



Oriel College  
University of Oxford



Oriel College  
Middle Common Room

# Oriel Talks

## Presenting the Past

15 May, 2023

6-7pm in the Harris Lecture Theatre,  
Oriol College, Oxford

Camila Wise

“The fire we beheld”: Specters of Blackness in  
Roger Robinson’s *A Portable Paradise*

Focusing on Robinson’s 2019 poetry collection dedicated to the victims of the Grenfell Fire, I explore the role of Hauntology in Black British poetry. I ask how Robinson’s collection envisions “paradise” to understand the restorative power of contemporary poetics in regard to cyclical histories of racialized violence.



Scarlett Kiaras-Attari

Discussing Gender, Food, and the Body in  
the *Lives of Simeon Stylites*

Focusing on the *Lives of Simeon Stylites*, I argue that Simeon’s body is feminised through tropes typically associated with female monastic typology. I demonstrate complexity in gendering the male body and provide a new avenue for approaching gender and sanctity in Late Antique scholarship.



Lucy Brewer

Preserving the Past in the Present: The Gandy  
Collection of Photographs from Natchez,  
Mississippi

I examine issues of collective memory, race, and archive in the post-Civil War American South through the lens of historic photographs. My work reconsiders the role of photography and material preservation in historical memory making.

