

## SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHIES

KEYNOTE: Prof. Julian Goodare

**Prof. Julian Goodare** is Emeritus Professor of History, University of Edinburgh. He is author of *The European Witch-Hunt* (2016). His recent edited books include *Demonology and Witch-Hunting in Early Modern Europe* (2020; co-edited with Rita Voltmer and Liv Helene Willumsen), *The Supernatural in Early Modern Scotland* (2020; co-edited with Martha McGill) and *Scottish Witches and Witch-Hunters* (2013; editor). He is director of the online Survey of Scottish Witchcraft.



**Prof. Zohar Hadromi-Allouche, Organiser**



Prof Zohar Hadromi-Allouche is an Assistant Professor in Classical Islamic Religious Thought and Dialogue in the School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies in Trinity College Dublin.

Prof Hadromi-Allouche gained her B.A. in Arabic Language and Literature and History of the Middle East from Tel Aviv University (1994). Her PhD research (Study of Religions, SOAS, University of London 2006) examined the characterisation of Satan as a liminal figure in the Islamic prophetic tradition (*hadith*). In her work she explores expressions of liminality, ambiguity, and ambivalence in the Islamic religious tradition; as well as the relationship between Islamic religious texts and other religious and cultural traditions. Her research examines the portrayal in the Qur'an and the broader Islamic tradition of ambiguous characters such as Satan, Eve, or Muhammad's wife Khadījah, with her liminal position as a leader and wife. Other aspects of her work highlight intersections and transitions between diverse literary and religious traditions, such as the qur'anic dialectical retelling of biblical texts, Islamic engagement with Greek and Zoroastrian traditions, and the relationship between folktales and religious texts.

She has organised several interdisciplinary conferences around the themes of Fall and liminality, followed by edited and co-edited volumes, including

- *Fall narratives: An interdisciplinary perspective* (with Áine Larkin; Routledge, 2016)
- *Fallen animals: Art, religion, literature* (Lexington, 2017) and
- *Mind the gap: Liminal spaces, images, and texts* (with Mike McKay; Lexington, (forthcoming)).

Currently she works on a monograph on Eve in Islam, and a co-authored monograph with Dr István T. Kristó-Nagy on the multifaceted figure of Satan in Islamic and comparative contexts (working title: 'Satan is with the individual': The liminal and ambiguous Devil).

## S. Jonathon O'Donnell, Organiser

S. Jonathon O'Donnell is a Visiting Scholar in the Department of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University Belfast, and previously Irish Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow at the Clinton Institute for American Studies, University College Dublin. They received their PhD in the Study of Religions from SOAS, University of London (2015) and have held teaching and research positions in the UK, Japan, and Ireland. They are the author of *Passing Orders: Demonology and Sovereignty in American Spiritual Warfare* (Fordham University Press, 2021), which situates contemporary evangelical demonologies in the context of broader paradigms of American exceptionalism, ethnonationalism, and empire-management. Their work has been published in leading journals such as *Religion*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *Environmental Humanities*, *Political Theology*, and *Patterns of Prejudice*, as well as several edited volumes, including *The Hermeneutics of Hell* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017) and *The Politics of Replacement* (Routledge, forthcoming). Their current research projects focus on the relation between demonology, ecology and technology within reactionary discourses of 'replacement' and on the genealogical relation between demonology and sovereign power in political philosophy and theology.



## Avishek Ray



Avishek Ray teaches at the National Institute of Technology Sikhar (India). He is the author of *The Vagabond of the South Asian Imagination: Representation, Agency & Resilience* (Routledge, 2021) and co-editor of *Nation, Nationalism and the Public Sphere: Religious Politics in India* (SAGE, 2020). His research appears in *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, *Contemporary Asia*, *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies*, *Multicultural Education Review*, *Continuum: Journal of Media & Cultural Studies*, *Transfers: Interdisciplinary Journal of Mobility Studies*, *Tourism, Culture & Communication*, among others. He has held research fellowships at the University of Edinburgh (UK), Purdue University Library (USA), Centre for Advance Studies, Sofia (Bulgaria), Mahidol University (Thailand) and Pavia University (Italy). In 2021, he was awarded the Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Fellowship.

## Cecilio M. Cooper

Cecilio M. Cooper is a Faculty Fellow with New York University's Department of Social and Cultural Analysis after serving as a Forsyth Postdoctoral Fellow with University of Michigan's History of Art Department. Via black critical theory, they address scholarly debates around occult iconography, cartography, science studies, and gender. Their Research has been supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, American Antiquarian Society, John Carter Brown Library, and Yale Center for British Art. Cooper's first book manuscript examines the occulted role blackness plays in cosmological constitutions of subsurface space by engaging the visual cultures of alchemy and demonology. They can be followed at their website [ceciliocooper.com](http://ceciliocooper.com).



