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Sixth International Conference of the British Association for the Study of Spirituality

incorporating a celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the
Journal for the Study of Spirituality

Spirituality in Research, Professional Practice and Education

Monday 1 June – Wednesday 3 June 2020

York St John University, York, UK

KEYNOTES

Prof. Julian Stern (York St John University, UK) *The Spirit of Education and Professional Practice*

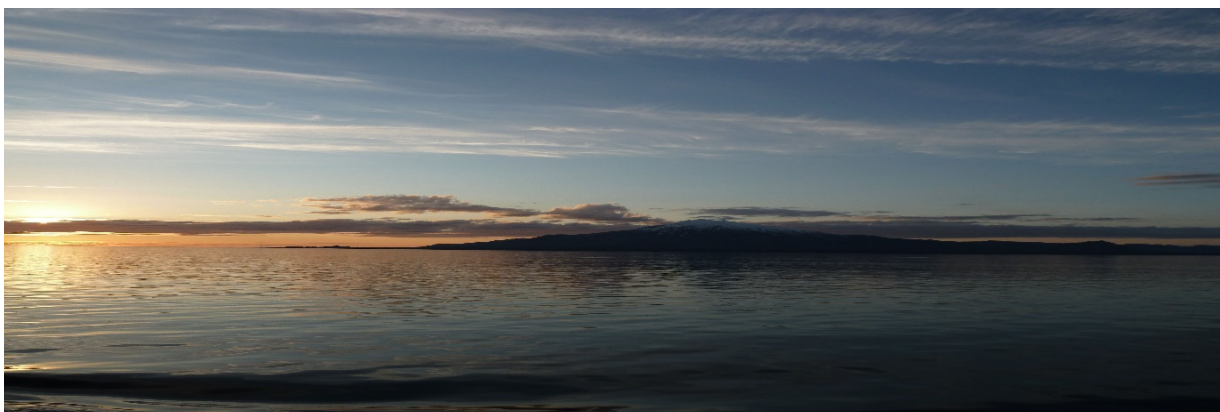
Dr Oliver Robinson (University of Greenwich, UK) *Science, Spirituality and the Transition out of Modernity: Towards a Trans-modern Integration of Head & Heart*

Prof. Tove Giske (VID Specialized University, Norway) *"I had to dare to go beyond my comfort zone": Ways to Promote Lifelong Learning of Spiritual Care*

Prof. Bernadette Flanagan (Waterford Institute of Technology, Ireland) *The Research Revolution: Emerging Discourses in Spirituality Studies*

Fee: £160 (Early Bird) £185 (after 31 December 2019)

Further information and booking: yorks.ac.uk/BASS2020





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Research ~ Education ~ Practice

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Sixth International Conference of the British Association for the Study of Spirituality

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Monday 1 June – Wednesday 3 June 2020

***York St John University
York, UK***

Further information and booking at: yorks.ac.uk/BASS2020

Academic queries: Dr Joan Walton at j.walton@yorks.ac.uk

BASS 2020: Spirituality in Research, Professional Practice and Education

In his Opening Address at the launch of the British Association for the Study of Spirituality (BASS) in January 2011, the then President, John Swinton, asked:

Why is it that everyone talks about spirituality in such different terms? Why is it that everyone seems to know what it is, yet no one seems to be able to offer a definitive description? Sometimes it is perceived as the manifestation of love; sometimes it is the search for hope, meaning and purpose; for some people it is about religion and God; others clearly and self-consciously want to exclude God and religion. How can we claim to have a coherent field of enquiry if those who are participating in the field appear to have no coherent understanding of what the central concept is?

Part of the 'problem' of spirituality is that it straddles different cultures, academic disciplines and professional contexts. Studies in and of the field draw on scientific and literary concepts, on quantitative and qualitative data, and on objective measures as well as subjective experiences. BASS came into being with the expressed intention of providing a forum where studies shaped by the diverse approaches and priorities of different cultures, perspectives and professional obligations might be brought together in the context of what Swinton referred to as 'hospitable conversation' in both 'physical and conceptual' spaces.

