

# Knowingness, Agency, & Authority

48<sup>th</sup> Implicit Religion Conference

Stirling, Scotland, UK (Online)

15-17 May 2026

Welcome to the 48th annual Implicit Religion Conference. You are most welcome and wanted here. We look forward to a weekend of good conversation, discussion, catching up, and making new contacts. As several of our presenters this year are from time zones outside of the UK, the timing of the conference days has been designed to accommodate that. All timings are listed as UK times (UTC +1).

## Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May

7:00 – 9:00 PM

7:00 PM

**THE CONFERENCE OPENS**

7:10 – 7:30 PM

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

**Francis Stewart** she/her

Director of the Edward Bailey Centre

An introduction to the Implicit Religion conference

and the 2026 Edward Bailey Keynote,

Dr. S. Jonathon O'Donnell

# The 2026 Edward Bailey Keynote Lecture

"Delineating Deviation, Articulating Absence:  
Political Demonologies in Fascist Times."

**7:30 – 8:30 PM**

**DR. S. JONATHON O'DONNELL** they/them

Visiting Scholar, The School of Natural and Built  
Environment, Queen's University Belfast, Ireland

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Dr. S. Jonathon O'Donnell's work explores connections between sovereignty, patriarchy, and witchcraft in the work of Jean Bodin. They are working on a project focused on developing a genealogy of demonological imagery in political theorists of sovereignty. Concurrently, the second part of the project focuses on situating demonology within American evangelicalism in relation to discourses of environmental crisis, posthumanism, and rising ecofascism. They are the author of *Passing Orders: Demonology and Sovereignty in American Spiritual Warfare* (Fordham, 2020)

**8:30 – 9:00 PM**

**QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION**

**Chair:** Francis Stewart she/her

## Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May

10:00 AM

**THE CONFERENCE OPENS**

### PANEL ONE

10:15 AM – 12:30 PM

**Chair: Francis Stewart** she/her

10:15 – 11:00 AM

**Laure Montarry** she/her

“How do Mediumistic Interlocutions Contribute to Self-Knowledge and Agency, Beyond the Normative Framework of Teaching Authorities in Mediumship?”

11:00 – 11:45 AM

**Joseph Webster** he/him

“Who Knows What, and on What Authority? Multiple Millenarian Monopolies, Theological Disdain, and the (non)Answer of Anthropological Relativism.”

11:45 AM – 12:30 PM

**Anne Marie Foster** she/her

“Who Gets to Know Bathsheba? Narrative Authority, Knowingness, and the Silencing of the Subaltern.”

12:30 – 2:50 PM

**BREAK**

## Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May

2:50 PM

**THE CONFERENCE RE-OPENS**

### PANEL TWO

3:00 – 5:15 PM

Chair: **Stig Graham** he/him

3:00 – 3:45 PM

**Leslie Francis** he/him

“Implicit Religion, Agency, and Human Flourishing: Reframing Cathedral Studies.”

3:45 – 4:30 PM

**Jusung Lee** he/him

“From Doctrine to Public Knowingness: Buddhist Magazines, Media Authority, and the Making of Modern Religious Discourse in Colonial Korea (1910–1945).”

4:30 – 5:15 PM

**Ipsita Chatterjea** she/her

“Knowingness: Authority and the Manufacture of Deviance.”

5:15 – 5:30 PM

**COMFORT BREAK**

### FLASH SESSION

5:30 – 6:00 PM

Chair: **Francis Stewart** she/her

5:30 – 5:40 PM

**Adam Foxon** he/him

“Gaming, Pedagogy, and Ethical Decision Making.”

5:40 – 6:00 PM

**Open Session**

Developing a work in progress? Notify Francis Stewart, give those attending a 2-3 minute description of your research project, and receive constructive feedback and advice.

## Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May

2:00 PM

### THE CONFERENCE RE-OPENS

#### PANEL THREE

2:15 – 4:30 PM

**Chair: George González** he/him

2:15 – 3:00 PM

**Eleanor Higgs** she/her

“Academic Knowledge and Student Weaponisation of Christian Identity.”

3:00 – 3:45 PM

**Parisa Osmanovic** she/her

“Islamic Prescriptions for Economic Behaviour as Forms of Lived and Embodied Knowledge.”

3:45 – 4:30 PM

**Francis Stewart** she/her

“Look Not Upon the Amadán dubh:  
Knowingness, Agency, and Disability in Northern Ireland.”

4:30 – 4:45 PM

### COMFORT BREAK

#### PANEL FOUR

4:45 – 5:15 PM

**Chair: Ipsita Chatterjea** she/her

Author meets Critic: George González, *The Church of Stop Shopping and Religious Activism*

George González discusses his latest, award winning, book in critical conversation with Francis Stewart.

*The Church of Stop Shopping and Religious Activism: Combatting Consumerism and Climate Change through Performance* (2024, New York University Press)

UK & Europe 30% discount code: UPNYU30 <https://mngbookshop.co.uk/>

US & Canada 30% discount code: NYUAU30 <https://nyupress.org>

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May**

**CLOSING REMARKS**

**5:15 – 5:30 PM**

**Francis Stewart** she/her  
Acknowledgements and an update regarding  
Implicit Religion for 2026, and plans for 2027

**THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING AND CONTRIBUTING TO  
THE 48<sup>TH</sup> IMPLICIT RELIGION CONFERENCE.**