

APPENDIX

Seminars and Consultation in the Department of World Religions and Culture, University of Dhaka

Seminar on Academic Study of Religion – 2003

- S[ession]1 'Introduction to academic study of religion: history, characteristics, issues, training'
Joseph T. O'Connell (University of Toronto [UT]), seminar coordinator
- S2 'What is meant by "religion"? Pertinence of the work of Wilfred Cantwell Smith'
J.T. O'Connell (UT)
- S3 'Relationship between academic study of religion and personal faith, values and aptitudes of the scholar'
Kazi Nurul Islam (World Religions & Culture [WRC], University of Dhaka [DU]); Gervas Rozario (WRC, DU; Major Seminary, Dhaka); J.T. O'Connell (UT)
- S4 'Historical discipline and methods in the study of religion'
Ashfaque Hossain (History [Hist], DU); Fazrin Huda (WRC, DU); J.T. O'Connell (UT)
- S5 'Art history discipline and methods in the study of religion'
Najma Khan Majlis (Islamic History and Culture [IHC], DU)
- S6 'Study of religion through literature'
Aminur Rahman (Bangla [Bang], DU)
- S7 'Religious instruction in primary and secondary education in Bangladesh'
Masuduzzaman (Institute of Education and Research [IER], DU); Miriam Begum (IER, DU)
- S8 'Modernization, Secularism and Islam'
Syed Anwar Husain (Hist, DU)

Seminar on History of Religion in Bengal – 2007

- S1 'Orientation and objectives of the seminar'
J.T. O'Connell (UT)
- S2 'Iconographic and archaeological evidence for pre-Aryan religion in Bengal: Chandraketurgarh'
Enamul Haque (International Centre for Study of Bengal Art [ICSBA], Dhaka)
- S3 'Sociological approaches to religious history in Bengal'
K.A.M. Saaduddin (Sociology [Soc], DU)
- S4 'Religious traditions in Bengal up through the Sena period'
Paresh Chandra Mandal (Sanskrit [Sk], DU)
- S4 'Issues affecting the Buddhist tradition in Bengal'
Niru Kumar Chakma (Philosophy [Phil], DU)
- S5 'Religious history of Bengal: the advent of Islam'
Md. Abu Sayem (WRC, DU)
- S5 'The Islamic tradition in Bengal: its characteristics as reflected in art and architecture'
Najma Khan Majlis (IHC, DU)
- S6 'Christianity in Bengal: origins and developments'

- Md. Shaikh Farid (WRC, DU)
- S6 'History of Christianity in Bengal: evangelization and mission in Bangladesh'
Tapan Rozario (WRC, DU)
- S6 'Religious aspects of Adibashi life in Bangladesh'
Eva Sadia Saad (WRC, DU)
- S7 'Chaitanya Vaishnava *bhakti* as integrating disparate socio-cultural interests in Sultanate Bengal'
J.T. O'Connell (UT)
- S7 'Bengali devotional music and song: *padaboli-kirtan*'
Karunamaya Goswami (Vice-Chancellor of Cambrian College, Dhaka)
- S8 'Further reflections on the origins of the Muslims in Bengal'
Abdul Momin Chowdhury (Hist, DU)
- S8 'Anthropological perspectives on the *mazar* cult at Mirpur'
H.K.S. Arefeen (Anthropology [Anth], DU)
- S8 'Ecological perspectives on the Faraizi Movement'
Iftekhar Iqbal (Hist, DU)
- S9 & S10 'History of religion in Bengal: Significant Scholarship, Current Situation, Future Prospects'
Roundtable discussions (two sessions) of priorities, chaired by K.A.M. Saaduddin (Soc, DU)
- S11 'Buddhir mukti andolan o Dhaka Muslim Sahitya Sabha' (Freedom of intellect movement and the Dhaka Muslim Sahitya Sabha) [in Bangla]
Abul Kasem Fazlul Haque (Bang, DU)

