theories, human geography, ancient and modern politics, race theory, trauma studies, and others. This conference gathers leading scholars to answer that question and track the progress of the scholarly discourse from initial applications to the current state of the discussion, as well as offer thoughts about the future.

8-9am	Registration
9-9.10am	Welcome
9.10-9.20am	Introduction to the Conference Chris Keith

Session 1	Theoretical Origins and Texts
9.20-9.50am	'From Honour and Shame to Theorizing Christian Origins' John Kloppenborg
9.50-10.20am	'Competitive Textualisation in the Jesus Tradition' Chris Keith
10.20-10.50am	'The Letter to Titus as a Site of Memory' Michael Scott Robertson

10.50-11.20am [Coffee and tea break](#)

Session 2	Violence and Identity
11.20am-12.10pm	'Violence as Social Currency in Early Christianity' Sarah Rollens
12.10-12.40pm	'The Death of John the Baptist and the Sociology of Beheading in the Ancient World' Nathan Shedd
12.40-1pm	Open Discussion

1-2pm [Lunch](#)

Session 3	Space and Language
2-2.40pm	'Diverse Futures of Social-Scientific Criticism of the New Testament: Affective, Spatial, Cognitive and Digital Turns' Louise J. Lawrence
2.40-3.20pm	'Apocalyptic Language in the New Testament: Can Cognitive Linguistics Help?' Jamie Davies

3.20-3.40pm [Coffee and tea break](#)

Session 4	Ethnicity, Race and Ideology
3.40-4.10pm	'Whose Race Needs to be Noted? Further Reflections on Whiteness and Biblical Studies' David Horrell
4.40-5.10pm	'Social-Scientific Criticism and the Bible: Investigating Ideological Trend' Taylor Weaver

5.10-5.30pm [Coffee and tea break](#)

Session 5	Politics and Social-Scientific Criticism
5.30-6pm	Keynote Address: 'Cults, Martyrs, and Good Samaritans' James Crossley
6-6.20pm	Respondent: Hannah Strømmen
6.20-6.40pm	Respondent: Yvonne Sherwood
6.40-7pm	Discussion
8.30pm	Dinner at Dolce Vita for those who have reserved a place. Please meet at St Mary's main reception at 8pm to walk to the restaurant.