

Steven Firmin

Faculty of Theology and Religion
Gibson Building, Radcliffe Observatory Quarter
Woodstock Road
Oxford OX2 6GG, United Kingdom

steven.firmin@theology.ox.ac.uk

Employment

2022 -- McDonald Departmental Lecturer in Christian Ethics
Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford

Education

2023 D.Phil. Theology - Pembroke College, University of Oxford
Thesis Title: "Can Word and Sword Cooperate? Reforming Christian Theo-Political Witness to Muslims"
Supervisors: Professors Joshua Hordern and Afifi Al-Akiti
Clarendon Scholar

2017 M.Phil. Theology - Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford
Thesis Title: "Is Coerced Religious Conversion Intrinsically Wrong?"
Awarded with Distinction

2014 B.A. Middle Eastern Studies - Florida State University
Summa cum laude

Academic Conferences and Presentations

2023 "Can Word and Sword Cooperate? Reforming Christian Theo-Political Witness to Muslims," The Centre for Muslim-Christian Studies, Oxford

2023 "Kiss the Son": Defending Oliver O'Donovan's Vision of Religious Establishment against some Reformed/Evangelical Critiques, Christian Ethics Research Seminar, Oxford

2021 "Christian Political Theology in Engagement with Islam: An Analysis of Martin Accad's 'Kerygmatic Approach,'" The Centre for Muslim-Christian Studies, Oxford

2021 Respondent to Joshua Ralston's Paper: "At the Border of Christian Learning: Islamic Thought and Constructive Christian Theology," SST Conference: Theology at the Borders, Online

2020 "Theatrical Improvisation as a Metaphor for Moral Reason: Can the current analogy be improved?" Christian Ethics Graduate Seminar, Christ Church, Oxford

2019 "Understanding Sacred and Secular History in the Political Thought of St. Augustine," Abrahamic Religions Colloquium, Ben Gurion University, Israel

- 2019 "How did Muslim thinkers in the 19th and 20th centuries understand the relationship between Christianity and political secularism?" Ginkgo Fellows' Retreat, London
- 2019 "Christian Ethics and 'Theatrical Improvisation:' Can the current analogy be improved?" SSCE Spring Post-Graduate Conference, Durham University
- 2018 "Law and Conversion in St. Augustine: Improving the Current Model," Die Abteilung für Neues Testament: Religious and Philosophical Conversion in the Ancient Mediterranean Traditions, Universität Bonn
- 2018 "Augustinian Senses of the Secular," Faculty of Theology and Religion: Senses of the Secular Symposium, Oxford
- 2018 "Do Muslims and Christians Worship the same God? problems and promises of Miroslav Volf's views from a Reformed Christian Perspective," The Centre for Muslim Christian Studies, Oxford
- 2018 "What is the relationship between hope and tolerance? Reading John Bowlin from an Augustinian perspective," Faculty of Theology and Religion Colloquium on the Abrahamic Religions, "Tolerance and Toleration in the Abrahamic Religions"
- 2017 "Iraq: Looking to the Future," South Asia and Middle East Forum report co-writer with Leila Hassan
- 2017 "How do we think about the complex interactions of immigration and identity?" Co-presenter for the joint Oxford-Swedish Diocese Conference: Responding to Immigration
- 2017 "What is Love? Baby Convert me? Coercion and Conversion in St. Augustine," Oxford-Jerusalem Programme in the Study of the Abrahamic Religions: Conversion in the Abrahamic Religions, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- 2016 "Augustine and Kinship Diplomacy: A Christian Way of Chasing the Blood Tie?," Kirby Laing Institute for Christian Ethics Research Seminar: An engagement with Michael Banner, *The Ethics of Everyday Life*, Trinity College, University of Cambridge
- 2016 "Augustine, Blood, and Kinship Diplomacy," Oxford-Jerusalem Programme in the Study of the Abrahamic Religions: The Role of Blood in the Abrahamic Religions, Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford

Teaching Experience

- 2023 -- Teacher: Ethics I Classes, Practical Issues in Christian Moral Reasoning, Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford: *Supervised eight mini-seminar classes for undergraduate students on issues of sexuality, healthcare, and politics*
- 2022 -- Co-leader for MSt and MPhil Seminar in Christian Ethics, Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford
- 2022 -- Tutor for Ethics I: Christian Moral Reasoning Paper, Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford: *Delivered eight tutorials to students on conceptual and practical issues in Christian Ethics*

