

THE McCOSH LECTURE

Annual Religious Studies Lecture at Queen's

The Great Hall
Friday, 10 May 2019, 2.00 – 4.30 p.m.

Onora O'Neill CH CBE FRS FBA FMedSci
Baroness O'Neill of Bengarve
Emeritus Professor of Philosophy, University of Cambridge
and Former President of the British Academy



WHAT OUGHT WE DO?

Ethical inquiry in Western traditions traditionally asked what we should do, and offered accounts of various types of required action or duty. However, since the early twentieth century concern with duty has often been seen as problematic and rejected. Subsequent normative inquiry has typically addressed narrower questions. A great deal of writing in political and legal philosophy focuses on rights and entitlements, while construing the rest of ethics as a 'merely' personal matter. A great deal of writing in ethics either focuses on subjective conceptions of virtue and preference, or addresses aspects of 'applied' ethics that assume institutional preconditions. Baroness O'Neill shall argue that this narrowing of horizons is unnecessary and can be reversed.

PROGRAMME

2.00 – 2.10 p.m.

Welcome

Professor David Livingstone
(Chair, Religious Studies Forum)

Introduction

Professor Richard English
(Pro-Vice Chancellor for Internationalisation and Engagement)

2.10 – 3.00 p.m.

LECTURE
What Ought We Do?

3.00 – 3.45 p.m.

Discussion and Open Forum

3.45 – 4.30 p.m.

Refreshments