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 15-17 April 2009  
 Teaching the Abrahamic Religions  
 DAN Conference  
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7th International **Dialogue** Australasia Network Conference 15-17 April 2009 Old Parliament House CANBERRA

## Teaching the Abrahamic Religions: Christianity in Dialogue with Judaism & Islam

Relations between Christians, Jews and Muslims are among the most divisive, challenging and important issues in the world today. Despite their often violent differences, each share a common heritage as the Children of Abraham and the worship of one God. In a time when understanding these three religions has taken on a new and critical urgency, this important conference will equip teachers with *practical strategies and resources* to enable students to explore the similarities, differences and relationships between the Abrahamic faith traditions.

Delegates will receive a DVD containing PowerPoints, teaching notes and video resources.

[www.dialogueaustralasia.org](http://www.dialogueaustralasia.org)

## INVITATION

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On behalf of the Dialogue Australasia Network Board, it gives me great pleasure to invite you to the 2009 DAN Conference - *Teaching the Abrahamic Religions: Christianity in Dialogue with Judaism and Islam.*

In May 2008, former British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, mused that:

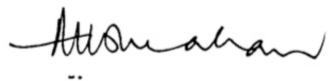
“Faith will be of the same significance to the 21st century as political ideology was to the 20th. In an era of globalisation, there is nothing more important than getting people of different faiths to understand each other better ...”

That says it all!

Suspicion is fuelled by ignorance and, if ever there was a time for our teachers to be resourced and supported in their important task of helping young people to understand the basis of different belief systems and their impact on culture, it is now.

At this DAN conference you will hear from a range of speakers; from international experts in education, to experienced classroom teachers and from the lived realities of Christians, Jews and Muslims. The common ground held between the Abrahamic Religions will be explored, as well as the divergences and potential sources of conflict. These issues will be examined from different perspectives, informed by an awareness of the practical challenges teachers face, as well as the ideals they seek to foster.

I commend the conference to you and your teaching colleagues strongly.



Paul Sheahan  
Headmaster, Melbourne Grammar School  
Chairman, Dialogue Australasia Network

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

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- Dr Peter Vardy, Vice-Principal, Heythrop College, University of London  
*The God of Abraham – Truth, Unity and Division*
- Professor Andrew Wright, Religious and Theological Education, King's College, University of London  
*A Critical Pedagogy for Teaching the Abrahamic Religions*
- Professor Abdullah Saeed, Sultan of Oman Professor of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Melbourne  
*The Role of the Qur'an in Contemporary Islam*
- Paul Forgasz, Centre for Jewish Civilisation, Monash University  
*Understanding Jesus, the Faithful Jew*
- Rod Pattenden, Artist, Art Historian, Chair of the Blake Prize for Religious Art  
*Icons and Idols: The Power and Threat of Images in the Abrahamic Traditions*
- Dr Nicholas Coleman, Wesley College, Victoria  
*Be Still and Know That I am God - Recollecting the Mystical Traditions in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*
- Shakira Hussein, Faculty of Asian Studies, Australian National University  
*Women & Islam Today*

Read more about our [Keynote Speakers](#)

## PROGRAMME OUTLINE

### Day 1

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WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL	
9-10.15am	Registration & Morning Tea
10.15-10.30am	Welcome & Conference Opening
10.30am - 11.45am KEYNOTE 1	<b><i>The God of Abraham - Truth, Unity and Division</i></b> Dr Peter Vardy, Heythrop College, University of London
11.45am-12pm	<i>Introduction to Self-Organised Conversation Spaces</i> Michael Wood, University of Western Australia
12-1pm	Lunch
1-2.15pm KEYNOTE 2	<b><i>A Critical Pedagogy for Teaching the Abrahamic Religions</i></b> Professor Andrew Wright, King's College, University of London
2.30 - 3.30pm	WORKSHOP OPTIONS & SELF ORGANISED CONVERSATION SPACES
3.30-4pm	Afternoon Tea
4-5.15pm KEYNOTE 3	<b><i>Icons and Idols - The Power and Threat of Images in the Abrahamic Religions</i></b> Rod Pattenden, Artist, Art Historian, Chair of the Blake Prize for Religious Art
5.30-6.30pm	Conference Cocktail Reception in Members Dining Room
7pm	Free Evening