Seminar on Academic Research on Religion in Bengal – 2008

- S1 'Report on recent research on religion in Bengal'
J.T. O'Connell (UT)
- S2 'What do we mean by "religion" as a subject for academic research?'
Roundtable discussion on paper by J.T. O'Connell (UT)
- S3 'Researching on the religious implications of migrant Bengali women's experience'
Thérèse Blanchet (Director of Drishti, Dhaka)
- S4 'Views of religion by some late 19th-century Bengali Muslim Writers'
Anisuzzaman (Bang, DU)
- S4 'Kayekti sampratik Bangladeshi Musulman tariqa samparke samalocana' (Critique of some contemporary Bangladeshi Muslim organizations) [in Bangla]
Abdullah al Mahmud (WRC, DU)
- S5 'Bahais in Bangladesh: a brief report'
Md. Jahangir Alam (WRC, DU)
- S5 'Sociological approach to research on religion: Bangladesh perspectives'
K.A.M. Saaduddin (Soc, DU);
Responses by Kazi Nurul Islam (WRC, DU) and J.T. O'Connell (UT)

Consultation on Prospects for Dialogue and Religious Studies in South Asian Universities — 14, 15, 16 March, 2010

Day 1 – 14 March, 2010

Morning inaugural session: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. – Presiding: Kazi Nurul Islam (WRC,DU)

Convener: Eva Sadia Saad (WRC, DU)
Chief Guest: Vice-Chancellor A.A.M.S. Arefeen Siddique (DU)
Special Guest: Pro-Vice-Chancellor Harun-or-Rashid (DU)
Keynote speaker: Joseph T. O'Connell (UT)

Afternoon working session: 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – Presiding: Syed Anwar Husain (Hist, DU)

1. The meaning of 'religion' in South Asian contexts – Consulting: Asha Mukherjee (Visva-Bharati [V-Bh], India), Bijoy Mukherjee (V-Bh, India), K.A.M. Saaduddin (Soc, DU)
2. 'Dialogue' in relation to 'religious study' : How to teach about another's religion – Consulting: Kazi Nurul Islam (WRC, DU), Gisela Webb (Seton Hall University [SHU], USA), Fr. Emmanuel Rozario (WRC, DU), Shaikh Farid (WRC, DU)

Day 2 – 15 March, 2010

Morning working session: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Presiding: Asha Mukherjee (V-Bh, India)

1. Addressing women's issues in the study of religion – Consulting: Vijaya Ramaswamy (Jawaharlal Nehru University [JNU], India), Eva Sadia Saad (WRC, DU), Thérèse Blanchet (Drishti)
2. Understanding religious mentalities through literature and language - Consulting: Monsur Musa (Institute of Modern Languages, DU) , Paresh Chandra Mandal (Sk, DU)

Afternoon working session: 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – Presiding: Gisela Webb (SHU)

1. Progress reports on recent / current research on religion – Reporting: Susmita Chatterjee (JNU), Md. Abu Sayem (WRC, DU)
2. Studying religious sentiments expressed through the arts – Consulting: Michael Webb (Drexel University, USA), Pierre-Alain Baud (Music researcher, France), Karunamaya Goswamy (Cambrian College, Dhaka)

Evening video program of Sufi music and rituals: 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. – Presenting: Pierre-Alain Baud

Day 3, 16 March 2010

Morning working session: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Presiding: Aminul Islam (Phil, DU)

1. Students' session: their objectives, concerns and suggestions – Consulting: Students of WRC, DU
2. Survey of existing university programs in religious studies in South Asia and Indonesia; practical proposals for developing religious studies in South Asian universities - Consulting: scholars with experience in their respective universities: Eva Sadia Saad (DU), Nurul Husain Choudhury (University of Rajshahi [RU]), Md. Aminul Islam (Islamic University, Kushtia), Asha Mukherjee (V-Bh, India), Vijaya Ramaswamy & Susmita Chatterjee (JNU, India), Gisela Webb (SHU & Gaja Mada University, Jogjakarta, Indonesia), Vellakudy Alagaratnam (Eastern University of Sri Lanka)

Afternoon working session: 4:00 – 6:30 p.m. – Presiding: K.A.M. Saaduddin (Soc, DU)

1. Social scientific methods and resources for religious studies in South Asia – Consulting: A. Aminul Islam (Soc, DU), Bijoy Mukherjee (V-Bh, India), Razia Akter Banu (Political Science, DU), H.K.S. Arefeen (Anth, DU), Rehan Masoom (Soc, DU)
2. Historical methods and resources for religious studies in South Asia – Consulting: A. Momin Choudhury (Hist, DU), Enamul Haque (ICSBA), Nurul Husain Choudhury (RU), J.T. O'Connell (UT)
3. Formal conclusion and expressions of thanks – Kazi Nurul Islam (WRC, DU)

Evening program of Bengali song: 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.