



*The inaugural conference of the Non-religion and Secularity Research Network (NSRN):*

Friday 11 December 2009 | Wolfson College, Oxford

**Non-religion and Secularity: New Empirical Perspectives**

## **Introducing the NSRN**

The Non-religion and Secularity Research Network (NSRN) is an international and interdisciplinary network of researchers founded in 2008. The NSRN aims to centralise existing research in the emergent field of non-religion and secularity studies – and to facilitate discussion in this areas.

### **Terminology**

‘Non-religion’ and ‘secularity’ are general terms and are intended to be inclusive of a range of perspectives, experiences and institutional arrangements. Atheism, agnosticism, indifference to religion and ‘neutrality to religion’, as well as some forms or aspects of secularism, humanism and, indeed, religion itself, all fall within this broader area of non-religion and secularity studies.

### **NSRN administration**

Administration of the NSRN is currently managed by four directors: Lois Lee (Cambridge), Stephen Bullivant (Oxford), Nicholas Gibson (Cambridge) and Stacey Gutkowski (Cambridge). Our work has so far received a small amount of funding from the University of Cambridge, but is otherwise unfunded and entirely independent in its operations.

### **NSRN resources**

As well as organising meetings for those working with or interested in non-religion and secularity, the NSRN provides a number of facilities at its website: [www.nsrn.co.uk](http://www.nsrn.co.uk).

These online **resources** include:

- A **directory of researchers** working in the broad area of non-religion and secularity studies
- A **directory of postgraduate students** currently preparing a thesis in the area of non-religion and secularity studies
- A comprehensive **bibliography** of non-religion and secularity literature published since 2000
- Listings of **conferences and other events** within the area of non-religion and secularity studies

Forthcoming resources include:

- Pre-2000 bibliography
- Book reviews section
- Expansion of the News section, to include in-depth coverage of events that may be of interest to researchers in the area of non-religion and secularity studies

In addition to this, we maintain two email forums: 'nsrn-announce' (for short announcement of NSRN-relevant events and publications) and 'nsrn-discuss' (for longer discussion of NS topics). To subscribe to either or both lists, please visit [www.jiscmail.ac.uk](http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk).

### **How you can help us maintain and improve the NSRN**

The NSRN relies on the support of researchers in the area to keep its service up-to-date and comprehensive. You can help the NSRN by notifying us of any publications, conferences and other events that you think the NSRN should be covering – and advertising the NSRN to researchers in the area that might benefit from or want to participate in any of the NSRN resources.

If you would like to be more involved with organisation of the NSRN, please contact Lois or Stephen at [info@nsrn.co.uk](mailto:info@nsrn.co.uk). We are currently looking to make the following appointments:

- Conference and events editor
- News editor
- Book reviews editor

We also welcome ad hoc contributions as well as suggestions for avenues we have not yet explored.