The Sixth International BASS Conference, like its predecessors, will be specifically designed to offer plenty of space for hospitable conversation, whether in plenary sessions following keynote presentations, in smaller groups in the parallel sessions devoted to participants' own presentations, or simply in the social context of shared meals and refreshments or a stroll in the grounds. The conference will be interdisciplinary and inter-professional, bringing together a broad range of scholars and practitioners from around the world who have interests in the theory and practice of spirituality. It will provide opportunity for conversations and syntheses across international, academic and professional boundaries that sometimes pose their own challenges to the development of a 'joined-up' field of spirituality studies.

The conference title reflects the three key elements in the study of spirituality that underpin the work of BASS: Research, Education, Practice. Four internationally-renowned Keynote Speakers will each highlight what they see as significant aspects of spirituality within their own disciplinary/professional context, including particular challenges to, and opportunities for, the development of research, professional practice and/or education in the field.

The conference venue, York St John University, has deliberately been chosen to enhance the conversational aspects of the conference. It prides itself on being a small, friendly university with a strong community spirit. The oldest higher education institution in the beautiful riverside city of York, it has been at the forefront of teaching and education for over 175 years. The University's self-contained campus is just a short walk away from the city's Roman walls, ancient cobbled streets and medieval buildings - and the iconic York Minster, a towering 13th-century Gothic cathedral. There is a wide range of accommodation close to the university. However, early booking is highly recommended as York attracts many visitors, especially during the summer months.

ABSTRACTS are invited for:

- Individual oral paper presentations
- 'Dialogue pairs' (two people jointly presenting a topic in dialogue with one another)
- Workshops
- Posters

These may present accounts and findings from theoretical research and reflection, studies in professional settings and/or in contexts involving learning, teaching or facilitation in the field of spirituality. They may be from any academic, professional or community setting in which the study and practice of spirituality plays a part.

Doctoral students and new researchers in the field are warmly invited to participate and will have an opportunity to join the *BASS Spirituality Scholars Network*.

Process

Each accepted oral presentation and dialogue pair will be allocated a total of 40 minutes (25 minutes for presentation + 15 minutes for discussion) in one of the seven parallel sessions taking place at different times during the conference. *Two* consecutive presentations will be scheduled in each of the seminar rooms used for the parallel sessions. They will be matched as far as possible in terms of theme or approach. In order to facilitate discussion, participants are kindly requested to select one pair of presentations to attend in each session.

There is a limit of one oral presentation per presenter.

Depending on numbers, workshops may be allocated up to 60 minutes each.

Poster presentations will be on display during Day 2 of the conference and there will be a 'live' poster session scheduled during the afternoon when participants will be able to discuss the content with poster presenters.

All presenters will have the opportunity to submit a full paper (maximum 6,000 words) based on their presentation for consideration for inclusion in the *Journal for the Study of Spirituality* (See: <https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/yjss20>)

Preparing your Abstract for Submission

Your Abstract will serve two purposes:

1. It will be reviewed anonymously by the conference committee to select presentations for inclusion in the conference.
2. If your presentation is accepted, your Abstract will be published in the conference booklet.* This will help to inform conference participants' choices of which sessions to attend.

**Please note that Abstracts will only be published after the conference fee has been paid.*

Your Abstract should be of no more than 300 words. It should be anonymous throughout.

The Abstract should be *preceded* (on the same page) by:

- (i) Detail of the **nature** of your presentation (*i.e.* Oral, Dialogue Pair, Workshop, Poster)
- (ii) The **title** of your presentation (see note on titles, below)

In addition to your Abstract, please supply the following information, on a separate sheet.

1. Author information (primary presenter*)

- ✓ First Name
- ✓ Middle Initial (if appropriate)
- ✓ Last Name/Surname
- ✓ Email address
- ✓ Postal address
- ✓ Contact telephone number(s)
- ✓ Affiliation (institution/company *etc*)
- ✓ Names and affiliations of any additional authors*

*** One author must be designated as the primary presenter.** Correspondence will be by email and will be sent to the primary presenter only.

