
Spirituality, Theology & Mental Health

MYTH, AUTHORITY & HEALING POWER

Spirituality, Theology & Mental Health: Myth, Authority and Healing Power seeks to foster a mutually critical engagement between theological and psychiatric disciplines. Questions to be considered include:

- Is religion beneficial or detrimental to mental health, and under what circumstances?
- Why is religion often a taboo subject in psychiatry?
- Do extreme practices of mystics (e.g., mortification of the flesh) simply reflect mental disorders, or can they be understood in religious/spiritual terms?
- Can psychiatry and theology benefit each other in the study of religious ideas of anger, guilt and forgiveness?
- May religion properly be understood as therapeutic, or does this distort the religious tradition?
- How do myths and sources of authority influence our perception, experience and management of mental illness?

These and related issues will be explored both through both academic papers and praxis-based workshops.

We are accepting abstracts for short papers and proposals for workshops. Relevant abstracts on topics not listed above are also welcomed. Papers should be no more than 20 minutes long; workshops may be up to 45 minutes in length. Please limit submissions to 300 words. The deadline for both abstracts and proposals is **31st March 2010**.

13–16 September 2010

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE,
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

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PLENARY SPEAKERS TO INCLUDE:

- ✦ Patricia Casey
- ✦ John Cottingham
- ✦ Douglas Davies
- ✦ Keith Meador
- ✦ Loren Stuckenbruck
- ✦ Fraser Watts
- ✦ Mark Wynn

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£160 NON-RESIDENTIAL

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO
BOOK, PLEASE CONTACT

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Project for
SPIRITUALITY & HEALTH
at Durham University

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