

William Temple Foundation – Spring 2010 Newsletter



Welcome to our Spring Newsletter 2010. Please find information about ongoing news regarding our personal research and publications.

Secondment pays way for closer links between the Foundation and the University of Chester

Chris Baker, Director of Research at the Foundation has joined the department of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Chester as a Senior Lecturer in Public and Urban Theology on a .2 secondment from the 1st January 2010. His main role is to develop and expand the highly innovative and successful Professional Doctorate in Practical Theology programme at Chester, in conjunction with Professor Elaine Graham and Dr Wayne Morris. It is hoped that this secondment will lead to further joint venture projects, including a jointly sponsored research centre which would generate Masters level teaching and doctoral research focusing on the growing interests in faiths and public policy.



WTF team at heart of new publication for Routledge

After much work and editing we are pleased to announce that the volume of essays generated by the recent ESRC/AHRC *Religion in Society* network will be published later this year. Entitled *Political Economy, Religion and Wellbeing – The Practices of Happiness*, the volume is co-edited by John Atherton, Ian Steedman (both WTF Senior Research Fellows) and Elaine Graham and features articles by Chris Baker, John Reader, Malcolm Brown, Jonathan Miles-Watson, as well as many others. The book brings together leading voices from the field of economics, theology and ethics to consider the contribution of religion to social capital and explores the feasibility of long term happiness in the context of religion, through critical dialogue with mainstream economics and other social sciences. Much of the careful editing work and preparation of the manuscript involved our administrator, Debbie Concagh, to whom a special vote of thanks is also due. For further details, please follow this link:
<http://www.routledge.com/books/Political-Economy-Religion-and-Wellbeing-isbn9780415550970>

Leverhulme research project into religious and spiritual capital: the final furlong

The beginning of 2010 sees the final three months of the Leverhulme project coming to fruition. We are very grateful to the fine work of Greg Smith who over the last six months of 2009 steered the quantitative phase of the research to its proper conclusion. This involved the piloting and production of our survey of religious and spiritual capital (in both online and paper versions) and analysis and writing up of the findings. In the end, we had a database of nearly 800 survey responses which represents a valuable research resource which can be used not only for the Leverhulme project but for future research as well.

Greg has produced both short and long versions of his analysis which will be fed into the final report for Leverhulme, as well as future conferences. One such conference will be a joint paper given by Chris and Greg at the British Sociological Association Sociology of Religion Study Group: 'The Changing Face of Christianity in the 21st Century' - 6th April-8th April 2010, University of Edinburgh. The title of the paper is 'Spiritual and Religious Capital as applied fields within Social Capital – measuring faith based motivation and faith based participation of Christians from different traditions in UK civil society'.

We are also very pleased to welcome back Dr Rana Jawad on secondment from the University of Kent who will help us with the final analysis of the entire project and the writing up of the final report for Leverhulme.

Religious Futures website – the resource that just keeps growing!

The Religious Futures website continues to grow with articles and responses to the developing shake up of the banking system and global economics. New articles include: a review of Pope Benedict's latest encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* by Patrick Riordan, reviews of Akerlof and Schiller's *Animal Spirits – how human psychology drives the Economy and why it matters for global capitalism* and Hardt and Negri's most recent volume, *Commonwealth* by John Reader, and an article mapping out various options for reforming the UK banking system by Nicholas Baldwin, Dean of Wroxton College.

Breaking news – contract awarded for new *Christianity and Social Order*

Chris Baker, John Atherton and John Reader have just been awarded a contract to write an updated version of Temple's seminal work, *Christianity and Social Order*. Entitled *Christianity and the new Social Order*, the book aims to be a wide ranging but accessible attempt to update Temple's arguments for the need for a Christian ethical and theological contribution to public life. Next year will be the 70th anniversary of the writing of *Christianity and Social Order* (it was published in 1942) and so the book will reflect both the continuities but also radical new challenges and opportunities facing Christianity and faith generally in the current public square.

The book will develop the thesis that the public square is now postsecular, and that the attempts to engage Christianity in meaningful partnership and dialogue with secularism require a wider set of conversations and propositions than those deployed by Temple. For example, theology now needs to engage with current philosophy, political theory, sociology, psychology, health and wellbeing, human geography and urban theory, other faith traditions and none, as well as economics.

The chapters of the book will cover such themes as: religion and the public square (the whys and hows of religious engagement); wellbeing and happiness in the public square; religions and the new economics; faith and the new social and welfare policy; towards a new political manifesto – new middle axioms for a postsecular age. We are particularly pleased to have secured this contract with SPCK because they published the reprint of Temple's volume in 1976, with its foreword by Ted Heath and its introduction by Ronald Preston. The book will be published in early 2011.

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