

The Kirby Laing Institute for Christian Ethics

Newsletter

Winter 2009

**'Responding to
Secularism'**

**Co-sponsored
conference**

24 April 2009
Tyndale House

**Justice: Rights
and Wrongs**

**Oxford
Colloquium**

21-22 May
2009

Talking God

**Director's new
publication**

Published by
Theos

**2009
Appeal**

Join us taking
KLICE to the next
stage

We hope you enjoy this issue of the KLICE Newsletter. Please feel free to forward it to others who may wish to see it. To unsubscribe, send an email to that effect to Administrator@tyndale.cam.ac.uk.

1. 'Responding to Secularism'. A Conference in Cambridge, 24 April 2009

In cooperation with the Gospel and Our Culture Network (<http://www.gospel-culture.org.uk>), KLICE is organising a day conference for lay people, clergy, students and others examining the challenges of a secularised public culture to contemporary Christian witness. We have an exciting line-up of speakers:

- Dr Dominic Erdozain (King's College, London) on the making of a secular outlook in modern Britain
- Prof John Stackhouse (Regent College, Vancouver) on public engagement in a secularised culture
- Rev Dr Andrew Kirk (formerly University of Birmingham) on Charles Taylor's *A Secular Age*
- Dr Elaine Storkey (Tearfund) on engaging with the secularist worldview

[Click here for a brochure](#) or contact Tania Raiola on 01223 566606 or Administrator@tyndale.cam.ac.uk. There are only 50 places available so book early!

2. Justice: Rights and Wrongs. A Colloquium in Oxford 21-22 May 2009

KLICE is co-sponsoring a colloquium with the new McDonald Centre for Ethics, Theology and Public Life, based in Oxford on a new book by leading Christian philosopher Professor Nicholas Wolterstorff (Yale University). *Justice: Rights and Wrongs* (Princeton 2008), presents a distinctively Christian theory of justice and rights and has been hailed by the social philosopher Richard Bernstein (New School of Social Research) as 'the most impressive book on justice since Rawls's *A Theory of Justice*'. The event takes place at Christ Church, Oxford, and is co-chaired by Prof Nigel Biggar (Director, McDonald Centre) and Dr Jonathan Chaplin (Director, KLICE). Confirmed speakers include:

- Prof Roger Crisp (Oxford)
- Prof Timothy Endicott (Oxford)
- Prof Onora O'Neill (British Academy)
- Dr John Perry (McDonald Centre)
- Prof Julian Rivers (Bristol; former KLICE Advisory Council Chair)
- Dr Bernd Wannewetsch (McDonald Centre)

KLICE grantee Joshua Hordern (Edinburgh) will write a *precis* of the book for conference registrants. More details will be available on the KLICE website soon. For now, inquiries should be addressed to Jonathan Chaplin on 01223 566625 or klice@tyndale.cam.ac.uk. Places are limited.

3. Talking God: The Legitimacy of Religious Public Reasoning

This is the title of the Director's latest publication on faith and public life. It argues that secularist attempts to banish religious speech from the public realm are profoundly illiberal, and that democratic debate should remain open to many faith-based voices. Here are some endorsements:

Rev Joel Edwards, International Director, Micah Challenge and former General Secretary of Evangelical Alliance: 'The ambivalence to religion in the public square is now pervasive. But it says as much about society's nervousness about a moral God as it does about naive religion. *Talking God* is an attempt to rescue religion from naivety and neutralise the vendetta against the idea of God in public spaces'.

Mr John Battle, MP: 'Dr Chaplin's contribution is right at the centre of a crucial present day debate - ecclesial and political. He clears out the clutter and clarifies the arguments - a must read for anyone who is waking up to how serious this 21st century debate is'.

David (Lord) Alton: 'In grappling with central domestic and international issues no one should underestimate the importance of understanding how religious beliefs and attitudes inform public policy. Jonathan Chaplin has a clear understanding of how the two connect and his new report is essential reading for anyone eager to understand how, in a democratic society, faith and politics can enrich one another'.

Mr Gary Streeter, MP: '*Talking God* represents an important and helpful resource for those of us trying to work out what it means to integrate our faith with political life'.

R.C. Archbishop Peter Smith: 'The contribution of faith communities to public policy debates is proving increasingly controversial in a society which is both pervasively secularised and religiously plural. This report provides a clear and compelling account of how that contribution can be both theologically authentic and politically constructive'.

Talking God is published by the public theology think-tank *Theos* and can be ordered from the KLICE Administrator at £10 (£5 students/KLICE Associates) inc. p&p, or from the *Theos* website, where it can also be downloaded for free: <http://www.theosthinktank.org> ('Reports').

4. Ethics in Brief goes online!

As of December 2008, all issues of *Ethics in Brief* are now available on our website at no cost, as are most issues of the former *Whitefield Briefings* at <http://www.tyndale.cam.ac.uk/klice/whitfield.html>. The latest two issues address key concerns at the heart of current public debate:

- Prof John Bryant (Exeter University), a leading Christian biologist, writes with expertise and measured biblical wisdom on 'Embryos, Genes and Cybrids – Aspects of the 2008 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act'.
- Cal Bailey, Marketing and Sustainability Director of NG Bailey, a £500m UK construction business, presents a challenging and thought-provoking piece, 'Building God's Empire or Ours? The Purpose of Work in Business'.

