



International Council of Christians and Jews
2021 Virtual Conference
When all this is over, how do we want the world to be different?

WORKSHOP

Tuesday, June 22, 02:00 p.m. UTC:

RELIGIOUS (AND SECULAR) RITUAL: HOW HAS IT CHANGED IN THE PANDEMIC, AND WHAT NEXT?

Joshua Edelman, James Roberts, Alana Vincent

Join two leading scholars in the UK for insights into how the pandemic has changed British ritual. Drawing on their survey of participants from across the UK, Drs Josh Edelman and Alana Vincent will share results from the BRIC-19 project at Manchester Metropolitan University and the University of Chester (<https://bric19.mmu.ac.uk/>). Following the presentation of their research, James Roberts, Programme Manager at CCJ (UK), will lead discussion of ritual adaptation in the contexts of the workshop participants.

Religious rituals do work, essential social work, according to both ritual theorists and the UK government, which has recognized clergy as key workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Funerals, weddings, birth rituals, and holiday observances are vital to people's psychological wellbeing and sense of community, especially given the sense of unease created by the pandemic. But the key means by which clergy do this vital work--live communal ritual--is not possible during lockdown conditions. And so ritual specialists have been forced to improvise means of moving rituals online, something which is virtually unknown to most mainstream clergy. The Bric-19 project works with religious professionals of a range of faiths from across Britain to capture, analyse, nurture and develop these fire-forged adaptations and the possibilities they facilitate, using digitally-led methods drawn from digital religion, online religion and performance studies, including involving subjects in action research.

Edelman, Joshua

Great Britain, Dr Joshua Edelman, senior lecturer at the Manchester School of Theatre, Manchester Metropolitan University.

Roberts, James

Great Britain, James Roberts, Programme Manager at CCJ, currently finishing off his DPhil at the University of Oxford on the theological writings of Mother Maria Skobtsova.

Vincent, Alana

Great Britain, Dr Alana Vincent, associate professor of Jewish Philosophy, Religion and Imagination at the University of Chester.