

Towards Transcultural Spirituality

A one-day conference. 7 July 2005

University of Hull, UK

Spirituality, spiritual need and spiritual care are terms increasingly used by individuals, in community life and by health and social care professionals as well as established faith groups. As the search goes on to define what meanings we attach to these words, transculturalism remains a relatively unexplored dimension. Yet the UK in the early 21st century offers a rich mosaic of cultures, spiritual traditions and contemporary adaptations. Drawing on expertise from the University of Hull as well as contributions from scholars, faith leaders and practitioners across the UK, this conference will explore our different and common understandings of spirituality and the implications for community relations and professional practice, from a range of disciplinary, religious and philosophical perspectives.

The conference has been organised around the visit of Professor Cecilia Chan of Hong Kong University. Professor Chan holds a British Academy Visiting Professorship awarded to facilitate the development of knowledge and expertise in the field of transcultural spirituality. Professor Chan is a leading expert in cross-cultural issues, specifically the meeting points of Eastern and Western philosophies. She is Director of the Centre on Behavioural Health at the University of Hong Kong, established as a centre of excellence which strives to bring together Eastern and Western philosophies, principles and practices through the integration of empirical research and clinical interventions. The conference will benefit from Professor Chan's expertise and from learning about the methods and approaches adopted in Hong Kong.

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