Catherine Ann Whittle BA (Hons) MSc MRes

PhD Anthropology student researching Christian faith-based environmental conservation in Kenya Trained in Anthropology and Law with exposure to range of social sciences Work experience in research consultancy and legal administration

Research Interests

Broadly, I am interested in what is happening to religion in our time of climate and ecological crisis. How does religion shape communities' responses to and experiences of this crisis, intersecting with other demographic factors? And what can we learn about what religion is and is becoming, in all its multiplicity, from environmental and climate activists?

To date, my fieldwork has been carried out with a Christian conservation NGO on the Kenyan coast. The project is under review due to the ongoing covid-19 pandemic. However the project proceeds, the research will illuminate both Christian cosmology and the processes and relations that facilitate Christian engagement with environmental protection.

Anthropology of religion and spirituality; anthropology of Christianity; the Anthropocene; modernity and non-modernity; ontology; environmental activism; environmental intersectionalities; public religion

Education

MRes/PhD Anthropology	London School of Economics and Political Science Researching contemporary Christian engagements with environment and climate. Funded by ESRC	2018-2024
	Supervisors: Michael W. Scott; Gisa Weszkalnys	
MSc Social Anthropology (Religion in the Contemporary World) with Distinction	London School of Economics and Political Science Distinction awarded for dissertation, "Reterrestrialising through kin-making: Religion and politics in the (postcolonial, feminist) Anthropocene". Abridged and redrafted version published in <i>Anthropology of this Century</i> , issue 25	2016-2018
BA Anthropology and Law , 2.1 (merit) classification	London School of Economics and Political Science Distinction awarded for Law dissertation, "Law beyond prejudice? Reconsidering the differential treatment of Christianity and Islam in the European Court of Human Rights"	2013-2016

Employment

April 2020 to present, LSE Anthropology – I am collaborating on LSE-funded research on innovations in care networks among the British public during the covid-19 pandemic, carrying out interviews and contributing to qualitative data analysis. Co-authored report "A Good Death' During the Covid-19 Pandemic in the UK: A Report of Key Findings and Recommendations".

July 2017 to July 2018, ORB International – I acted as a Research Assistant on a project-by-project basis, working remotely on interview quality control. Research projects operated globally, often for clients involved in counter-terrorism and conflict zones.

January-April 2017, Research Assistant to Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby – carried out secondary research on a part-time consultancy basis to support the writing of *Reimagining Britain: Foundations for Hope* (Bloomsbury, 2018). Research involved finding and presenting national statistics in a form appropriate for a non-academic publication, finding sources and ensuring the text is fully referenced, meeting with experts in sectors such as health and housing to inform the author's ideas on these areas, and writing up reports on my meetings and online research for the author's use. The work also involved an editorial role.

June-Aug 2015; June-Sept 2016, Kent Legal Services (now Invicta Law) – worked as a Legal Assistant for Kent County Council's Legal Department, administrating a number of family law/child protection cases, assisting solicitors and social workers.

Contributions to LSE Community

Awarded the Student-Staff Liaison Committee **Postgraduate Student Representative of the Year**, 2018

Conducted **primary research** in LSE's **Undergraduate Programme Review** into the experiences of LSE joint honours undergraduates, resulting in a report and presentation to a number of LSE staff.

Whilst studying, I have participated in programmes with **LSE's Faith Centre** including the Interfaith Encounter trip to Israel and Palestine (January 2017) and the pilot Faith and Leadership Certificate (Lent term 2015).

Participated in **LSE Widening Participation's Pathways to Law** programme 2014/15, acting as an academic e-mentor for sixth form students considering applying for Law degree programmes.