## PROGRAMME OUTLINE

### Day 2

THURSDAY 16 APRIL	
7.30-8.30am	<i>Pilgrim Walk and Labyrinth</i> Reflection at Australian Centre for Christianity & Culture (Optional)
9-10am KEYNOTE 4	<b><i>Women and Islam Today</i></b> Shakira Hussein, Australian National University
10-10.40am KEYNOTE 5	<b><i>Recollecting the Mystical Traditions for a Contemporary World</i></b> Dr Nicholas Coleman, Wesley College, Victoria
10.40-11am	Morning Tea
11am-12pm	WORKSHOPS & SELF ORGANISED CONVERSATION SPACES
12-1pm	Lunch
1-2.15pm KEYNOTE 6	<b><i>The Role of the Qur'an in Contemporary Islam</i></b> Professor Abdullah Saeed, Melbourne University
2.30 - 3.30pm	WORKSHOP OPTIONS & SELF ORGANISED CONVERSATION SPACES
3.30-4pm	Afternoon Tea
4-5.15pm DIALOGUE	<b><i>A Matter of Ethics - Violence &amp; War</i></b> Reverend Professor James Haire, Executive Director Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture (Chair) Professor Abdullah Saeed, Melbourne University Reverend Peter Rose, Bishop's Chaplain, Anglican Bishop to the Defence Force
5.30-6.30pm	Dialogue Australasia Network Annual General Meeting
8-10.30pm	Conference Dinner at Ottoman Cuisine with Donna Jacobs Sife

## PROGRAMME OUTLINE

### Day 3

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FRIDAY 17 APRIL	
7.30-8.30am	<i>Walking Meditation</i> – Lake Burley Griffin (Optional)
9 - 10.15am KEYNOTE 7	<b><i>Understanding Jesus, The Faithful Jew</i></b> Paul Forgasz, Monash University
10.30-11am	Morning Tea
11-12.30pm DIALOGUE	<b><i>A Living Conversation: The Genesis Stories</i></b> David Neville, Head of School of Theology, Charles Sturt University, St Mark's National Theological Centre (Chair) Mehmet Ozalp, Affinity Intercultural Foundation Paul Forgasz, Monash University ...and TBA
12.30-1pm	Conference Concludes
1-2pm	Complimentary Bus to Canberra Airport

## WORKSHOP OPTIONS

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- The Philosophical Debate between the Abrahamic Traditions - Dr Peter Vardy, Heythrop College, London
- The Jewish Christian Muslim Association Schools Project – Strategies and Resources for Engagement
- Contemporary Muslim-Christian Dialogue - Mehmet Ozalp, Author, Lecturer, Affinity Intercultural Foundation
- Islam and Mathematics (**Year 8 Focus**) – Jeremy Hall, Newington College, Sydney
- 101 Questions about Islam - Mehmet Ozalp, Author, Lecturer, Affinity Intercultural Foundation
- Comparing Paradoxes within Christianity and Islam – Herman Roborgh S.J
- Using Movies to Get the Message Across – Mike Meyer & Susan Mudford, St Kentigern College, Auckland
- From Stone to Water – Interpretation and Sacred Stories – Donna Jacobs Sife
- A Model of Interfaith Education for the Primary & Secondary School – Kath Engebretson, Australian Catholic University
- Christian-Jewish Relations – Paul O’Shea, Senior Religious Education Coordinator, St Patrick’s College, Strathfield
- Teaching the Bible - CSU Graduate Certificate in RAVE Module - Richard Browning, Radford College, Canberra
- The Story of Abraham (**Primary Focus**) – Dr Peter Vardy, Heythrop College, London
- The Life of Jesus (**Yr 7 Focus**) – Nicole Storey, Diocesan School for Girls, Auckland & Sally Howe, Hale School, Perth
- Spirituality and Mysticism in Islam – Sheikha Fatima Fleur Nassery Bonnin, Australian Centre for Sufism and Irfanic Studies
- Silence & Reflection in Practice – a Whole of School Experience – Peter Brown, Nga Tawa, Wellington
- Self-Organised Conversation Spaces – *Whoever comes are the right people*

A comprehensive list of workshop options will be sent to registered delegates in early 2009

Self-organised conversations where delegates are given the opportunity to nominate a topic and convene a conversation will run in parallel with scheduled workshops



## GENERAL INFORMATION

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<b>Conference Registration Form</b>	<a href="http://www.dialogueaustralasia.org/?page_id=67">www.dialogueaustralasia.org/?page_id=67</a>
<b>Venue</b>	Members Dining Room Old Parliament House King George Terrace PARKES ACT 2600 W. <a href="http://www.oph.gov.au">www.oph.gov.au</a>
<b>Accommodation</b>	Canberra Girls' Grammar School Boarding House Enquiries and Bookings to Philip Chappell T. 02 6260 9891 E. <a href="mailto:Philip.Chappell@cgs.act.edu.au">Philip.Chappell@cgs.act.edu.au</a>  Various Hotel Options – see Conference Registration Form
<b>Canberra Tourist Information</b>	<a href="http://www.visitcanberra.com.au/">www.visitcanberra.com.au/</a>



Sponsored by Heythrop College, The Specialist Philosophy and Theology College of the University of London  
Heythrop College will waive overseas fees and charge European fees to any student from Australia or New Zealand who wishes to study for the BA in Abrahamic Religions. This offer is available to any student from a school sending a delegate to the 2009 DAN Conference and is redeemable until 2011. Further information will be provided at the Conference. [www.heythrop.ac.uk/](http://www.heythrop.ac.uk/)