

# GUEST SPEAKERS

John Hick Centenary Conference  
March 2022

**UWC Red Cross Nordic**  
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# THE HICK FAMILY

The living family of John Hick, Eleanor, Mark and Prof. Peter Hick, have confirmed their presence in the John Hick Centenary Conference, as a way to pay tribute to their father and his work. Peter Hick will address the college at the opening act for the Conference.

*Peter Hick is Professor of Inclusive Education at Edge Hill University, UK. He is an internationalist and socialist and has campaigned against racism and neo-Nazi organisations. He lives in Manchester, England with his partner and four children.*



## PERRY SCHMIDT- LEUKEL

Perry Schmidt-Leukel is Professor of Religious Studies and Intercultural Theology and one of the Principal Investigators of the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics” at the University of Muenster, Germany. His research focuses on religious pluralism, inter-faith relations, Buddhist-Christian dialogue and interreligious theology. He has published more than 30 books, including *Understanding Buddhism* (2006); *Transformation by Integration. How Inter-faith Encounter Changes Christianity* (2009); *Buddhism and Religious Diversity*, 4 vols. (2013); *Religious Diversity in Chinese Thought* (2013); *God Beyond Boundaries. A Christian and Pluralistic Theology of Religions* (2017).

In 2015 he presented the renowned Gifford-Lectures at the University of Glasgow, published as *Religious Pluralism and Interreligious Theology* (2017). In 2020 he received the Frederick J. Streng Award for Excellence in Buddhist Christian Studies for his voluminous *Buddha Mind – Christ Mind. A Christian Commentary on the Bodhicaryāvatāra* (2019) and the Hoeffmann Academic Award for Intercultural Competence.





**DAVID  
CHEETHAM**

David Cheetham is Professor of Philosophical Theology at the University of Birmingham, UK. He has published widely in the field of religion and aesthetics, contemporary theology and inter-religious relations. His major publications include *John Hick* (Ashgate, 2003; Routledge, 2016); *Understanding Inter-religious Relations* (ed. with Douglas Pratt and David Thomas; Oxford University Press, 2013), *Ways of Meeting and the Theology of Religions* (Ashgate 2013; Routledge 2016); and *Creation and Religious Pluralism: A Christian Theology* (Oxford University Press, 2020).



**SHARADA  
SUGIRTHA-  
RAJAH**

Dr. Sharada Sugirtharajah is an Honorary Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Theology and Religion, University of Birmingham, UK. Her research focuses on representations of Hinduism in orientalist, missionary, colonial and postcolonial writings. She also has research interests in modern Hindu thinkers, religious pluralism, inter-religious and cross-cultural relations, diasporic Hinduism, women's issues, spirituality and happiness and wellbeing.

She is the author of *Imagining Hinduism : A Postcolonial Perspective* (Routledge). She edited *Religious Pluralism and the Modern World: An Ongoing Engagement with John Hick* ( Palgrave Macmillan 2012), a volume of essays in honour of Professor John Hick on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday. She is currently working on a volume of essays entitled *John Hick's Religious Pluralism in Global Perspective*, to commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of John Hick. She has been working on a project on the theme of Happiness and Wellbeing and organised conferences in Birmingham and India.





## HUGH RICE

*"I came up to Christ Church, Oxford, in 1961 where I studied Greek and Latin literature, Ancient History, and Philosophy. I graduated in 1965 and then did a graduate degree in Philosophy. In 1967 I went to teach for a year at the University of Connecticut, before returning to Oxford, where I became a Philosophy tutor at Christ Church and a University Lecturer. I have taught various subjects – Logic, Ethics, Epistemology, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Religion, together with works of Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Mill.*

*I have also held a number of administrative posts in the college and in the university. I have published articles in Logic, Metaphysics and Philosophy of Religion, and a book, God and Goodness. Since retiring in 2008 I have lived in France, in the Loire Valley. Here I have done a little teaching of English on a voluntary basis, mostly of adults, but also of neighbours' sons and at a nursery school."*



## TIMOTHY MUSGROVE

Tim Musgrove, PhD, was John Hick's last PhD student, with a dissertation on "Problems of Religious Language" at the Claremont Graduate University. Today, Tim works as a cognitive scientist in Silicon Valley, in California, and writes occasionally in philosophy. His published articles include "Dialectical Ontology as a More Practical and More Natural Ontology Paradigm" and (for John Hick's Festschrift) "Keeping Hick from Hell: Answering the Isolationist Objection to Hick's Universalism."





## PHILIP LAMBERT

*"Before I went (with my late wife) to be the Church of England chaplain for Crete I was a Residentiary Canon at Truro Cathedral in charge of the Education Department. I was also in charge of developing links with Cornish artists and offering them appropriate exhibition sites within the cathedral, working with our professional musicians and also personal pastoral support. I also led and chaired on behalf of the Cathedral the Cornwall response to Copenhagen 2009.*

*In my time as a priest I have done two periods of study in Greece with the Orthodox Church. The first was on secularisation and the second on, "Hesychasm".*

*My interest in Eastern Orthodox theology has been the main inspiration for my interest in the climate crisis. This has been combined with a study, whilst a busy parish priest, of the Eastern Church spiritual Mothers and Fathers."*

## SONYA WRATTEN

Sonya is a Professional Doctorate student in Practical Theology with the Cambridge Theological Federation and Anglia Ruskin University. Currently in year 3 of studies, Sonya's research focusses on the theological impact of interreligious encounter using phenomenology as her methodology. Sonya is also the lead parish priest of Reading Minster where she lives with her husband (Alan Race) and their 8 year old Labrador, Ruether.







## ALAN RACE

Dr Alan Race is a priest-theologian in the Anglican Church and has been involved in interfaith relations and theology ever since his classic book *Christians and Religious Pluralism* (1983) outlined a typology for Christian theology of religions. He has worked in multifaith settings for most of his working life. He has combined Christian priesthood with academic research and established an MA studies course in interfaith theology through the St. Phillip's Centre in Leicester, UK.

He is currently the Chair of the World Congress of Faiths Executive Committee and Editor for the Congress's journal, *Interreligious Insight*. He is also Chair of the Modern Church organisation, which is a movement for liberal critical thinking in theology and ministry in the Church of England and ecumenically. Alan has published a number of books and articles in theology of religions and dialogue, and his most recent book is *My Journey as a Religious Pluralist: a Christian Theology of Religions Reclaimed* (2021).