2. Presentation title

Capitalize *only* the first letter of the first word and any proper nouns. The title is strictly limited to no more than 30 words. Registered names and trademarks are not permitted in the title.

3. Technical requirements

Powerpoint will be available in some rooms. Please indicate whether or not you will wish to use this to assist your presentation.

Submitting your Abstract

Please check that you have completed your Abstract and additional information *in the format outlined above.*

The Abstract and all additional information should be contained in a single Word document.

The document should be sent in a virus-free email attachment to Dr Joan Walton at:

j.walton@yorks.ac.uk.

Please write 'BASS Conference Abstract' in the email header line.

DEADLINE

The Deadline for receipt of Abstracts is

17.00 GMT on 1 November 2019

Notification of acceptance will be sent by the beginning of December 2019 to enable presenters to take advantage of the reduced 'early bird' booking fee.

Early booking for the conference AND overnight accommodation is highly recommended.
York is a popular visitor destination and many hotels and bed & breakfast accommodations become fully booked well in advance of the summer months.

**Sixth International Conference of the
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Spirituality in Research, Professional Practice and Education
1-3 June 2020, York St John University, York, UK

Further information and booking at: yorks.ac.uk/BASS2020

KEYNOTES

Keynote 1. Monday 1 June, 13.30-14.20

The Spirit of Education and Professional Practice

Prof. Julian Stern

Abstract: As an educational researcher, I began researching spirituality because in the UK, 'spiritual development' is a statutory requirement for all state schools, and I wanted to explore whether this was appropriate and what it might therefore mean. This led to my researching relational spirituality (as also described by David Hay), both in the UK and Hong Kong, and the idea of the 'spirit of the school' emerged – with spirituality overcoming dualism. This was subsequently applied to research in many countries on teacher education, nurse education, assessment, boys schools, and computing. I have developed a complementary strand of research into various forms of aloneness (solitude, silence, loneliness), and their relevance to education and ethical professional practice. Spirituality and community are each developed alone and together. In this talk I will present an approach to researching the spirit of education, along with an approach to applying this to education into and for professional practice



Julian Stern is Professor of Education and Religion at York St John University. He was a school teacher for fourteen years, and has worked in universities for twenty-eight years. Julian is widely published, with sixteen books, contributions to nineteen other books, and over thirty peer-reviewed articles. Books include *Mastering Primary Religious Education* (2019, with Maria James), *A Philosophy of Schooling: Care and Curiosity in Community* (2018), *Teaching Religious Education: Researchers in the Classroom: Second Edition* (2018), *Can I Tell You About Loneliness* (2017), *Virtuous Educational Research: Conversations on Ethical Practice* (2016), *Loneliness and Solitude in Schools: How to Value Individuality and Create an Enstatic School* (2014), *The Spirit of the School* (2009), *Schools and Religions: Imagining the Real* (2007), and *Involving Parents* (2003). Julian is General Secretary of the International Seminar on Religious Education and Values (ISREV), and Editor of the *British Journal of Religious Education*.

Email: j.stern@yorks.ac.uk

Keynote 2. Monday 1 June, 20.00-20.50

Science, Spirituality and the Transition out of Modernity: Towards a Trans-modern Integration of Head and Heart

Dr Oliver Robinson

Abstract: Spirituality, as a domain that is distinguishable from religion, emerged historically during the modern era and hence expresses many of the values of modernity. I define modernity along the lines of historians Foster Jones and Armstrong; as an era that promoted the values of progress, questioning authority, individual liberty and innovation. I also include Wilber's definition of modernity as an epoch in which domains of knowledge that were previously integrated within religion were separated into discrete discipline and institutions. An eclectic, experiential and experimental spirituality has been one of the defining motifs of the

modern era and has acted as an important counterbalance to science throughout. In this talk I present a model of the relationships between science and spirituality that conceives of them as dialectically opposed yet complementary domains. I will also present evidence that we are currently moving, via the postmodern era (which in many ways is an extreme extension of the values of modernity), into a trans-modern era. This new era is one of radical interconnectedness and of coming up against systemic limits, with which the values of individualism, progress and institutional separations that define modernity are not well equipped to cope. A new way of conceiving the complex relationship between spirituality and science is needed that allows for a more complete and more dynamic integration to emerge out of the two, without reducing one to the other. This, in turn, will allow the respective strengths of science and spirituality to be brought to bear on education and professional practice, and to solving many pressing problems that the modern world has created.



