

# Call for Papers

## ***Climate and Apocalypse***

Centre for the Critical Study of Apocalyptic and Millenarian Movements (CenSAMM)

**June 29 - 30, 2017. Inside the Big Top at the Panacea Charitable Trust gardens, Bedford,  
United Kingdom**

CenSAMM Symposia Series 2017 / [www.censamm.org](http://www.censamm.org)

Abstracts are due by February 28, 2017.

Confirmed Keynote Speakers:

David Livingstone, Queens University Belfast

Michael Ruse, Florida State University

We invite papers from those working across disciplines to contribute to a two-day symposium on the broad subject of *Climate and Apocalypse*.

Climate change is arguably the most serious threat to humanity that we face—a real phenomenon which could change our planet forever and visit upon us weather changes and events of biblical proportions. So why do we largely ignore it by living in a numbed state of perpetual cognitive dissidence?

As many despair in the absence of any real leadership or political will to instigate required changes what can be done? It is little wonder that psychological effects such as eco anxiety and climate depression are becoming more commonplace.

This symposium seeks to explore how creative and often misunderstood apocalyptic philosophy can make sense of, and is present in, our contemporary reality; and how it can interpret how we got here and what can be done.

We welcome papers in any disciplinary field including, but not limited to Religious Studies, the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences that contribute to understanding and promote discussion and debate on this topic. Approaches could include interdisciplinary scholarship, cross-cultural and inter-religious engagement in literature and theology, history, exegesis, anthropology, social sciences, cultural studies, political theory or theology and so on.

Abstracts of no more than 300 words should be emailed to [simonrobinson@panaceatrust.org](mailto:simonrobinson@panaceatrust.org) no later than February 28, 2017. In the body of your email, please include your name, institution if applicable, contact information, and the title of your abstract.

Accepted abstracts will appear in the conference programme. It is the lead author's responsibility to ensure their abstract is accurate and ready for publication at the time of submission.

Papers should be no longer than 20 minutes in length in order to accommodate questions.

Presentations and subsequent discussions will be livestreamed via the internet and will be digitally archived and made available for future reference.

We encourage the use of accessible language and approaches to communicate concepts and ideas.

Applications for accommodation and travel cost reimbursements may be considered.

Find our 2017 calls for papers at [www.censamm.org](http://www.censamm.org)

### About CenSAMM

CenSAMM is a new initiative of the Panacea Charitable Trust in Bedford, UK and is led by Panacea trustees, **Justin Meggitt** (University Senior Lecturer in the Critical Study of Religion, University of Cambridge and Visiting Researcher at the Department of Ethnology, History of Religions and Gender studies, Stockholm University), and **Christopher Rowland** (who retired in 2014 as Dean Ireland's Professor of the Exegesis of Holy Scripture at the University of Oxford, after teaching at the Universities of Newcastle upon Tyne and Cambridge).

Its vision is to ensure that anyone will have access to quality resources to enable education, and understanding about apocalyptic and millenarian movements. It will realise this vision by *developing and maintaining a world centre of excellence in the critical study of apocalyptic and millenarian movements and aid the public understanding of the legacies and future possibilities of these crucial, creative and often misunderstood forms of human culture.*

### Keynote speakers

**David Livingstone** is Professor of Geography and Intellectual History at the Queen's University of Belfast where he works on the history of geographical knowledge and the historical geographies of science and religion. He is currently completing an intellectual history of climatic reductionism, funded by a Leverhulme Trust Major Research Fellowship, under the title 'The Empire of Climate'.

He is the author of a number of books including *Nathaniel Southgate Shaler and the Culture of American Science* (1987), *Darwin's Forgotten Defenders* (1987), *The Geographical Tradition* (1992), *Putting Science in its Place* (2003), *Adam's Ancestors: Race, Religion and the Politics of Human Origins* (2008) and *Dealing with Darwin: Place, Politics and Rhetoric in Religious Engagements with Evolution* (2014).

He was awarded the Centenary Medal of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society in 1998, the Royal Irish Academy Gold Medal in 2008, and the Founder's Medal of the Royal

Geographical Society in 2011. He has been a Member of the Royal Irish Academy since 1998, and in 2002 was elected to the Academy of the Social Sciences and to the Academia Europaea. In 2002 he was appointed OBE. He has delivered a wide range of named lectures including the Gifford Lectures at the University of Aberdeen in 2014 and the Dupleian Lecture at Harvard University in 2015. In 2013 the University of Aberdeen conferred on him an Honorary D.Litt.

**Michael Ruse** is the Lucyle T. Werkmeister Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Program in the History and Philosophy of Science at Florida State University. He is the author or editor of over fifty books. Trained as a philosopher, he was one of the pioneers of contemporary philosophy of biology and the founding editor of the journal *Biology and Philosophy*, which he ran from 1985 to 2000. From 1992 to 2005 he edited the Cambridge Series in the Philosophy of Biology, and from 2005 to 2014 another series on the philosophy of biology with Cambridge University Press, aimed more at the student reader. He has also co-edited the Cambridge Companion to the Philosophy of Biology, and has the Cambridge Handbook of Evolutionary Ethics forthcoming. He has co-edited two volumes with Oxford University Press on the philosophy of biology. Retooled as a historian of science, Ruse has written extensively on the history of evolutionary theory, with special emphasis on the work and influence of Charles Darwin. He has co-edited the Cambridge Companion to the Origin of Species and recently edited *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Charles Darwin and Evolutionary Thought*, which won a PROSE award. He has also co-edited a volume on evolutionary theory with Harvard University Press, a volume on paleobiology with the University of Chicago Press and another on twentieth-century evolutionary biology with the American Philosophical Society. Ruse has broader interests, having written extensively on the interface between science and religion and having appeared as an expert witness in a case in Arkansas against the teaching of biblical literalism (Creationism) in state-supported science classes. He has co-edited the Oxford Handbook of Atheism. He has written on human evolution looking at the importance not only of biology for understanding but also the social sciences including the ideas of such influential figures as Emile Durkheim and Sigmund Freud. He is also deeply interested in the connections between science and philosophy on the one hand and literature and creative thinking generally on the other hand, having for many years offered undergraduate courses on the significance of film for understanding both science and philosophy, and also increasingly has been writing on such topics. He is at the moment writing a book on the history of evolutionary theory as seen through creative writing, particularly as seen through fiction and poetry.