International Society for Historians of Atheism, Secularism, and Humanism

Inaugural Conference: Exploring the State of the Field
Conway Hall, London UK
June 4-5, 2016

Supported by

BRITISH HUMANIST ASSOCIATION

CONWAY HALL

CENTRE FOR INQUIRY Canada

Humanist Society Scotland
Schedule: Saturday 4 June, 2016

8:45-9:15 – Registration

9:15-9:30 – Welcome

9:30-10:30 – Panel 1: Defining Unbelief

Nickolas Conrad (University of California, Santa Cruz, USA) – “An Argument for ‘Unbelief’”
Atko Remmel (University of Tartu, Estonia) - “On Some Features of ‘Atheism’ in the Soviet Union”

10:30-10:45 – Break

10:45-12:15 – Panel 2: Unbelief in Canada

Lynne Marks (University of Victoria, Canada) – “Racism and Irreligion in British Columbia, 1880-1914”
Elliot Hanowski (University of Winnipeg, Canada) – “Unbelief in Canada, 1920-1940”
Tina Block (Thompson Rivers University, Canada) – “Exploring Journeys to Unbelief in Canada, 1950-1975”

12:15-1:15 – Lunch

1:15-2:15 – Panel 3: Positive Atheism: East and West in the Long 18th Century

Shuhei Fujii (University of Tokyo, Japan) – “Yamagata Bantō: An Atheist in the Edo Period”
Charles Devellennes (University of Kent, UK) – “Radical Atheism: The Political Theory of Atheism in France from Bayle to Diderot”

2:15-2:30 – Break

2:30-3:30 – Panel 4: Atheism and Islam

Umut Azak (Okan University, Turkey) – “Secularism, Islam and the Possibility of Atheism in Turkey”
Rayhana Sultan (University of Warwick, UK/Council of Ex-Muslims Britain) – “Free Speech and Humanism in Bangladesh”

3:30-3:45 – Break

3:45-5:00 – Keynote speech

David Nash (Oxford Brookes University, UK) – “Secularist History: Past Perspectives and Future Prospects”
Schedule: Sunday 5 June, 2016

9:30-11:00 – Panel 1: Intellectual History Approaches

Sampsas Andrei Saarinen (University of Vienna, Austria) – “Intellectual Secularization and the History of Emotions”
Anton Jansson (University of Gothenburg, Sweden) – “A Swedish Voltaire: The Interpretation of Ingemar Hedenius, 20th-century Atheist”
Patrick Corbeil (Queen’s University, Canada) – “Imagining a Secular World: Secularization and the Global Conceptions of Secularism”

11:00-11:15 – Break

11:15-12:45 – Panel 2: Race, Gender, and Unbelief

Edward Royle (University of York, UK) – “Secularism – White, Male and Working Class?”
Suvi Karila (University of Turku, Finland) – “Female skepticism is social poison – Interplay of Gender and Atheism in the Nineteenth-Century United States”
Nathan Alexander (University of St Andrews, UK) – “Atheism, Race, and the Uses of Polygenesis”

12:45-1:45 – Lunch

1:45-3:15 – Panel 3: Religious Change in the West

Callum Brown (University of Glasgow, UK) – “The Humanist Condition: How the West was Re-Moralised for Atheism”
Matt Sheard (Oxford Brookes University, UK) – “The Academy, Politics and the Secularisation Debate”
Liz Lutgendorff (Oxford Brookes University, UK) – “Agents of Secularisation in the 20th Century”

3:15-3:30 – Break

3:30-5:00 – Roundtable Group Discussion

The Future of the History of Atheism, Secularism, and Humanism, and the Future of ISHASH
Getting to Conway Hall

Conway Hall is located at 25 Red Lion Square, WC1R 4RL. The conference will be held in the Library.

The closest tube station is Holborn (Central and Piccadilly lines). It is a 10-20 minute walk from nearby stations: Euston, Kings Cross/St Pancras, Warren Street, Chancery Lane, Covent Garden, Tottenham Court Road, Goodge Street or Russell Square.

You can also get the following buses from Euston or Kings Cross to the Theobald’s Road stop:

- 59 (towards Streatham Hill)
- 68 (towards West Norwood)
- 91 (towards Trafalgar Square)
- 168 (towards Old Kent Road Tesco)

If you need any advice email ishash_conference@gmail.com.
For problems on the days of the conference call/text +44 7776 253 838 (Liz Lutgendorff)