

Alphacrucis Research Roundtable 2019

The purpose of the roundtable is to facilitate discussion among academic staff and advanced research students of important topics, with input from external experts. They are deliberately less formal than a traditional university seminar, and personal reflection by speaker is encouraged. Our initial focus has been the nature and practical aspects of scholarship within a Christian worldview, but by no means restricted to this issue. Roundtables begin at 12:15pm in the Conference Room, with lunch provided, finishing by 1:45pm. For those who can stay discussion often continues at a local coffee shop. Our program currently is:

11 April 2019 – Guest Speaker: Dr Lindsay McMillan OAM



Future of the Workplace

Lindsay leads Reventure, an organisation devoted to engaging and influencing faith and work communities, through its Karam Fellows program, support of events and other activities. This builds on Lindsay's long term involvement with the workplace chaplaincy organisation Converge and over 25 years business experience leading not-for profit organisations, commercial and social enterprises. He is also lead researcher for <http://www.afuturethatworks.org.au> that is examining the impact of the current tensions at work, purpose and meaning of work, the secular-sacred conundrum, the future of work and what our responses as believers could be. His latest research is looking at the crisis of loneliness in the marketplace. Lindsay is an honorary research associate at Alphacrucis and a member of the Dean of Business Advisory Council.

13 June 2019 – Guest Speaker: Roy Williams

The Contribution of Christianity to Australian Society

Roy Williams is a Sydney author and lawyer. His books include *God, Actually A Rational Defence of Christianity* 2008. *In God They Trust* 2013 about the faith of Australian Prime Ministers, and *Post-God Nation: How Religion Fell Off The Radar in Australia - and What Might be Done To Get It Back On* 2015.



25 July 2019 – Guest Speaker: Rev Dr Robin Parry

Is Universal Salvation compatible with Bible-believing Christianity?

Robin is an Anglican priest (with a charismatic background) from the UK who works as an editor for the US company Wipf and Stock Publishers. He has written on Old Testament narrative ethics, trinitarian worship, biblical cosmology, the importance of Christian orthodoxy, reading the book of Lamentations theologically, and Christian universalism. His most controversial book is *The Evangelical Universalist* (written under the name Gregory MacDonald).



8 August 2019 – Guest Speaker: Prof Mark Elliott

The Psalms the Apocalypse of John as Models for Christian worship

I was born and educated in Glasgow, Scotland, took a degree in Law at Oxford, then to Aberdeen to pursue a ministerial vocation, which soon morphed into an academic theological one after a PhD at Cambridge in Patristic Biblical Interpretation. I was Professor of Historical and Biblical Theology at St Andrews for many years before moving to University of Glasgow last year. I have benefitted from a number of short research visits to Germany (notably Heidelberg, Regensburg and Munich) and also try to attend the AAR/SBL most years. Books include). *Providence Perceived: Divine Action from a Human Point of View* 2013, *The Heart of Biblical Theology: Providence Experienced* 2012, and *The Reality of Biblical Theology* 2007. I believe that theology can serve the church and that the church benefits when its faith is informed by prayerful study and thinking.





17 October 2019 – Guest Speaker: Dr Miriam Pepper

Environmental Engagement in the Australian Churches

Miriam Pepper is a researcher at NCLS Research (which runs the National Church Life Survey) and Research Fellow at the Public and Contextual Theology Research Centre, Charles Sturt University. She has both quantitative and qualitative research skills, cross-disciplinary training (in engineering, German language, environmental science and the social sciences), and a background of community environmental activism. She researches a range of areas in the social scientific study of religion, including congregational studies, Christianity and multiculturalism, contemporary Australian spirituality and views and activities related to issues of social service and justice. Her particular interests concern the intersections between religion and environmentalism. Miriam is an Elder and Church Councillor at South Sydney Uniting Church.

7 November 2019 – Guest Speaker: Prof John Swinton

Theological reflections on Christians living (well) with psychosis.

John Swinton is Professor in Practical Theology and Pastoral Care in the School of Divinity, Religious Studies and Philosophy at the University of Aberdeen. He has a background in nursing and healthcare chaplaincy and has researched and published extensively within the areas of practical theology, dementia, mental health, spirituality and human well-being and the theology of disability.