Details of how to subscribe to the print version of *Ethics in Brief* (£15 per year for six issues) are available at <http://www.tyndale.cam.ac.uk/klice/eib.html> or from the Administrator (see below).

5. KLICE doctoral grantees make impact

The KLICE doctoral support programme provides crucial practical, intellectual and spiritual support for young scholars set to make a real impact in church and society in various areas of ethics. Seven excellent doctoral (and postdoctoral) students are currently receiving financial support towards their programmes and many more are benefiting from the intellectual stimulation and fellowship offered by our termly Research Seminars. Doctoral students supported by KLICE are now finding significant opportunities for service in the church, the academy and beyond:

Guido de Graaff served this year for the third and final time as Conference Secretary for the Society for the Study of Christian Ethics (SSCE), and remains a member of the committee. He has recently written three book reviews, including one for *Studies in Christian Ethics* (the SSCE journal), published an entry for the new edition of the *New Dictionary of Theology* (IVP), and translated four essays by a leading German theologian, Robert Spaemann, together with KLICE Seminar participant James Mumford. He has been invited by Professor Hans Ulrich to attend a conference for Christian and Jewish theologians on the theme of 'Judgment' in Frankfurt, April 2009. Prof Ulrich was a speaker at the KLICE Book Colloquium in September 2008. Guido plans to submit his thesis on political theology at Oxford University in summer.

Sean Doherty, a recent grantee currently finalising a PhD in the methodology of economic ethics at Oxford University, now serves as curate at St. Gabriel's, Cricklewood, a lively multicultural church in North West London. He has been appointed associate lecturer at St. Paul's Theological Centre (<http://sptc.htb.org.uk/staff>), teaching Christian ethics to ordinands. He has published a Grove Booklet on *Foundations for Medical Ethics* (2007), and is a member of the Grove Ethics Group.

Andy Draycott, a recent grantee, was appointed Teaching Fellow in Practical Theology at Aberdeen University in September 2008, teaching courses in ethics, doctrine and mission at undergraduate and master's levels. He defends his thesis in March 2009, written under the supervision of KLICE Advisory Council member Dr. Brian Brock. Andy recently accepted a full-time position as Assistant Professor of Biblical and Systematic Theology at Talbot School of Theology, Biola University commencing September 2009. We congratulate him on his appointment.

Katherine Hogg has transferred to Leeds University and is working on reconciliation and conflict resolution under the supervision of Alistair McFadyen. She works part-time for Christian Aid as Volunteer Development Officer for South and West Yorkshire. In January she presented a paper on the theology of peacebuilding at the KLICE Research Seminar and participating in a conference on 'Interdisciplinarity in Theology and Religion: How to tie knots that will hold' at Durham University.

Joshua Hordern is in his third year of a PhD in political theology working under Prof Oliver O'Donovan at Edinburgh University, where he is also tutoring and lecturing in Christian ethics. He is organising the 2009 Postgraduate Forum of the Society for the Study of Christian Ethics. He has been appointed assistant to the Executive Director of 'Trinity Forum Europe', which stages influential public events relating ethics and faith to public issues. One such event was an Edinburgh Festival debate between the well-known atheist writer Christopher Hitchens and Oxford Christian mathematician Professor John Lennox, on 'Does the New Europe Need the New Atheism?' The event was introduced by the Festival Director, chaired by broadcaster James Naughtie, and attended by over 1000 people.

Hilary Marlow is postdoctoral researcher on the joint KLICE/Faraday Institute environmental ethics project, 'Hope for Creation' (<http://www.st-edmunds.cam.ac.uk/faraday/Research.php>), and a KLICE grantee. Her doctoral thesis has been accepted for publication by Oxford University Press: *Let the Earth Sing: Reading Amos, Hosea and First Isaiah in the Light of Contemporary Environmental Ethics* (forthcoming 2009). Since her appointment to the project she has also completed a Grove Booklet on *The Earth is the Lord's: A Biblical Response to Environmental Issues*, and three book chapters on OT environmental ethics.

Jonathan Moo, also a postdoctoral researcher on 'Hope for Creation' and KLICE grantee, has been appointed Affiliated Lecture in New Testament at the Cambridge University Divinity Faculty. He has published articles on NT environmental theology in two leading journals of NT studies, and presented papers on eschatology and creation care at a Faraday Institute Writer's Workshop on 'The Root Causes of Unsustainability,' at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, and at Oak Hill College.

Jonathan Rowe successfully defended his thesis, 'Michal, Contradicting Values: Understanding the Moral Dilemma Faced by Saul's Daughter', in the University of St Andrews in December, and is now preparing it for publication. He is the first KLICE grantee to complete a thesis and we congratulate him on his success. Since October he has been Executive Director of the Seminario Evangélico Unido de Teología, El Escorial, Spain. The April edition of *Missiology* will include his article 'Dancing With Elephants: Accountability in Cross-Cultural Christian Partnerships'.