Oliver Robinson is a Senior Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Greenwich, UK. His research focuses principally on the changes, transformations and transitions of adulthood, and he has written a textbook on this topic entitled *Development through Adulthood: An integrative sourcebook*. He also writes about the relationship between science, philosophy, history and spirituality, and has recently written a book on this topic entitled *Paths Between Head and Heart: Exploring the harmonies of science and spirituality*. He co-organises an annual conference for the Scientific and Medical Network entitled Beyond the Brain (www.beyondthebrain.org). His interests include painting, meditation, dancing and spending time with his wife and young daughter.

Email: O.C.Robinson@greenwich.ac.uk

Keynote 3. Tuesday 2 June, 14.00-14.50

"I had to dare to go beyond my comfort zone": Ways to Promote Lifelong Learning of Spiritual Care

Prof. Tove Giske

Abstract: My interest has been to understand more deeply how students learn about spiritual care, especially in their clinical placements, in real life situations. In this talk I will discuss how students and professionals can enter into a lifelong learning spiral of spiritual care through preparing personally and professionally for spiritual care; and how they can tune into and recognize spiritual cues since, from patients' and users' perspectives, this is key to follow up. I will discuss the art of asking questions. I will also point to the importance of systematic reflection to learn and grow, to adjust what is needed, and to develop a professional identity.



Tove Giske is a Professor in Nursing and works as a teacher and researcher at VID Specialized University, Faculty of Health Studies, Bergen, Norway, where she also serves as the Director of Research and Development. She has researched and published widely internationally about spiritual care. She has collaborated with Professor Pamela Cone for almost 20 years, and they have published a Handbook about Spiritual Care together in Norwegian; an English version is on the way. Tove has been a part of a European spiritual care network, which now has developed into the EPICC network (www.epicc-project.eu). She has developed an interest in how to serve nurses internationally since 1984. As

President of Nurses Christian Fellowship International she seeks ways to teach and serve nurses around the world. Tove is married to Jarl and has three children and one grandchild. She likes gardening, cooking, knitting and travelling.

Email: tove.giske@vid.no

Keynote 4: Wednesday 3 June, 09.00-09.50

The Research Revolution: Emerging Discourses in Spirituality Studies

Prof. Bernadette Flanagan

Abstract: The contemporary spirituality researcher is acutely aware of the distinct character of the knowledge which is the subject of enquiry in his/her research. Given the subtle, intuitive, ineffable character of the wisdom being investigated in spirituality research, greater care is now being taken in designing research approaches which can portray this type of wisdom with integrity. Emerging research approaches are actively engaging intuitive, organic, contemplative and mindful methodologies. In this talk I will aim to review, illustrate and evaluate these emerging methodologies. The contribution of Robert Romanyshyn to developing research that makes a place for the unconscious subjectivity of a researcher will be reviewed. Examples from two decades of doctoral supervision will be set out to illustrate how spirituality research is sometimes a vocation in which a topic claims a researcher. I will include descriptions of some step-by-step methods that flow from this approach, with particular reference to the inclusion of a researcher's dreams and intuitions, alongside the functions of thinking and reasoning.



Bernadette Flanagan has led the development of MA and professional doctoral studies in spirituality for the past 20 years. She is the Chairperson of the Spirituality Institute for Research and Education (SPIRE), Dublin, Ireland. She oversees spirituality research on the MA in Applied Spirituality for the Waterford Institute of Technology. Her most recent publication (with Laszlo Zsolnai) is the edited volume, *The Routledge International Handbook of Spirituality in Society and the Professions* (2019). This collection of essays by professional specialists offers accessible, diverse, and engaging international research on a wide range of fields of spirituality inquiry, including aging and addiction, psychology, religious studies, sociology, business studies, and philosophy. Bernadette's research students have explored spiritual dimensions of motherhood; cyber-space; tourism; leadership; and chronic illness.

