



BRITISH
ACADEMY

for the humanities and social sciences

Defending the Faith: Religious and Secularist Apologetics in Twentieth-Century Politics

Venue: The Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG
21 & 22 September 2017

Convenors:

Professor Todd Weir, University of Groningen
Professor Benjamin Ziemann, University of Sheffield
Professor Hugh McLeod, FBA, University of Birmingham

Day One, Thursday, 21 September 2017

9.00 *Registration and refreshments*

Session 1: Apologetics in the interwar *Kulturkampf*

Chair: Jim Bjork (King's College London).

9.15 Todd Weir (University of Groningen)
What can apologetics contribute to our understanding of modern secular-religious
conflicts: The case of the interwar German Protestant Church

9.45 Peter Bowler FBA (Queen's University, Belfast)
Ideology and futurology in early 20th-Century Britain: Wells, Haldane, Bernal and their
critics

10.15 Discussion

10.45 *Refreshments*

11.15 John Pollard (University of Cambridge)
Pius XI, Christus Rex and Catholic Action in the 1920s and 1930s

11.45 Benjamin Ziemann (University of Sheffield)
Between Rome and Godless People: Martin Niemöller's apologetic moves, 1931-1949

12.15 Discussion

12.45 *Lunch*

Session 2: Global Protestantism and the Cold War

Chair: Gerd-Rainer Horn, Sciences Po, Paris

13.30 Molly Worthen (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)
Francis Schaeffer and the evangelical worldview in the Cold War

14.00 Uta Balbier (King's College London)
Billy Graham's Cold War Crusades: Evangelical Christianity, Civil Religion, and Political Culture in the 1950s US

14.30 Discussion

15.00 *Refreshments*

15.30 Udi Greenberg (Dartmouth College)
How important was Secularism to Ecumenism?

16.00 Umar Ryad (University of Utrecht)
Muslim apologetics against Western Christian missions in interwar Egypt

16.30 Discussion

17.00 *Close of first day*

18.30 Conference dinner for speakers
The dinner has received financial support from the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Groningen, and the Department of History, University of Sheffield

Day Two, Friday, 22 September 2017

Session 3: Apologetics in communist and post-communist regimes: Vietnam and the USSR

Chair: Mary Heimann, Cardiff University

- 9.00 Miriam Dobson (University of Sheffield), The privileged position of the believer in the Soviet imaginary: Atheism, religion and the Cold War
- 9.30 Victoria Smolkin (Wesleyan University)
God-seekers versus Dogmatists: Soviet Atheism's last stand
- 10.00 Discussion
- 10.30 *Refreshments*
- 11.00 Vlad Naumescu, Central European University
'A world to be transfigured': Shaping a Cold War vision of Orthodoxy from the South
- 11.30 Two commentaries on the Cold War:

Mary Heimann, Cardiff University
Catholicism, Humanism and the Secular in Communist Czechoslovakia

Siegfried Weichlein, University of Fribourg
Some thoughts on Catholic anticommunism
- 12.00 Discussion
- 12.30 *Lunch*

Session 4: Apologetics in a Dechristianised Country: The UK since the 1960s

Chair: Benjamin Ziemann, University of Sheffield

- 13.15 Hugh McLeod FBA (University of Birmingham)
John Robinson and liberal Christian apologetic in the 1960s
- 13.45 Peter Itzen (University of Freiburg/Breisgau)
'Where is the Kingdom of Heaven?' Edward Norman, Enoch Powell and the struggle over the politics of faith in the 1970s
- 14.15 Discussion
- 14.45 *Refreshments*
- 15.00 Tariq Ramadan (University of Oxford)
The revealing presence of Muslims in the UK

- 15.30 Callum Brown (University of Glasgow)
The personal, not the political or philosophical: How atheists rationalise non-belief
- 16.00 Respondent: John Milbank (University of Nottingham)
- 16.15 Discussion
- 16.45 Concluding Discussion
- 17.00 *Close of Conference*