

Session Proposal for ASCH 2014 Winter Conference

***Evangelicalism in Modern Britain Turns 25: Reexamining David Bebbington's
"Quadrilateral" Thesis***

Chair: *Timothy Larsen*
Carolyn and Fred McManis Professor of Christian Thought
Wheaton College

Papers: "The Bebbington Quadrilateral Travels Across the Empire"
Kelly Cross Elliott
Assistant Professor
Department of History
Abilene Christian University

"An Interstices for the Holy Spirit in Our Evangelical Geometry"
Thomas S. Kidd
Department of History
Senior Fellow, Institute for Studies of Religion
Baylor University

"Affective Additions to a Traditional Definition of Evangelical Orthodoxy"
Amanda Porterfield
Robert A. Spivey Professor of Religion
Department of Religion
Florida State University

Comment: David Bebbington

On the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of David Bebbington's *Evangelicalism in Modern Britain* (1989), this session evaluates David Bebbington's iconic "Quadrilateral" thesis as the standard definition of evangelicalism as well as its connection to the Enlightenment and the rise of the evangelical revivals in the eighteenth century. The panelists will look at the "Quadrilateral" thesis in a fresh series of settings in order to test it from unaccustomed angles of vision. Kelly Elliott will consider it within an imperial context, focusing on Baptist missionary efforts in South Asia and the Caribbean. Thomas Kidd will evaluate whether current evangelical interest in the work of the Holy Spirit in the revivals requires a modification of the Quadrilateral's structure. Amanda Porterfield will examine if recent scholarship, in introducing a more inclusive spirit in its subject matter, has also introduced affective elements that challenge the Quadrilateral's emphasis on intellectual and doctrinal definition. The chair, Timothy Larsen, has broad experience in historical scholarship across traditional lines, and is well suited to guide the panel into new perspectives. The session will attract scholars interested in interpreting the broad sweep of evangelical experience. It seeks to honor a distinguished scholar by the seriousness with which the panel evaluates his remarkable historical corpus.

Session Chair: Timothy Larsen

Timothy Larsen is the Carolyn and Fred McManis Professor of Christian Thought at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois. He is the author of several monographs, including *A People of One Book: The Bible and the Victorians* (Oxford University Press, 2011), *Crisis of Doubt: Honest Faith in Nineteenth-Century England* (Oxford University Press, 2006), which was named book of the year for 2006 by *Books & Culture*, and *Christabel Pankhurst: Fundamentalism and Feminism in Coalition* (Boydell Press, 2002). His primary intellectual interests are in the areas of British history, historical theology, Christian thought, and intellectual currents and controversies.

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Kelly Cross Elliott: “The Bebbington Quadrilateral Travels Across the Empire”

Kelly Elliott is an assistant professor in the history department at Abilene Christian University. She teaches courses in modern European and Asian history as well as western civilization. Her research interests include British religious history, the history of missions, British imperialism, and the forging of indigenous Christianity in colonial contexts in South Asia and the Caribbean in the nineteenth century. Her current book-length project is entitled “Chosen Race: Baptist Missionary Christianity against the Hierarchies of Empire, 1795-1875.”

Education:

PhD, British History, Florida State University, 2010

MA, European History, Florida State University, 2007

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Thomas S. Kidd: “An Interstices for the Holy Spirit in Our Evangelical Geometry”

Thomas Kidd is Senior Fellow at Baylor’s Institute for Studies of Religion at Baylor University. His many books include *Patrick Henry: First Among Patriots* (Basic Books, 2011), *God of Liberty: A Religious History of the American Revolution* (Basic Books, 2010), *American Christians and Islam: Evangelical Culture and Muslims from the Colonial Period to the Age of Terrorism* (Princeton University Press, 2008), and *The Great Awakening: The Roots of Evangelical Christianity in Colonial America* (Yale University Press, 2007). In addition to teaching history and supervising doctoral students at Baylor, he writes for WORLD Magazine and the Anxious Bench blog at Patheos.com.

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Amanda Porterfield: “Affective Additions to a Traditional Definition of Evangelical Orthodoxy”

Amanda Porterfield is Robert A. Spivey Professor of Religion at Florida State University. She is a historian of American religion with interests in the historical interplay of religion, politics and law, the history of American religious thought, and the historical study of Native American religions. She also works in the history of Christianity, and is the author of *Female Piety in Puritan New England* (Oxford University Press, 1992), *Mary Lyon and the Mount Holyoke Missionaries* (Oxford University Press, 1997), *The Power of Religion: An Introduction to World Religions* (Oxford University Press, 1998), *Healing in the History of Christianity* (Oxford University Press, 2005), and co-editor with John Corrigan of the quarterly journal *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture*. Her most recent book is *Conceived in Doubt: Religion and Politics in the New American Nation* (University of Chicago Press, 2012).

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BA, Religion, *magna cum laude*, Mount Holyoke College, 1969
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Comment: David W. Bebbington, MA, PhD, F.R.Hist.S,

David Bebbington is Professor of History at the University of Stirling in Scotland. His research interests concern religion, ideas, society and politics in the last three hundred years. They focus on the British Prime Minister William Ewart Gladstone (1809-98), religious Nonconformity, and the Evangelical movement in Britain and throughout the world. His many books include *Evangelicalism in Modern Britain: A History from the 1730s to the 1980s* (Unwin Hyman, 1989), *The Mind of Gladstone: Religion, Home and Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2004), and *Baptists through the Centuries: A History of a Global People* (Baylor University Press, 2010).

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Jonathan Yeager earned a MCS (Master of Christian Studies) and a ThM from Regent College in Vancouver, Canada, and a PhD in history from the University of Stirling in Scotland. Dr. Yeager is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society whose research interest is in eighteenth-century British and American religious history and thought, especially the history of evangelicalism. His first book, *Enlightened Evangelicalism: The Life and Thought of John Erskine* (Oxford University Press, 2011), was a finalist for the Scottish History Book of the Year. Dr. Yeager's second book is an eighteenth-century anthology entitled, *Early Evangelicalism: A Reader*, which will be published later this year by Oxford University Press. His articles on religious history and thought have appeared in the *Evangelical Quarterly*, *Journal of Religious History*, *Printing History*, *Records of the Scottish History Society*, and the *Scottish Journal of Theology*.

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Charlie Phillips currently serves as Senior Analyst and National Program Officer at the Maclellan Foundation in Chattanooga, Tennessee, one of the largest grant-makers to evangelical causes in the world. Dr. Phillips is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont, and holds a Ph. D. in History from the University of Stirling, Scotland. Dr. Phillips joined the Maclellan Foundation in 2001 after a lengthy career in educational institutions, having particular experience in fund development, enrollment management and retention, marketing and publications, and comprehensive capital campaigns. At present, Dr. Phillips advises ministries and organizations on behalf of the Maclellan Foundation in order to build mission-focused capacity through board and executive development, strategic planning, managed organizational change, execution of fundraising plans and feasibility studies, and strategic repositioning in key markets.

****The panel session will be funded for the purpose of travel and honoraria for participants by The University of Chattanooga Foundation in conjunction with The Maclellan Foundation, Inc.**