Email: bflanagan@spiritualityinstitute.ie

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1-3 June 2020, York St John University, York, UK

Further information and booking at: yorks.ac.uk/BASS2020

OUTLINE PROGRAMME

Monday 1 June

From 12 noon

Registration and Refreshments

12.00-13.00

Meeting of the Spirituality Scholars' Network (Doctoral students and new researchers)

13.15-13.30

Opening Remarks

13.30-14.20

Keynote 1: Prof. Julian Stern - 'The Spirit of Education and Professional Practice'

14.30-16.00

Parallel Sessions (1)

16.00-16.30

Refreshments

16.30-18.00

Parallel Sessions (2)

18.00-18.30

Free Time

18.30-19.45

Buffet Supper

20.00-20.50

Keynote 2: Dr Oliver Robinson – 'Science, Spirituality and the Transition out of Modernity: Towards a Trans-modern Integration of Head and Heart'

Tuesday 2 June

08.15-08.45

Meditation (optional)

09.00-10.30

Parallel Sessions (3)

10.30-11.00

Refreshments

11.00-12.30

Parallel Sessions (4)

12.45-14.00

Lunch

14.00-14.50

Keynote 3: Prof. Tove Giske - "'I had to dare to go beyond my comfort zone": Ways to Promote Lifelong Learning of Spiritual Care'

15.00-16.30

Parallel Sessions (5)

16.30-17.00

Refreshments

17.00-18.00

Poster Session

[17.00-18.30

JSS Editorial Board meeting – closed session]

18.00-19.15

Free Time

19.15-20.00

Drinks Reception and Celebration of the **10th Anniversary of the Journal for the Study of Spirituality**

20.00

Conference Dinner (optional)

Wednesday 3 June

08.15-08.45

Meditation (optional)

09.00-09.50

Keynote 4: Prof. Bernadette Flanagan - 'The Research Revolution: Emerging Discourses in Spirituality Studies'

10.00-11.30

Parallel Sessions (6)

11.30-11.50

Refreshments

11.50-12.30

BASS AGM (Everyone welcome to attend)

12.30-13.45

Lunch

13.45-15.15

Parallel Sessions (7)

15.20-16.15

Closing Plenary

16.15

Depart

How can I join BASS?

Applications for membership of BASS
can be made at any time

Simply complete and submit the online application form on the BASS website:

www.bassspirituality.org.uk/application-form

You will be asked for your name, contact details, a brief indication of your particular interests in spirituality and, if appropriate, your institutional or organisational affiliation.

Applications are considered by members of the BASS Executive and applicants are usually informed of the outcome within two weeks.

The annual membership fee is **£65 per annum (2019)** and includes two issues of the *Journal for the Study of Spirituality*.

Contacts:

BASS Membership Secretary

Prof. Linda Ross: bass@southwales.ac.uk

JSS Chief Editor

Dr Cheryl Hunt: c.hunt@exeter.ac.uk

JSS Book Reviews Editor

Dr Robyn Wrigley-Carr:
robyn.wrigley-carr@ac.edu.au

BASS 2020 Conference Organiser

Dr Joan Walton: j.walton@yorks.ac.uk

Spirituality Scholars' Network

Dr Melanie Rogers: M.Rogers@hud.ac.uk

Twitter Co-ordinator (@BASSspirituality)

Dr Sophie Mackenzie: S.R.Mackenzie@greenwich.ac.uk

We look forward to hearing from you



Tell me more about membership

You will be joining a worldwide network of scholars involved in the study of spirituality

Benefits of membership include:

- ◆ *Two issues of Journal for the Study of Spirituality each year plus access to the online archive*
- ◆ *Early notification of conferences and preferential booking terms*
- ◆ *The opportunity to participate in the Spirituality Scholars' Network, occasional study days and other events*
- ◆ *Access to the 'members only' section of the BASS website*
- ◆ *Participation in a worldwide network of scholars involved in the study of spirituality*

