Materiality and the future of inter-religious encounters
7–8 September 2023

Programme

Hosted by the Cambridge Interfaith Programme
Faculty of Divinity | 25 West Road  Cambridge  CB3 8BS

team@interfaith.cam.ac.uk | @CamInterfaith

Header image: Faculty of Divinity building, Sir Cam for the University of Cambridge.
Materiality and the future of inter-religious encounters, 7–8 September 2023

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Pre-sessional activities (invited speakers only)

10:30  Guided visit: Cambridge Genizah Research Unit.
       Meet outside the University Library, CB3 9DR.
12:15  Buffet lunch

Core programme

13:00  Arrivals and registration

13:15  Welcome
       Opening remarks: Anastasia Badder (Cambridge) & Lea
              Taragin-Zeller (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

13:30  KEYNOTE: Birgit Meyer, University of Utrecht
       Towards a Materiality of Inter-religious Encounter

14:15  Break

14:30  Panel 1: Media | chaired by Samuel Everett
       Fatma Sagir, Institut für Kulturanthropologie & Europäische
       Ethnologie, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, Freiburg
       “I’m not Muslim but . . .”: Inter-religious encounters and
       materiality in digital culture
       Ayala Fader, Fordham University
       Illiberal Jewish-Christian Material Alliances
       Emanuelle Degli Esposti, Cambridge
       Hijabs, hoodies, and hashtags: the commodification of
       Shi’a Muslim identity in Britain

16:00  Break

16:30  Panel 2: Ecologies | chaired by Esra Özyürek
       Hanane Benadi, London School of Economics & Political Science
       Balancing hope and fear: Muslim and Christian Responses
       to Climate Catastrophe in Egypt
       Anastasia Badder, Cambridge
       Creating ‘value’: Water, efficiency, and lived religious
       realities in a research-practice partnership
17:45 – 19:00  **Book launch: The State of Desire: Religion and Reproductive Politics in the Promised Land** (2023, NYU)

Featuring author Lea Taragin-Zeller (HUJI), with reflections from Ayala Fader (Fordham) & Esra Özyürek (Cambridge).

Members of the public are welcome to register for and attend this event. It is sponsored by New York University Press.

Light refreshments will be provided & copies of the book will be available for purchase at the special price of £20 (RRP 23.99).

It is also possible to pre-order & pay for a copy to collect at this event: [https://square.link/u/zX6xtwTO](https://square.link/u/zX6xtwTO)

19:30  **Conference dinner** (speakers only): **Lucy Cavendish College**, Lady Margaret Road, Cambridge, CB3 0BU.

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**Day 2  Friday 8 September**

09:30  Panel 3: **Senses and Sound** | chaired by Ayala Fader
Vlad Naumescu, Central European University

*‘Silence is the message’: cultivating community in a Christian ashram*

Erica Weiss, Tel Aviv University

**Aesthetics, kinaesthetics, and taste in different Israeli-Palestinian peace initiatives**

Samuel Everett, University of Southampton

**Curating commonality: Northern African Jewish and Muslim migration and intercultural heritage, from northern Africa to France**

11:00  Break

11:30  Panel 4: **Space** | chaired by Yulia Egorova
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>13:30</td>
<td>Panel 5: <strong>Bodies &amp; the State</strong></td>
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<td>14:30</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>15:00</td>
<td>Panel 6: <strong>Time</strong></td>
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<td>16:00</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td><strong>Closing roundtable</strong></td>
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*Draft programme, 09.08.23.*
Food and refreshments

Hot drinks and snacks will be available at registration and during break times.

A vegetarian buffet lunch (with vegan options) will be available for all who register in advance.

The book launch will include a choice of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.

Convenors

**Dr Anastasia Badder**  
Research Associate, Cambridge Interfaith Programme & Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge

**Dr Lea Taragin-Zeller**  
Federmann School of Public Policy and Governance and the Program in Cultural Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

With support from

**Dr Iona Hine**  
Communications and Programme Manager, Cambridge Interfaith Programme, University of Cambridge

**Professor Esra Özyürek**  
Sultan Qaboos Professor of Abrahamic Faiths & Shared Values, Academic Director of the Cambridge Interfaith Programme, University of Cambridge

Queries prior to the event should be addressed to the organisers by email: cip@divinity.cam.ac.uk

This two-day conference is made possible by the generous support of the Spalding Memorial Educational Trust. The trust was founded by Mr and Mrs H N Spalding in the 1920s to promote a better understanding between the great cultures of the world by encouraging the study of the religious principles on which they are based.

The convenors would like to express their gratitude to the Sultan Qaboos Trust Fund and the Faculty of Divinity for match funding this event, and the Cambridge Interfaith Programme for assistance with organisation and hospitality.