

Curriculum Vitae of Esmé Lily Katherine Partridge

Researcher, writer and consultant holding a First Class BA from SOAS and an MPhil from the University of Cambridge, with professional experience in the political, charity and think tank sectors.

Education

October **Clare College, University of Cambridge**

2022 - **MPhil Philosophy of Religion**

June 2024 Grade: **Distinction**

Postgraduate studies in the Faculty of Divinity. Dissertation on Jean Bodin's philosophy of religious pluralism.

October - **SOAS, University of London**

2018 - **BA Study of Religions**

June 2021 Grade: **First Class**

Undergraduate studies in the Religions of the Middle East, Islamic Studies, Religion in World Politics, and Arabic.

September **Wood Green School, Oxfordshire**

2011 - **A-Levels**

June 2018 Attained three A-Levels and an Extended Project (AS-Level Equiv.), including two **A*s**.

GCSEs

Attained ten GCSEs, including six **As** and **A*s**.

Experience

June - **Civitas: Institute for the Study of Civil Society**

September **Commissioned Researcher**

2024 Researching and authoring a report on the future of parish churches entitled "Restoring the Value of Parishes: The Foundations of Welfare, Community and Spiritual Belonging in England" (forthcoming November 2024)

July 2021 - **Good Faith Partnership**

October **Associate Consultant**

2023 Authored a policy handbook on Freedom of Religion or Belief based on the Marrakesh Declaration and organised its parliamentary launch. Continued to serve on the secretariat for the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Christianity in the Holy Land, being responsible for administration; recruiting members and officers; and managing relationships with stakeholders including the Church of England and US congressional leaders.

Interfaith Coordinator

Coordinated several projects at the intersection of religion and politics. Incubated an interfaith organisation in the UK; served on the secretariat of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Christianity in the Holy Land; developed a religion and international diplomacy training programme for the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office; and

organised events surrounding the UK Government's International Freedom of Religion or Belief Ministerial.

October **Freelance Writer and Editor**

2020 - Present Writing on religion, philosophy and politics for publications including The Critic, First Things, Theos Think Tank, Times Literary Supplement, UnHerd, The RSA, ArabLit Quarterly, Renovatio (The Journal of Zaytuna College) and the Temenos Academy Review. Edited an academic book for an independent researcher.

July 2020 - **Everyday Muslim**

July 2021 **Researcher & Presenter**

Conducted oral history interviews and adapted them into podcast scripts. Produced and presented a podcast series narrating the stories of British Muslims.

October **SOAS Students' Union**

2018 - **Student Representative & Training Facilitator**

June 2020 Elected for two consecutive academic years to represent the student cohort in the History, Religions and Philosophies department. Devised and led training workshops for incoming student representatives.

July 2017 **Oxford City Council**

Arts & Culture Intern

Assisted with planning and promoting cultural events in the City of Oxford in a short summer placement.

June - **Bestival**

November **Public Relations Intern**

2016 Assisted with internal and external communications, content writing for the Bestival website, and representing the company on Soho Radio as part of their weekly promotional programme.

Selected Articles

- ❖ 'Jigsaw of Faith' (Book Review), Times Literary Supplement, October 2024
- ❖ 'Pope Francis cracks down on the supernatural', UnHerd, May 2024
- ❖ 'Peace, Goodwill, and Harmony: On King Charles' Christmas Speech', The European Conservative, January 2024
- ❖ 'Pope Francis offers the most powerful critique of AI yet', UnHerd, January 2024
- ❖ 'Burning Effigies for the Man' (feature on The Wicker Man), The Critic, December 2023
- ❖ 'Forgetting the Art of Memory', First Things, August 2023
- ❖ 'Disenchantment, or Dark Enchantment?', Røyst, June 2023
- ❖ 'In Defense of the Philosopher King', First Things, May 2023
- ❖ 'What critics get wrong about King Charles' Christmas speech', UnHerd, December 2022
- ❖ 'All Sweetness and Light' (feature on Matthew Arnold), The Critic, December 2022
- ❖ 'Rethinking the World Brain', Renovatio, November 2022

- ❖ ‘Charles will be our Perennialist King’, UnHerd, September 2022
- ❖ ‘The Demons of WitchTok’, The Critic, August 2022
- ❖ ‘The Death of Ideals’, The Critic, April 2022
- ❖ ‘Witchcraft isn’t Subversive’, UnHerd, February 2021
- ❖ ‘When Spirituality Meets TikTok: Gen-Z’s answer to Religion’, Theos Think Tank, September 2021
- ❖ ‘Spirituality in the Postmodern World’, Renovatio, August 2021
- ❖ ‘Philosophy without Religion is a Eurocentric Construct’, The Royal Society of Arts, November 2020

Talks and Interviews

- ❖ ‘The Search for a Universal Language: From Babel to ChatGPT’, The Temenos Academy, July 2024
- ❖ ‘Technology and the Soul’, The Realisation Festival, June 2024
- ❖ ‘The Trouble with Consciousness’, Renovatio Podcast, Zaytuna College, May 2024
- ❖ ‘Can Dawkins be a Cultural Christian?’, Spectator TV, April 2024
- ❖ ‘ChatGPT and the Dream of Universal Knowledge’, Colloquium on Intelligences, Pusey House Centre for Theology, Law & Culture and Exeter College, University of Oxford, February 2024
- ❖ ‘The Music of the One and the Many’, Creatio Continua Conference on ‘Signs of Harmony’, the Polish Laudato Si’ Movement and University of Nottingham, Kraków, December 2023
- ❖ ‘Platonism, Perennialism, Pluralism: What is King Charles III’s Philosophy?’, The London Society for the Study of Religion, London, November 2023
- ❖ ‘Does Disney still have the Power to Enchant us?’, Seen & Unseen ‘Re-Enchanting’ podcast, The Centre for Cultural Witness, October 2023
- ❖ ‘The Ancient Roots of Transhumanist Thinking’, Renovatio podcast, Zaytuna College, October 2023
- ❖ ‘Reflections on Aeschylus’ Prometheus Bound’, The Base Creates Theatre, London, October 2023
- ❖ ‘The Theological Foundations of Religious Freedom within Islam’, Abu Dhabi Forum for Peace, House of Lords, London, June 2023
- ❖ ‘The Relevance of the Marrakesh Declaration to UK Religious Freedom Policy’, UK Freedom of Religion or Belief Forum, London, April 2023
- ❖ ‘The Reception of Ibn Tufayl’s Hayy ibn Yaqzan in the European Enlightenment’, Florida Gulf University, April 2023
- ❖ ‘Platonism, Perennialism, Pluralism: What is King Charles III’s Philosophy?’, The Cambridge Centre for the Study of Platonism, University of Cambridge, March 2023
- ❖ ‘Postmodernism: Good or Bad?’, Debate at the Ujazdowski Castle Museum, Warsaw, November 2022
- ❖ ‘Perceptions of Islam in the European Enlightenment’, Paideia Forum Summer School, Oriel College, University of Oxford, August 2022
- ❖ ‘Islam, Christianity and Modernity’, Online Lecture Series for the Paideia Forum, July 2022
- ❖ ‘Young People, Inclusive Citizenship and Technology’, Eighth Assembly of the Abu Dhabi Forum for Peace, Abu Dhabi, UAE, December 2021

Awards

- ❖ Sheikh Zayed Studentship for MPhil at the University of Cambridge (October 2022)
- ❖ Top Student Thesis in Digital Religion Studies by Texas A&M University (January 2021)
- ❖ Commendation in the international Ibn Arabi Society Young Writers Competition (2019)