The latest **Research Seminar** for KLICE grantees and other invited doctoral students took place on 23 January 2009 on the theme of conflict-resolution, reconciliation and justice, and was attended by 17. Three KLICE students – Katherine Hogg, Bethan Willis and Roger Abbot - presented papers, and the day opened with a lecture by **Peter Dixon**, Chief Executive of 'Concordis International', a Cambridge-based organisation working in the area of peace-building and conflict-resolution (<http://www.concordis-international.org>). Peter Dixon recently presented the 'London Lectures in Contemporary Christianity'.

6. Lunchtime Seminars on economic ethics

The Michaelmas term KLICE Lunchtime Seminars in Ethics discussed an important and highly topical new book by Rev Dr Andrew Hartropp, *What is Economic Justice: Biblical and Secular Perspectives Contrasted* (Paternoster 2007). Dr. Hartropp is an Anglican minister, Research Tutor at the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies, and visiting lecturer in ethics at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. He recently joined the Advisory Council of KLICE.

7. Recommended conference on 'Entrepreneurship'

Faith in Business and *Transforming Business* are holding a conference on the pertinent theme of 'Entrepreneurship' at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, 27-29 March 2009. The conference is aimed at 'anyone interested in entrepreneurship'. *Faith in Business*, directed by Dr Richard Higginson, is based at Ridley Hall, a near-neighbour of KLICE. The director of the Cambridge University project *Transforming Business*, Dr Peter Heslam, maintains an office at Tyndale House. For further details and a conference brochure

contact Janine Stewart, Faith in Business Administrator, Ridley Hall (01223 741082), or visit <http://www.transformingbusiness.net/docs/3entrepreneurship.pdf>.

8. Tyndale Fellowship Ethics & Social Theology Study Group

The 2009 meeting of the Ethics & Social Theology Study Group (EST) of the Tyndale Fellowship takes place from 6-9 July at Tyndale House. 2009 is a 'Triennial' when all Groups meet simultaneously. This year the EST Group, of which the KLICE Director is secretary, joins forces with the New Testament Group which has selected Ethics as its theme. For information on Tyndale Fellowship Study Groups, visit the website: www.tyndale.cam.ac.uk ('Events and Institutes'). Some of the papers delivered at the 2008 and 2007 EST Group meetings are available on the '[Ethics & Social Theology](#)' page of the website.

9. Director's Activities

- Three lectures on Christianity and political thought for *Christian Heritage's* Saturday School of Theology, September/October 2008, Cambridge.
- A paper at Edinburgh University on 'The Possibility of Religious Public Reasoning', October 2008.
- The 'Kuyper Lecture' on behalf of the Center for Public Justice at the University of Villanova, Philadelphia, October 2008. The lecture is downloadable at no cost from: <http://www.cpjustice.org/files/KuyperLecture2008.pdf>.
- Teaching a module on Christian social thought for an international master's degree in Christian Studies at the Free University of Amsterdam, November.
- Lectures on political theology at Oak Hill College (London) and Westcott House (Cambridge).
- Publication of article on rights and pluralism in B R Frohnen and K L Grasso, eds., *Rethinking Rights: Historical, Political, and Philosophical Perspectives* (University of Missouri Press, 2009).

10. KLICE 2009 Appeal!

"The initiative which produced the Kirby Laing Institute for Christian Ethics was certainly the most encouraging development for scholars in the field in Britain since the foundation of the Society for the Study of Christian Ethics in the early eighties. An independent Institute that promotes teaching and research in the area throughout the country will be of very great importance to those working in the field." - Professor Oliver O'Donovan, Professor of Christian Ethics and Pastoral Theology, University of Edinburgh.

We hope you share our excitement at all the things currently happening and being achieved. If you do, why not add KLICE to your list of supported causes? After two and a half years of operation, and with limited staffing, KLICE has established itself as a lively centre of research, publication and debate in the field of Christian ethics. It is beginning to register its voice within the Christian community and is now poised to do so in the wider public realm.

If you appreciate the work of KLICE and wish to sustain and advance our goal of presenting a credible Christian ethical voice in church and public life, **please join in supporting us** either through a single donation, or by becoming a 'KLICE Associate'. Associates pay a minimum of £60 per year and receive a subscription to the paper version of *Ethics in Brief*, invitations to public events, discounted conference fees, discounts on KLICE publications, access to the Tyndale House Library, and the Newsletter. For more information, visit the '[Support](#)' page. KLICE's overheads, project, and conference costs depend crucially on the support of individuals like yourselves, and like many charities this year we face a real challenge to meet our financial needs. We seek significant injections of funds especially for the following purposes:

- to secure our 2009-10 doctoral support programme
- to provide essential supplements to existing foundation funding for our three collaborative projects, especially in environmental ethics
- to support our forthcoming conferences and our ongoing administrative costs.

If you wish to designate your gift for a specific purpose, please do so. If you'd like further details of our plans and funding needs, the Director would be very happy to talk to you. **Please give as generously as you can!** Thank you very much indeed.

Visit the KLICE website at www.klice.co.uk or www.tyndale.cam.ac.uk/KLICE

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