

Liberty, Legacy, Leadership



Invitation to Chaplaincy Staff in Universities



*Global Conference for
Higher Education Chaplaincies
15–19 June 2020*



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

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INTRODUCTORY MESSAGE TO CHAPLAINCY STAFF IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Dear Colleagues,

I'm writing, as Conference Facilitator to invite you, in your work in chaplaincy in higher education, to this global chaplaincy conference.

People serving in chaplaincies from higher education institutions on all continents of the world will attend.

Grants are available to participants from the majority world and scholarship and student rates too. A Call for Papers is live and those wanting to present will receive an early confirmation and invitation to come and present at the conference.

This is the 6th such global conference—it will be held on the University of Sheffield campus from 15–19 June 2020. This follows five previous conferences in: Vancouver, 2000; Brisbane, 2004; Tampere, 2008; New Haven, 2012; and, Bendigo, 2016.

The theme Liberty, Legacy, Leadership frames our exploration of how vibrant chaplaincies may contribute to university communities, asking:

- how academic freedom and religion and belief equalities intersect;
- what lessons must be learned from our learning and belief histories;
- what leadership styles—secular and religious—best suit our sector?

Thank you for considering this invitation.
Jeremy Clines

University Chaplain (Development), j.clines@sheffield.ac.uk on behalf of the Executive Committee of the International Association for Chaplains in Higher Education (IACHE)



REFLECTIONS ON OUR THEME

Liberty

Chaplaincy is an agent for liberation in higher education.

It is, also, however, during times of great political and social turmoil that the crying need for—or lack of—egalitarian principles will rise to the forefront of concerns, in many arenas. This is evidenced by the challenges we face as chaplains in higher education.

This, as the first of our three theme words, allows for an in-depth exploration of the pathway: from intolerance towards religion; via toleration of religion; towards inclusion of religion in higher education communities. Understanding this trajectory and how to open up such routes will be more pressing for chaplains in 2020 than ever.

Legacy

The IACHE 2020 Global Conference will, for the first time, happen in a nation that operated a colonial empire. As we build on previous honouring and respect shown to indigenous communities at Bendigo, Victoria, here we must name, learn and speak of the legacy of Britain and in the pressing context of Britain and Ireland in Europe. Two key-note speakers will address Brexit, society and religion. Three more of our speakers are sociologists of religion critiquing the place of religion or belief in universities. Additionally, the legacy of chaplaincy has all-too-regularly sat within a Christian frame, even where inter-religious working has begun and representatives of diverse religion and belief traditions have collaborated. Addressing that legacy, valuing it, and yet also noting where that leads to inequality within difference, will help build a more global conference.

Leadership

Chaplaincy has a particular role to support leaders in the university and to foster healthy styles of leadership among the global communities' next generations, via the student communities we serve. The word 'leadership', though, is at times, disliked: models within religion are often in huge contrast to the styles leaders display in different political arenas. Additionally, what kind of leadership chaplaincy can offer, as a grass roots and radical movement within higher education, for inclusion and toleration, holistic well-being, and enlightenment is something that can esteem and inspire participants at the 2020 conference.

RELEVANT FOR ALL SUPPORTING RELIGION AND BELIEF IN HIGHER EDUCATION

The *Liberty, Legacy, Leadership* conference is an outstanding opportunity for higher-education chaplains to develop and re-energise their practice and professionalize their delivery. Hosted in a safe and inclusive environment, the 2020 conference will foster collaboration, best-practice sharing and high-quality networking among colleagues from across the globe.

Because the conference is attentive to both those with a religion or belief identity or with no such identity, we are confident the experience will be inclusive and engaging and the interactions will be enlivening. There will plenty of opportunity to connect with people in Chaplaincy from many perspectives. It will also be a haven suited to people of many traditions and beliefs. There will be times of stillness, reflection, worship and gentle movement and exercise.