2020	Teaching Assistant: "City of God, Book XIX," Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford: <i>Delivered revision session with Mehmet Çiftçi to post-graduate students in Christian Ethics</i>
2018	Teaching Assistant: "Christian Moral Reasoning: St. Augustine and <i>De Doctrina Christiana</i> ," Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford: <i>Co-delivered revision class to undergraduate finalists in Theology and Religion</i>
2018	Teaching Assistant: "Key Themes in Systematic Theology," Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford: <i>Delivered two lectures to undergraduate students under the supervision of Darren Sarisky</i>
2018	Graduate Teacher Training Scheme, Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford: <i>Received training and experience in teaching and marking undergraduate tutorials</i>
2017	Seminar Organizer and Leader: "Augustine and Politics" <i>Syllabus Available upon Request</i>
2016-17	Teacher for <i>Oxford Splash: Organizing courses for GCSE and A-Level students on Improvisation and Ethics, Just War Tradition in Christianity and Islam</i>

Leadership, Service, and Outreach

2023	Lecture: "How Religion Guides Society: A Christian View," Centre of Christian-Muslim Understanding and Partnership, Cairo, Egypt
2023	Humanities Road Show Contributor, Bartholomew School, Eynsham <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designed class for year 6-8 students comparing compassion in Luke's gospel and other ancient sources
2022 --	Co-Leader of the Oxford-Princeton Seminar in Christian Political Thought <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bimonthly seminar between students and faculty at Princeton University and the University of Oxford, exploring pre-modern Christian political thought
2021	Student Ambassador: Developing a Christian Mind Conference, Oxford Pastorate
2020	Special Lecturer: "Scripture and Truth," Oxnet Access Program for 6 th Form Students, Pembroke College and Manchester University
2016-19	Student Organizer and Convener for Abrahamic Religions Seminar and Conferences, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Sacred Space and Pilgrimage in the Abrahamic Religions," in collaboration with the Center for the Study of Conversion and Inter-Religious Encounters at Ben Gurion University, Israel, Jan-April 2019 "Tolerance and Toleration in the Abrahamic Religions," Jan-April 2018. "Conversion in the Abrahamic Religions," in collaboration with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jan-April 2017 "Blood in the Abrahamic Religions," in collaboration with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jan-April 2016

2017-19	Blog Contributor : Faculty of Theology and Religion, Oxford University
2018	Guest Speaker: “The Life of St. Augustine,” St. Ebbe’s Church, Oxford
2018	Guest Speaker: “Redeeming the Time,” Pembroke College Chapel
2017-18	“Religion, Politics, and Pluralism,” Co-Presented with Paul Billingham, Developing a Christian Mind Conference, New College, University of Oxford
2017-18	Pembroke College MCR-JCR Mentorship Schema: customized a year-long mentoring schema for undergraduate student in theology
2017	Liaison Officer for the South Asia & Middle East Forum: “Iraq: Looking to the Future” Speakers: Tom Brake (MP) Nazer Mirjan Mohammad (Deputy Head of Mission to Iraqi Embassy, London), Jonathan Paris (Senior Adviser, Chertoff Group; Senior Fellow with the South Asia Centre of the Atlantic Council; Associate Fellow at the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation, King’s College London), Brigadier Garreth Collett CBE (Defence Attaché, British Embassy in Iraq), Dr. Andreas Krieg (King’s College, London; UK Defence Academy), Nicole Piché (personal representative for the Rt. Hon. Ann Clwyd (Labour MP, Cynon Valley; Chair for All-Party Parliamentary Human Rights Group; fmr. Special Envoy for Human Rights in Iraq)
2016-17	Teacher for Oxford Splash: <i>Organizing courses for GCSE and A-Level students on Improvisation and Ethics, Just War Tradition in Christianity and Islam</i>

Awards

2018-2022	Ginkgo Fellowship <i>Awarded for practical training and relational development between UK Theologians and Scholars from The University of Al-Azhar, Cairo</i>
2013	Phi Beta Kappa

Language Skills

	Language	Proficiency Level
•	Modern Standard Arabic	Advanced Speaking, Reading, and Writing
•	Classical (Qur’anic) Arabic	Advanced Speaking and Reading
•	Colloquial Egyptian Arabic	Intermediate Speaking and Reading