

Registration is now open for the next Inform Seminar, **Health and Healing in Minority Religions**, in conjunction with the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, King's College, London.

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2018, 10am-4.30pm** (registration at 9.30am). **Bush House Lecture Theatre 1**, King's College, London, 30 Aldwych, London, WC2B 4BG.

Please visit <http://inform.ac/seminar-payment> to book tickets via Paypal or credit/debit card.

Registration costs:

Standard: £38

Unwaged / university student: £18

A Level student: £10

After 4<sup>th</sup> November, ticket prices will increase by £10, across all three categories and refunds will not be offered.

The speakers are:

**Professor Eileen Barker** - FAcSS, FBA, OBE, Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the London School of Economics, has spent the past 4 decades studying minority religions and social reactions to them. In 1988 she founded Inform in order to help enquirers with information that is as reliable, balanced, contextualised and up-to-date as possible. She has over 350 scholarly publications and is series editor of the Routledge/Inform series of edited volumes on various issues related to minority religions.

**Tony Brace** – a third-generation Jehovah's Witness based at the Witnesses' British headquarters. He has a special interest in the frequently misunderstood refusal of blood

transfusions by members of the faith. He works with human rights matters relating to freedom of religion and belief and holds an LLM in medical law.

**Professor Carole M. Cusack** - Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Sydney. She works on new religions, contemporary religious trends, and esotericism. Her books include *Invented Religions: Imagination, Fiction and Faith* (Ashgate, 2010) and (with Katharine Buljan) *Anime, Religion and Spirituality: Profane and Sacred Worlds in Contemporary Japan* (Equinox 2015).

**Professor Simon Dein** - a consultant psychiatrist in Essex UK specializing in rehabilitation and liaison psychiatry. He holds a PhD in social anthropology from University College London. He is an honorary clinical professor at Durham University where he runs an MSc in Spirituality, Theology and Health and Honorary Professor QMUL . He has written widely on religion and health among Hasidic Jews, Evangelical Christians and Sunni Muslims in the UK. He is founding editor of the journal *Mental Health, Religion and Culture*. He is Chair of the spirituality section of the World Association of Cultural Psychiatry. He is a member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists Spirituality and Psychiatry SIG Executive Committee.

**Professor Chris French** - Head of the Anomalistic Psychology Research Unit in the Psychology Department at Goldsmiths, University of London. He is a Fellow of the British Psychological Society and of the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry and a Patron of the British Humanist Association. He has published over 150 articles and chapters covering a wide range of topics. His main current area of research is the psychology of paranormal beliefs and anomalous experiences. He frequently appears on radio and television casting a sceptical eye over paranormal claims. His most recent book is *Anomalistic Psychology: Exploring Paranormal Belief and Experience*.

**Sarah Harvey** - Senior Research Officer at Inform, where she manages the Inform projects, responds to enquiries and maintains the database of movements. She has a particular interest in Pagan religions, new Christian movements, millennial movements and themes of health and education. She has recently submitted her PhD thesis to the University of Kent, on the topic of natural childbirth. In this she focused on the practices in which women engage during pregnancy in order to prepare for a particular type of birth – including many ‘complementary and alternative medicine’ practices.

**Robin Harragin Hussey** - District Manager of Christian Science Committee on Publication for UK and Ireland. She has an M.Th. from Kings College, London and is a

Fellow of The Mary Baker Eddy Library in Boston, Mass. She is an independent scholar. Her main research work is in church history and in particular the history of Christian Science in the UK. Previously she was a religious studies teacher and her last position was Head of Religion and Philosophy at Claremont Fan Court School and a philosophy specialist teacher with The Philosophy Foundation. Robin has also run a Christian Science Nursing Home in Bath, UK and is on the Board of The Aid Fund For Christian Scientists in Need of Nursing Care. She co-authored an article in *Visioning New and Minority Religions: Projecting the Future* (Routledge/Inform series June 2016) edited by Eugene V. Gallagher.

**Dr Suzanne Newcombe** - Research Fellow at Inform and a Lecturer in Religious Studies at the Open University. She has been researching yoga and ayurveda for over ten years. She is currently working on an ERC Horizon 2020 project entitled AYURYOG: 'Medicine, Immortality and Moksha: Entangled Histories of Yoga, Ayurveda and Alchemy in South Asia' where she is responsible for exploring the entanglements of these three traditions from the colonial period to the present. She has a forthcoming monograph with Equinox press entitled *Yoga in Britain: Stretching Spirituality and Educating Yogis* and has published in *Asian Medicine*, *History of Science in South Asia*, and *Religion Compass* as well as contributing to many edited volumes.