## Darryl Jones



Darryl Jones is Professor of Modern British Literature and Culture at Trinity College Dublin. His major area of research is in late-Victorian and Edwardian popular fiction, most particularly supernatural and horror fiction. He is author or editor of thirteen books, including most recently *Horror: A Very Short Introduction* (OUP, 2021). In 2011, he edited the *Collected Ghost Stories* of M. R. James for OUP, and is currently writing a large-scale biography of M. R. James, also for OUP. He is the General Editor of the forthcoming *Jew Oxford Sherlock Holmes* (9 volumes), for which series he edited *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

## David Stevenson

Prof David Stevenson is an Assistant Professor in Film Studies in the School of Creative Arts in Trinity College Dublin.

Prof Stevenson holds a PhD in Film Studies from Queen's University Belfast. His recent research work has focused primarily on the depiction of esoteric and occult religious practices within Japanese videogames with a particular emphasis on the Japanese Role-Playing Game (JRPG). Presently, he is an Assistant Professor at Trinity College Dublin, where he teaches narrative design in games, as well as developing games in Belfast with his company, Pigs in Blankets.



## Debaditya Mukhopadhyay



Debaditya Mukhopadhyay is an Assistant Professor of English at Manikchak College, affiliated with the University of Gourbanga, India. He has contributed chapters to collections published by Salem Press, McFarland, Edward Elgar Publishing, Lexington Books, Peter Lang, and Routledge. His articles on Ryan Coogler's *Black Panther* and David Yarovesky's *Brightburn* have been published in the peer-reviewed journal of Vidyasagar University (Vol. 14, 2021), India and the collection *Adapting Superman* (2021), respectively. He has presented his paper on the Gender Politics of the Bollywood horror film *Bulbbul* in GIFCon 2021.

## Dunya Rašić

Dunja Rašić (PhD Free University Berlin) is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Belgrade. Her research interests include Akbarian cosmology, philosophical Sufism and the Islamic philosophy of language. She is the author of *Written World of God: The Cosmic Script and the Art of Ibn 'Arabī* (Anqa Publishing, 2021). She is currently preparing a monograph on jinn doppelgangers and the problem of evil in Akbarian Sufism.



## Erika Gasser

Erika Gasser is Associate Professor of History and affiliated faculty with the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Cincinnati (U.S.). Her book, *Vexed with Devils: Manhood and Witchcraft in Old and New England* (2017), explores how ideas of manhood shaped cultural and religious views of demonic possession and witchcraft cases from the late sixteenth to the eighteenth century. She is currently pursuing two new projects, one of which analyzes early modern English and New England witchcraft-possession cases through the lens of sensory history.



## Feray Coskun



Dr. Feray Coskun obtained her B.Sc. from Middle East Technical University, Department of History in 2003, M.A. in History from Boğaziçi University in 2008, and PhD in History and Cultural Studies from Freie Universität Berlin in 2015. Since 2017, she is an assistant professor at Ozyegin University and offers courses on early modern Ottoman history and world history. Recently, she has been involved in the ERC Project “Geographies and Histories of the Ottoman Supernatural Tradition” in collaboration with Institute for Mediterranean Studies, Crete. The project explores Ottoman notions and belief systems concerning the supernatural and aims to contribute Ottoman intellectual and cultural history.

## Harriet Walker

Harriet Walker's research interests and previous publications are focused on Jewish Babylonian Aramaic Magic Bowls from Late Antique Mesopotamia and Digital Humanities Methodologies. She is particularly interested in the ways that Jewish magical practices intersected with legal and religious traditions in this context. Her current research project (generously funded by the South, West & Wales Doctoral Training Partnership) asks what patterns, trends, and associations in the textual features of the spells can reveal about the lost theoretical underpinnings of the practice. By building a database of the features of 255 primary sources, she aims to 'reverse engineer' aspects of this lost body of knowledge using digital methods for comparative analysis.



## István T. Kristó-Nagy

Dr István T. Kristó-Nagy is a Senior Lecturer in Arabic and Islamic Studies at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies of the University of Exeter. He has published on Islamic social and intellectual history, political and religious thought, advice literature and art. His approach is comparative and interdisciplinary enquiring biological, psychological and social patterns lying behind political and religious ideas expressed in literary and artworks.

His publications include:

*La pensée d'Ibn al-Muqaffa'. Un « agent double » dans le monde persan et arabe*, Éditions de Paris, 2013.

Volumes I and II, co-edited with Robert Gleave, of the series “*Legitimate and Illegitimate Violence in Islamic Thought*”, Edinburgh University Press:

*Violence in Islamic Thought from the Qur'ān to the Mongols*, 2015.

*Violence in Islamic Thought from the Mongols to European Imperialism*, 2017.

He is working on various studies on Ibn al-Muqaffa's oeuvre and a monograph co-authored with Dr Zohar Hadromi-Allouche exploring views on the Devil in Islamic and comparative contexts. Working title: *'Satan is with the individual': The liminal and ambiguous Devil*.



