

## **Curriculum Vitae**

Sean Patrick O'Callaghan  
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### *Education*

#### **The British Council, Krakow, Poland (August- September 2011)**

CELTA (Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults)

#### **The University of Liverpool, Liverpool, United Kingdom**

PhD in Systematic Theology (2008):

Thesis Title: 'The Interaction between Christology and Missiology in late nineteenth and early twentieth century British Theology, with particular reference to the Edinburgh World Missionary Conference 1910.'

#### **The University of Liverpool, Liverpool, United Kingdom**

Bachelor of Theology: First Class Honours (1999).

#### **Christchurch College, The University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent, United Kingdom**

Postgraduate Certificate in Education: Religious Studies Major, History Minor (1990).

#### **University College Cork, Cork City, Ireland**

Bachelor of Arts: History Major, Gaelic Language Minor (1985).

### *Professional Experience*

#### *University*

**Department of Religious and Theological Studies, Salve Regina University, 100 Ochre Point Avenue, Newport, Rhode Island 02840 (September 2012-Present)**

Assistant Professor teaching:

RTS 210- Christianity in Dialogue with World Religions

GST 450- The Capstone Course

RTS 383- Engaging the Hindu Experience

RTS 492- Engaging the Muslim Experience

Hum 610- Religion, Culture and Technology Doctoral Program

GST 100- The New Student Seminar

RTS 082- Walking with Spirit

RTS 495-Guided Research

Supervision: This year (2013-14) I am supervising one Undergraduate thesis and am on the Doctoral Committees for three doctoral candidates.

**Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion, University of Lancaster, Lancaster, LA1 4YL** (January 2009- June 2012)

Lecturer in:

World Religions (2011-2012). This first year module introduces students to some major world religions: Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Christianity.

New Religions and Alternative Spiritualities (2011-2012). -This module allows students to explore the rise of 'new' forms of religion and spirituality in a contemporary context.

Tradition and Transformations: Abrahamic Religions (2011-2012).-An exploration of the evolution of both Christianity and Islam. The Christianity component includes a substantial element on Peace Studies.

Religion and Popular Culture MA (2011-2012).- A Masters course exploring the ways in which religious ideas are expressed in popular culture.

Religion and Global Modernities- (2009-2011).-This core module explores historic and contemporary trends in world religions and also examines the growth of new theologies within the world faiths. It examines these trends in the context of global geo-politics and cultural trends.

New Testament Christology- (2010-2011).-This module traces the development of Christology in the Early Christian church. It examines contemporary Christologies and also looks at the relationship between Christology and political movements and philosophies.

New Spiritualities of Life (2009-2010). - This module looks at emergent theologies in a variety of world religions and at the rise of cyberspiritualities and online manifestations of religion. It examines the role and influence of the New Age and traces the evolution of the New Age and its appropriation and reinterpretation of Christian themes.

Religion and Film in the West (2010-2011).- In this module, I examine the interaction between religion and popular culture and explore the role of film itself as an example of a 'sacred text'. The mediation of spiritual themes in non-Western films is a specific area of focus.

Secularization and Sacralization MA (2009-2010).- This MA module explores the reasons for secularizing trends in religious communities around the globe and looks for evidence of sacralization.

**Department of Primary Religious Studies, University of Cumbria, Lancaster, LA1 3JD** (January 2010-June 2012).

Lecturer in:

Global Christianity- The module looks at the historical development of global Christianity and its contemporary manifestations.

New Spiritualities- This is linked with the module above and focuses on emerging new spiritualities across the world.

**Capernwray Ministry Training School, Capernwray, Lancashire, UK** (January 2006-June 2012).

Visiting Lecturer in:

Contemporary Theological Issues

Science and Religion

Also: External Assessor for this interdenominational and international Ministry Training School.

**Regents Theological College, Nantwich, Cheshire, UK** (September 1998- June 2001)

Lecturer in:

Human Growth and Development- This course explored the psychological and sociological development of the human being, with particular emphasis on spiritual components. The College's degrees were validated by the University of Manchester.

*Professional Experience in School Education System*

**Nether Kellet Community School, Bridge Road, Nether Kellet, Lancashire LA6 1HH** (2003-2011: Mixture of full-time and part-time)

Teacher in charge of Religious Education, Humanities and Information Technology.  
Member of Senior Management Team.

**St. Bernadette's Roman Catholic School, Bowerham Road, Lancashire LA1 4HT**  
(Sept 2002-July 2003).

Class Teacher

**Priory Fields School, Astor Avenue, Dover, Kent CT17 OFS** (Jan 2002-August 2002)

Class Teacher

**St Nicholas' Roman Catholic High School, Greenbank Lane, Hartford, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 1JW** (Seconded to this school for one Semester, Sept 2001-Dec 2001).  
Teaching concurrently at St Wilfrid's).

Teacher of Religious Education and Philosophy at GCSE and A-Level.

**St. Wilfrid's Roman Catholic School, Greenbank Lane, Hartford, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 1JW** (Sept 1997- Dec 2001).

Class Teacher with particular responsibility for Information Technology.

**Newington Community School, Princess Margaret Avenue, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6HX** (Sept 1990-July 1997).