The Call for Papers means proposals from all participants are very welcome. Liberty, Legacy, Leadership is taking a progressive approach to contributions, in terms of papers, workshops and other inputs from chaplaincy practitioners in higher education and those researching and writing about chaplaincy, religion and belief in the university.



CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The main conference will take place at Endcliffe at the University of Sheffield, on Monday 15th June, late afternoon, with a keynote speaker followed by dinner. Tuesday will hold a series of keynote speakers and seminars and workshops. Lunch will break up the day and the day will end with visits to local faith communities, dinner and an evening soiree.

Wednesday will consist of a keynote speaker and an afternoon tours. A round table discussion will be held before dinner with entertainment.

Thursday will be a series of keynotes, and seminars focussing on religion and belief in the university with a celebratory dinner held in the evening. The conference closes on Friday, after a keynote reflection.

Pre Conference

There will be a 24 hour pre-conference programme with four confirmed tracks—it is recommended to join one track, each track will be looking at Higher Education Chaplaincy plus one of the following: Extremism; Empowerment; Research; and Spirituality.

MONDAY: 17H Opening Ceremony and Keynote
19H Civic Reception and Dinner

TUESDAY: 09H Keynote and Seminars
13H Lunch
14H Seminars and Keynote
17H Local Faith Communities visits including dinner
20H Cultural entertainments

WEDNESDAY: 09H Keynote and Groups
11H Tours
17H Roundtable / Panel Discussion
19H Dinner

THURSDAY: 09H Keynote and Seminars (including day-participants)
13H Lunch
14H Seminars and Keynote (including day-participants)
18H Celebratory Dinner

FRIDAY: 09H Keynote
10H Closing Events
11H Departures





SOME OF THE BIG QUESTIONS WE PLAN TO ADDRESS

1. What contributions can chaplains make to improve mental health and wellbeing in the university and religion and belief communities?
2. Does religion and belief inhibit or help the university and does the university help or inhibit the religion and belief identities of its members?
3. How might the universities of the future be shaped to be agents of academic and religious freedom?
4. How easily can chaplains re-present their religion or belief community to the university in a way that moderates their belief community's views?
5. What keeps university leaders awake at night about religion and belief and what can chaplaincies do about it?
6. How do colonial legacies impact all attempts at liberation in education, and what, as chaplaincies, can we do about it?
7. Are religion and belief better together, in securing greater freedoms for students and staff in the universities of the world?
8. How do academic freedom and religious freedom intersect?
9. How might chaplaincy enrich the spiritual life and improve the wellbeing of students of all religions and beliefs?
10. What is in the future for peace building and conflict resolution in the university?
11. How might a chaplain foster embodied religion in a virtual higher education world, with disability in mind?
12. What is the state of inter-religious chaplaincy in England and Wales and what needs to change?
13. How can we help lead the struggle for education equalities around the world?

EXPRESSING AN INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE AND CONTRIBUTE

If you wish to attend any part of the conference, please indicate, via email to the conference address iache2020@sheffield.ac.uk and we will promptly answer your queries. You are also welcome to visit our conference website, price-list and online store: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/iache2020>



OUR CONFERENCE SPEAKERS (1 OF 2)



Mohammed Abu-Nimer

I am interested in participating in the conference because I think that chaplaincy on campus and in higher education can play an important role in building harmony and genuine diversity and inclusivity in an academic environment.



Kristin Aune

I'm excited by the opportunity to share findings from our new research study into the role and impact of university chaplains in the UK, so that our research evidence about the diverse ways chaplains contribute to their universities can shape the future leadership of higher education chaplaincy in the UK and internationally.



Harvey Belovski

I welcome the opportunity to participate in Liberty, Legacy, Leadership to share best practice, be inspired by world-leaders in the field and contribute a perspective from ancient Jewish wisdom to a wide audience.



