

Joint annual conference of the Quaker Studies Research Association and Centre for Research in Quaker Studies, Universities of Birmingham and Lancaster

Quakers, Power, and Minorities

Woodbrooke, Birmingham(UK) and online, 23-24 June 2023.

When communicating Quaker history and values to each other and to the world, Friends have happily acknowledged the Religious Society of Friends as a minority speaking truth to power. However, while many Friends were effective advocates for change, recent re-evaluations have shown that Quakers also exercised power over people minoritised by colonialism and participated in enslavement.

This year's QSRA/ CRQS conference considers Quakers, Power and Minorities. It provides an opportunity to re-examine aspects of the Quaker narrative, and to appraise the extent to which Quaker hagiography may have triumphed over inconvenient detail. It is also a chance to reflect on the Quaker understanding of 'concern', and if or how local or national meetings support a Friend's inspiration.

We expect to hear around a dozen papers around the theme, covering topics ranging from climate justice to colonialism in North America, Australia and South Africa, eugenics, slavery, Palestine, and social reform. Papers reflecting on the engagement of Quakers such as Thomas Hodgkin, John Bellers, Bayard Rustin, Ann Conway and John Tengo Jabavu illustrate some of the discomforts and initiatives of individuals active on the intellectual, social or spiritual margins of the Religious Society of Friends.

For the first time since COVID the QSRA/CRQS conference will be held in person as well as on Zoom. At last there will once again be the opportunity for participants to discuss the papers over meals, to meet up with people with similar research interests, and to ponder new areas for collaboration or for further work.

This event is jointly organised by the Centre for Postgraduate Quaker Studies at Woodbrooke and the Quaker Studies Research Association.

The working titles of papers expected at the 2023 QSRA Conference include:

Kelvin Beer-Jones: The Quaker network supporting Thomas Hodgkin's British Colonial Activism 1830 – 1870;

Lily Chadwick: America (Quakers, the Friendly Society for Regaining and Preserving Peace with the Indians, and relations with indigenous and colonial leadership)

Penelope Cummins: Belonging and not belonging: Three Black South African Quakers

Carlos Figueroa: Faith, Dignity, and Nationalism: Bayard T. Rustin's support for Israeli Zionism in the Early 1970s

Mark Frankel: Quakers in Mandatory Palestine: whose truth and whose power?

Betty Hagglund: Quakers and Social Purity (Quakers and Eugenics)

David Prosser: An island prison, a broken treaty and a Quaker contribution to the history of Indigenous dispossession in Australia, 1831 – 1838

Barbara Sharrock: Quakers: Lost and Found. The case of John Bellers, Quaker, 1654-1725

Laura Arcila Villa: The Quakers between Henry More and Anne Conway

Claire Wanless: The Quaker response to the climate crisis: an ongoing process of social construction

Please go to <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/crqs-qsra-quaker-studies-conference-quakers-power-and-minorities/> to book to attend in person or on zoom.