## Ilona Rashkow



Ilona Rashkow holds a PhD in Comparative Literature. She is Professor Emerita at the SUNY Stony Brook and teaches regularly at New York University. Among her book publications are *Taboo or Not Taboo: The Hebrew Bible and Human Sexuality*; *The Phallacy of Genesis: A Feminist-Psychoanalytic Approach*; *Upon the Dark Places: Sexism and Anti-Semitism in English Renaissance Biblical Translation*; and numerous academic journal articles. She presents papers routinely at national and international academic conferences; has been the Visiting Aaron Aronoff Chair in Judaic Studies at the University of Alabama; and a Visiting Research Scholar at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

## Joseph Kimmel

Joseph Kimmel is a PhD Candidate in the Study of Religion at Harvard and teaches part-time at Boston College. He previously earned an MDiv (Harvard Divinity School), MA in Clinical Psychology (Wheaton College), and an AB in Religious Studies (University of Chicago). His dissertation focuses on divine names used to heal and harm, and the relevance of these names for posthumanist and neo-materialist philosophies. Outside of school, Joseph is nearing ordination as an Episcopal priest.



## Kamil Naicker



Kamil Naicker (MA Leeds; PhD UCT) is a lecturer in English Literature at the University of the Western Cape. Her research primarily focuses on the intersection between genre fiction and postcolonial literature. Her book, *'Return to the Scene of the Crime: the returnee detective and postcolonial crime fiction'* was released by UKZN Press in 2021.

## Mahmood Heidari

Mahmood Heidari is a specialist in Arabic Language and Literature, with a focus on comparative literature, cultural studies, Islamic mysticism & Sufism, and critical edition of old Arabic and Persian manuscripts. He is currently a faculty member of Yasouj University as well as associate professor at Persian Literature department. He earned his PhD in Arabic Language and Literature from Tehran University, Iran (2009). He has visited TU Dresden, Germany as a sabbatical leave (2019), where he studied Goethe and Ibn Arabi, and had the honor to visit Prof. Dr. Schmitz. He has published more than 30 papers in Arab and Iranian peer-reviewed journals. The critical edition and explanation of the Arabic Divan of Rashid al-Din al Vatvat, (died 573 AH / 1177 AD), a bilingual Iranian poet, is also one of the published works.



## **Michail Kitsos**

Michail Kitsos holds a Ph.D. in the History of Judaism and Christianity in Late Antiquity from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. He specializes in late antique and Middle Byzantine period Jewish and Christian history, Jewish and Christian relations, and Christian anti-Jewish and Jewish anti-Christian dialogues and polemics. In their research, they examine Jewish and Christian reception history and production of “otherness” and difference with an emphasis on the ongoing crossing of religious and social boundaries. They are currently working on their book which is a study of Jewish and Christian use of impersonation in late antiquity and the Middle Byzantine period.



## **Nathanael Homewood**

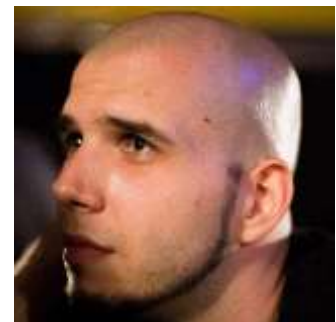


Nathanael Homewood is a Lecturer in the Department of Religion at Rice University, the General Secretary of the African Association for the Study of Religions, and the editor for Modern and Global Christianity in the Religious Studies Review. A native of Canada, he earned his Ph.D. in Global Christianity at the Department of Religion, Rice University in May 2018. His dissertation focused on extreme forms of charismatic Christianity in Accra and issues of sexuality - in particular, sexualities that engage the spirit world. His current projects include exploring the decolonial possibilities of demons and a wide-sweeping exploration of the global influence of popular faith healer Benny

Hinn.

## **Nikola Pantić**

Nikola Pantić is a Visiting Research Fellow at the Center for Religious Studies, Central European University in Vienna. He obtained his doctoral degree in 2021, studying the boundaries between religion and magic in popular religion and the Sufi-*ulamā'* institutional overlap in eighteenth-century Province of Damascus. His research interests include the historical, sociological and anthropological analyses of religious practice, the techniques related to wonder-working as well as magical rituals among the Arabs under the Ottoman rule (16th-19th century).





## **Zahra Mohagheghian**

Zahra Mohagheghian is a Qur'anic feminist scholar, specializing in pre-and early Islamic Arabia. She earned her doctorate in Qur'an and Hadith studies from Isfahan University, Iran (2015). Since 2016, she has been assistant professor of Qur'anic Studies at the Institute of Humanities and Cultural Studies (IHCS), Tehran. Mohagheghian published a book (in Persian) titled *Sex and Sexuality in the Qur'an* (IHCS Publications 2021). In the last three years, she has been studying the ancient Iranian goddesses (al-Lat, al-Uzza, and Manat) in late antiquity and following their destiny in the Qur'an and traditional Islamic sources from a historical-gender perspective. Her presentation is part of this ongoing project.