

Susanna Wesley Foundation Annual Conference

Tuesday 18th June 2024, Elm Grove, University of Roehampton

Breakout sessions (choose one)

See the Campus Map for the location of the David Bell Building and The Well

15.00-16.00



**Dr Elin Kelsey and
Dr Steven van den
Heuvel**

Oak Suite

Note that this breakout session will be filmed. No other breakout session will be filmed.

Activating Hope in the Climate Justice Crisis

The climate justice crisis is often discussed in negative, doom-filled terms, leading many people to either frantic (and often disruptive) activism – making them prone to burn-out – or leading them to resignation and passivity. However, the apocalypticism of doomism is premature; while climate change is an urgent, global issue, there is evidence for and a necessity for hope. Hope creates the conditions through which empowerment and meaningful engagement with the climate justice crisis can occur.

In exploring this hope, Steven and Elin draw on new biological insights in the resilience and wisdom inherent in other species, from which we can learn. The session also includes a new look at the Christian virtue of hope, exploring its relevance for the context of the climate justice crisis.

In this session, Steven and Elin will not take a top-down approach, but rather one based on radical equality, whereby we will listen to each other, discovering the wisdom we all have, as we tease out hope-strategies in the context of the climate justice crisis.



Dr Lia Dong Shimada

David Bell Building
Room DB 220

When hope is challenged: discussing death

In this breakout session, Lia will draw on her own story, and the research she carried out with Theos ThinkTank around death, dying and the afterlife – see report '[Ashes to Ashes: Beliefs, Trends and Practices in Dying, Death and the Afterlife](#)' – to explore how to facilitate conversations about death. She will showcase different types of resource and provide opportunities for participants to experience them.

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Dr Heather Major

David Bell Building
Room DB 221

Expressing Lament

In this workshop, participants will have an opportunity to explore expressing their own laments in different ways. Heather will facilitate a space for people to engage in the authentic messiness of lament through words, silence and creative expressions of art and music.



Rachel Griffiths

The Well
The Chapel

Theatre for Transformation: of ourself, our neighbour, our world

In this practical workshop we will use techniques from Theatre of the Oppressed and the language of Community Organising, to acknowledge the world as it is, and explore how we can collectively imagine the world as it should be. Participants will be invited to consider issues of injustice they feel passionate about and as a group, via theatre games and exercises, we will work towards seeing and crafting a way to address those injustices.

No theatre or performance experience is necessary. Participants will be invited to take an active role, although no one will be obliged to do so. All activities will be within the realm of day-to-day activity.