BASS Governance

BASS is managed by an **Executive Committee** comprising the Directors of the Company and Trustees of the Charity:

Dr Cheryl Hunt (University of Exeter)

Dr David Rousseau (Centre for Systems Philosophy UK & University of Hull)

Prof. Linda Ross (University of South Wales)

Prof. Wilf McSherry (Staffordshire University)

Dr Michael O'Sullivan (Spirituality Institute for Research and Education, Dublin, Ireland)

Mrs Helen McSherry (BASS Honorary Treasurer)

Co-opted members 2019-2020:

Dr Melanie Rogers (University of Huddersfield)

Dr Sophie Mackenzie (University of Greenwich)

Dr Joan Walton (York St John University)

Dr Robyn Wrigley-Carr (Alphacrucis College, New South Wales, Australia)



Research ~ Education ~ Practice

AN INVITATION

to join a worldwide network of scholars involved in the study of spirituality

www.bassspirituality.org.uk

BASS is a Company Limited by Guarantee
(Company No: 7549446)
and is on the UK Register of Charities
(Registered Charity No: 1166990)



What is BASS?

The British Association for the Study of Spirituality (BASS) is a charity registered in the UK but welcomes and is open to membership from around the world.

BASS was officially launched in January 2010. It emerged from the activities of a small *ad hoc* group convened in 2007 during an inter-professional interdisciplinary conference entitled *Making Sense of Spirituality*. The group had the intention of creating a more formal network of scholars and practitioners with interests in concepts, practices and policies associated with spirituality.

The membership of BASS is international. The use of 'British' in the Association's title is simply indicative of the birthplace of an organisation that seeks to enhance the study of spirituality through dialogue within and across the borders of nations, disciplines, professions, faiths and beliefs.

The purpose of BASS is to advance education for the public benefit in the subject of spirituality by promoting:

- ◆ *the critical study of all aspects of spirituality*
- ◆ *education and dissemination regarding these matters*
- ◆ *the development of inclusive and respectful policies and professional practices*

What does BASS do?

1. **BASS hosts a biennial international conference.** This provides a forum where studies of, interests in, and debates about spirituality can be brought together in an atmosphere of convivial conversation and constructive criticism. Conference themes include:
 - ◆ *Spirituality in a Changing World* (2010)
 - ◆ *Spirituality in a Fragmented World* (2012)
 - ◆ *Spirituality in a Challenging World* (2014)
 - ◆ *Can Spirituality Transform Our World?* (2016)
 - ◆ *Forgiveness and Reconciliation in Health, Medicine & Social Sciences* (2018)
 - ◆ *Spirituality in Research, Professional Practice and Education* (2020) **Now Booking!**
2. **BASS publishes an international peer-reviewed journal** in partnership with Taylor & Francis.
3. **BASS has initiated the Spirituality Scholars' Network.** This aims to support postgraduate students, early career researchers and other scholars in sharing their interests, experiences, projects and writing in the field of spirituality studies.
4. **BASS hosts occasional seminars and other events** to advance the study of spirituality in all its diverse forms.



Tell me more about the Journal

Journal for the Study of Spirituality (JSS) is an academic peer-reviewed journal currently approaching its tenth year of publication. It provides a unique interdisciplinary, inter-professional and cross-cultural forum where researchers, scholars and others engaged in the study and practices of spirituality can share and debate the research, knowledge, wisdom and insight associated with spirituality and contemporary spirituality studies.

Journal for the Study of Spirituality is concerned with what spirituality means, and how it is expressed, in individuals' lives and communities and in professional practice settings; and with the impact and implications of spirituality in, and on, social policy, organisational practices and personal and professional development. The journal recognises that spirituality and spiritual values can be expressed and studied in secular contexts, including in scientific and professional practice settings, as well as within faith and wisdom traditions.

Journal for the Study of Spirituality is published in May and November each year and is available in print as well as online. See: www.tandfonline.com/toc/yjss20/current

Annual membership of BASS includes two issues of *Journal for the Study of Spirituality* and access to the full online archive.