Class Teacher, Head of Religious Education, Head of Humanities, Member of Senior Management Team.

### *Other work experience*

**Lexterten Furniture, Broadstairs, Kent** (August 1988-August 1989)

Customer service representative.

Left to do teacher training at Canterbury Christ Church College.

**British Home Stores, Margate, Kent** (July 1987- July 1988).

Working in stock taking and restaurant.

**Teen-challenge and other youth work, Cork, Ireland** (September 1985-June 1987).  
I worked in a mostly voluntary capacity after University in Ireland (graduated in 1985) in areas of youth work in the city of Cork.

### *Publications*

**Book:** *The Compact Guide to World Religions*, Lion Hudson, Oxford, 2010. This is a guide to twelve of the major world faiths. It has been translated from English into Spanish, Slovenian, Slovakian and Czech.

**Chapter-** 'The Theosophical Christology of Alice Bailey'. Published in a volume on Theosophy, *Handbook of the Theosophical Current*, edited by Olav Hammer and published by Brill in the Netherlands 2012. This chapter examines Christian influences on Bailey's thought and places her Christology within the context of wider mainstream theological debates in Indian and Western scholarly Christian circles..

**Chapter-** A chapter on an area of cyberspirituality to be published in a volume on new religious movements edited by Professor Christopher Partridge in 2013/14.

**Articles-** Three substantial articles contributed to the *Encyclopedia of New Religions: New Religious Movements, Sects and Alternative Spiritualities* edited by Professor Christopher Partridge and published by Lion Hudson in 2004. The three articles dealt with 'Grail Spirituality', 'The Order of the Solar Temple' and 'Ordo Templi Orientis', a mystical order founded in Europe in the early twentieth century.

**Articles-** Various newspaper articles on contemporary political and religious issues. From 2006-2009, I wrote a regular monthly column for the newspaper of the Dutch Reformed Church, *Reformatorsch Dagblad*.

The publishing house, Lion Hudson, has asked me to contribute some more proposals to them for future books and I have done so recently. One of these proposals is for a book on contemporary Christologies and another which is of interest to them explores the growth of hyper-real spiritualities.

### *Book Reviews*

**Book-** *Vampires Today: The Truth About Modern Vampirism* by Joseph Laycock, for 'The Alternative Spirituality and Religion Review' Volume 1, Issue 2, 2010.

**Book-** *The Order of the Solar Temple: Order of Death*, James R Lewis Ed, for 'The Alternative Spirituality and Religion Review.' Volume 1, Issue 1, 2010.

**Book-** *An Introduction to Pentecostalism* by Allan Anderson, for 'Themelios: An International Journal for Theological and Religious Studies Students', October 2005.

**Book-** *Pentecostal Theology and the Christian Spiritual Tradition* by Simon Chan, for 'Themelios: An International Journal for Theological and Religious Studies Students', October 2003

### *Scholarly Presentations*

#### **Topic-Cyberspirituality and Violence: The Role of Cyberspace in the Hyper-real Religious Formation of the Norwegian Mass-Murderer Anders Behring Breivik**

Presented at the 'Religion and Society' Conference at Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona March 2013

#### **Topic-Sacred Pixels: Exploring Sacred Text in Digitally Integrated Culture**

I took part as part of a discussion panel/speaker virtually over a Skype link in the 'Sacred Pixels' series of lectures where I was able to speak on my research into religion, violence and cyberspace January 2013.

#### **Topic- Massacre as Performance Art: The Very Theatrical Debut of Anders Behring Breivik**

Presented to the Conference on 'Religion in the Digital Age: Media, Performance and 'Spectacular Activism' in New York University, June 2012.

### **Topic- New Religions in Cyberspace**

Presented to the Digital and Mediated Religion Network in Camden, London, UK in June 2011

### **Topic- Finding God in popular culture**

Delivered to a conference on 'Exploring the Extraordinary in Religion' in York, March 2011.

### **Topic- The Edinburgh World Missionary Conference of 1910**

Delivered at a Postgraduate Seminar at the University of Lancaster in September 2010.

### **Topic- Secularization and Sacralization- What is happening to the sacred landscape in the United Kingdom?**

A talk delivered to a group of Catholic businessmen, Lancashire, UK, May 2009.

### **Topic- What are we to believe about *The Da Vinci Code*?**

A lecture given to a women's group in Lancashire in April 2009  
The same lecture was given to a men's group in February 2009

### **Topic- Nineteenth century Christological debates and the influence of Logos Theology**

Delivered to a Postgraduate Seminar at the University of Chester, February 2008.

### **Topic- The Theology of David Smith Cairns**

Lecture delivered to a Postgraduate Seminar at the University of Chester, September 2007

### ***Public Service***

I was on the Governing body (School Board) of a large High School in Morecambe, UK for almost one year. I recently finished a four-year term at a large Church of England High School, with almost 2,000 pupils, in Lancaster, UK and a concurrent four year term at a village Primary School.

I have served on the Governing bodies of two other schools in the past. Again, for a period of four years on both. One of them was a large Roman Catholic School in Cheshire, the other a Primary School in Kent.