

Independent Schools Religious Studies Association



Annual Professional Development Day and Conference

Getting Real!

Keynote Speaker
Professor Andrew Wright
*The Centre for Theology, Religion and Culture
King's College, London*

Monday 27th September 2010
St Catherine's College, Oxford

Introducing the 2010 Conference *Getting Real!*

This year's professional development day and annual conference moves to Oxford and takes on a major and topical theme: CRITICAL REALISM. Based on the fantastic exploration of ideas we enjoyed in 2009 with Alister McGrath, we are now going to explore in depth what that approach means for us all. We have therefore invited several members of the King's College project team FORASE to share their work and assess our methodology and pedagogy.

Getting Real! is also the theme that inspires our other seminars – on developing KS2, journeying to some of the real scenes of importance for religions, practically applying its insights across our schools, and looking especially at Y7 – Y8 as the foundation for credible RS among children who consider much of religion to be unreal.

ACCOMMODATION!

An important new feature this year is that we are able to offer **overnight accommodation** on Sunday 26th September in the very comfortable en-suite student rooms. Facilities include a hospitality tray in the room, TV and a full breakfast – all for £60! Rooms will be allocated first-come first-served, so why not gather your friends and meet up the evening before and be ready for a 9.30 start on Monday?

Getting there...

St Catherine's College (St Catz for its friends - www.stcatz.ox.ac.uk) is an excellent and hugely popular conference and training venue, with ample facilities for all our needs, just a short walk from the centre of Oxford yet delightfully green and quiet. See the website for directions, but there is limited parking on site, one space per 4 – 5 rooms overnight (though we might be able to squeeze in a few more cars), and reserved spaces for speakers on the day. We suggest you should do one of the following:-

- # Park and ride, arriving early enough to secure a spot
- # Train to the station and walk or taxi it from there (or cycle)
- # Bus – the Oxford Tube runs regularly and quickly from London, as do other services
- # City centre car parks – if you are bold enough to enter the city!

Schedule

9.30	Registration and refreshments
10.00	Keynote Address: Professor Andrew Wright
11.15	Refreshments
11.35	Seminars
12.45	Lunch in the College Dining Hall
2pm	AGM
2,15	Seminars
3.30	Departure

BOOKING FORM

ISRSA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY *and annual conference*

Monday 27th September 2010 at St Catherine's College, Oxford

Please complete a separate booking form for each delegate and return by Friday 17th September

Delegate Surname:

Forename:

Title

School

Address

Post Code

Telephone

Email

Please complete your proposed seminar choices on the next page

I wish to reserve a place @ £95 (*please tick*)

I wish to reserve a single B&B room on Sunday 26th September @ £60 (*tick*)

I enclose a cheque payable to IRSRA for TOTAL

£

I have the following dietary, access or support requirements:

Signed Date

Please return to: **ISRSA, 28 Meadow Walk, Sling, Nr Coleford, Glos. GL16 ULR**

SEMINAR SELECTION FORM

ISRSA Professional Development Day and Annual Conference

Please indicate below your choices for the conference, one seminar in the morning and the other in the afternoon. We need to know seminar numbers in order to allocate rooms effectively and to prepare resources. Please see the final page for information about the speakers. Thank you.

SEMINAR	<i>Please tick</i>
Morning	
Keynote Discussion: Critical Realism <i>Professor Andrew Wright</i>	
Developing RS in KS2 <i>Jo Fageant</i>	
Are We Really There? The values of visits <i>Representatives from travel firms specialising in tours with a religious and ethical theme</i>	
Critical Religious Education and World Religions <i>Dave Aldridge and Angela Salisbury</i>	
Afternoon	
Teacher Training in independent schools <i>George Casley</i>	
Developing RS in Y7 – Y8 <i>Ben Thomas, Elizabeth Coupe, Michael Wilkcockson</i>	
Critical Religious Education and Exams <i>Dave Aldridge</i>	
Critical Religious Education in the Classroom <i>Tom Hibberd and Christina Davies</i>	

PLEASE NOTE THAT A BOOKING CAN ONLY BE ACCEPTED WITH PAYMENT

Further information about our speakers and contributors this year

Professor Andrew Wright

Andy Wright was head of department in three contrasting schools before returning to university life. Further study, at the London Institute of Education, led to the award of an MA in Religious Education in 1988, followed by a PhD in 1995. He was initially supervised by the late Edwin Cox, and his thesis examined the integrity and provenance of contemporary religious education with reference to modernism, post-modernism and critical realism. Before taking up his present post in the Department of Education & Professional Studies at King's College, London, he was lecturer in religious education at the Institute of Education (1988-1991) and senior lecturer in religious education at Roehampton Institute (1991-1995).

He is currently co-ordinator of the Centre for Theology, Religion and Culture (CTRC), which focuses on research at the interface of religion, theology, education and culture. Outside King's, he is chair of the Association of Lecturers in Religion and Education (AULRE), and was recently a member of the writing group that produced the new non-statutory national framework for religious education.

Jo Fageant

Jo's career has always been in education. She is currently contributing to teacher training at both Oxford Brookes University and Reading University and is Diocesan RE Advisor for the Oxford Diocese, having previously been RE Advisor for Berkshire. She has been an Ofsted Inspector, serves on the Religious Education Council, the National Association of SACREs, has published popular RE textbooks for KS2 and KS3 and supported and advised all manner of RS/RE development initiatives.

George Casley

An old friend of ISRSA, George's career has led him to the St Mary's University College, Twickenham where he works on the PGCE training course in RE/RS and is engaged in a number of other related ventures. George was previously a Head of RS, a Head of Sixth Form and a Director of Post 16 Education in contrasting London schools before returning to RE as the founder of a think tank concerned with the impact of the religion of adherents in society. His seminar will focus in a challenging way on getting RE teachers well trained: what are we looking for? Does your school get involved in training?

Dave Aldridge and Angela Salisbury

Until recently Head of RS at Christ's Hospital, Sussex, Dave became involved with King's College's work on Critical Realism early on, and he was able to assist in teacher training at King's for a year prior to securing the post heading up the PGCE in Religious Education at Oxford Brooked University. His is an eminently practical approach and we are delighted that he can contribute twice during the day. He will be joined in his seminars by Angela Salisbury, who teaches in the maintained sector and is involved in FORASE' work on the applications of Critical Realism in schools.

Tom Hibberd and Christina Davies

Tom heads the Theology and Philosophy department at Whitgift School, Surrey, and is a member of the FORASE team. His practical seminar is important for any who want to take issues further. He is joined by Christina Davies from Surbiton High School and another FORASE team member.

The Developing RS in Y7 – Y8 seminar leaders –

Ben Thomas

Ben is a Principal of Thomas's London Day Schools, a group of family-run co-educational prep and kindergarten schools in south London. He was appointed Headmaster of Thomas's, Battersea in 1999. He gained an MA in Education from the Institute of Education in 1998.

Elizabeth Coupe

Elizabeth is Head of RS and PSHE at The Beacon School, Buckinghamshire, having previously worked at all levels in several schools up to senior management. Her school has recently introduced a Certificate to replace Common Entrance which has gained wide acceptance with senior schools.

Michael Wilcockson

Michael needs little introduction to regular ISRSA participants. Head of Divinity at Eton College, chief examiner for the Common Entrance Examination and for the OCR Board at A Level, he is author of several popular textbooks and a major contributor to the direction of RS in independent schools. Michael will promote the revised CEE specification and its benefits for schools.