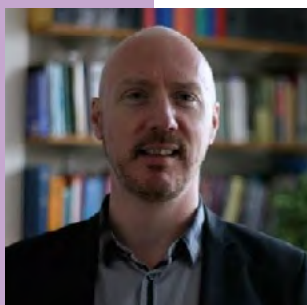
Jana Bennett

I'm interested in discussing the leadership potential of higher education chaplains for cultivating good digital and religious communities that engage students, faculty, and staff with disabilities.



Grace Davie

My analyses of religion in (mostly) European societies include careful attention to Chaplaincy. Hence my commitment to the Liberty, Legacy, Leadership conference, encouraged all the more by the geographical, disciplinary and confessional diversity of the delegates.



Adam Dinham

Liberty, Legacy, Leadership appeals to me because it's about how people apply themselves to real problems in real places across all sorts of difference and diversity.

OUR CONFERENCE SPEAKERS (2 OF 2)



Harold Koenig

I am interested in contributing to Liberty, Legacy, Leadership for Chaplaincy staff in Higher Education because the work that chaplains do brings to life the research that I and my colleagues have been conducting for the past 35 years showing that faith can make a real difference in a person's life and health.



Anthony Reddie

I'm delighted to contribute to Liberty, Legacy, Leadership given the importance of chaplaincy in shaping the consciousness of future generations of students.



John Stokes

I believe it is important that chaplaincies explore ways to move beyond respect, equality and cooperation towards deeper forms of communication.



Pádraig Ó Tuama

What interests me in Liberty, Legacy, Leadership is the opportunity to share stories of courage, learning and spirituality with colleagues from diverse national and religious traditions. Being together, exploring the human condition in light of changing borders and belongings excites me, as our traditions have much in common and much to share with each other. The Irish story of conflict, peace, negotiation and community has much to share with and learn from other global zones, and I look forward to the opportunity immensely.



Linda Woodhead

am interested in how people make meaning outside of traditional religious institutions, and chaplains and chaplaincies are already 'out there'. Like sociologists, chaplains do their work in the midst of society; I always find we have a great deal in common and much to learn from one another.



ORGANIZING GROUPS

There are three groups helping shape the conference:

1. Local Planning Group, Sheffield

Shahla Meghrani
Sue Hubbard
Helena Roulston
Emily Wood
Mohammad Ismail
Eli Magzimof
Surinder Dhillon

Baha'i
Buddhism
Christianity
Humanism
Islam
Judaism
Sikhism

2. Pan-European Strategy Group

Andii Bowsher
Bernadette Purcell
Beáta Gombkötő
Daniel Lichman
Cass Howes
Günther Sturms
Harvey Belovski
Helena Roulston
Jeannette Bakker
Kathryn Fey-Beatson
Laura Mäntylä
Marylee Anderson
Mohammad Ismail

Newcastle, England
Dublin, Ireland
Budapest, Hungary
London, England
Bedford, England
Delft, Netherlands
London, England
Sheffield, England
Leiden, Netherlands
Sheffield, England
Helsinki, Finland
Aberdeen, Scotland
Sheffield, England

3. Executive Committee—International Association of Chaplains in Higher Education

Jill Shaw
Jay Robinson
Robert Lingard
Shahla Meghrani
Cass Howes
Günther Sturms
Christine Schardt
Mohammad Ismail
Jeremy Clines
Denise Yarbrough

Aotearoa / New Zealand Campus Ministry Association
Tertiary Campus Ministry Association (Australia)
Tertiary Campus Ministry Association (Australia)
Baha'i Chaplaincy
Conference of European University Chaplains
Conference of European University Chaplains
Conference of European University Chaplains
Muslim Chaplaincy
Sheffield 2020 Host Committee
National Association of College and University Chaplains: USA

IACHE 2020 Conference Facilitator: Jeremy Clines, j.clines@sheffield.ac.uk



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International Association
of Chaplains in
Higher Education



The Conference of European
University Chaplains

Conference Web: sheffield.ac.uk/iache2020
Conference Social Media: [@iache2020](#)
Conference email: iache2020@sheffield.ac.uk