

JENNIFER MARION TAYLOR, B.A. Dunelm, Cert. NCTJ, Ph.D., FRSA

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Profile

A well-networked researcher, author and media professional, with proven strengths in:

- Writing to bridge diverse paradigms or mental models essential to contemporary communication
- Setting up and running international media operations
- Working cross-culturally, particularly on social issues
- Multiple high level networks in mainstream media and multi-cultural spheres in Britain, Asia, the Middle East and Africa
- Public speaking and presenting

Recent Key Accomplishments

Further career details are shown overleaf, but a selection of achievements includes:

- **Pioneered the religious literacy movement** in UK, including publishing books and resources and training NUJ, Reuters and Press Association journalists in the new globalized news environment
- **Contributed to headline reports** e.g. most recently the Commission on Religion and Belief in Public Life in Britain Report *Living with Difference*, chaired by Baroness Butler-Sloss; the All Party Parliamentary Group on Religious Education Report *Improving Religious Literacy* chaired by Fiona Bruce MP; and as the media interlocutor and launch manager for the *Religion and Security Report* for the Research Councils UK Global Uncertainties Programme
- **‘Blue tick’** status with Facebook, Twitter and Google, as an accredited news producer
- Advisor to His Grace Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby on multi-culturalism, 2016

Academic & Professional Qualifications

National Council for the Training of Journalists Certificate

Yorkshire Post, 1980

Ph.D. *in the Study of Religions*, School of Oriental and African Studies, London University Dec. 2001

Title: ‘After Secularism: Inner-City Governance and the New Religious Discourse’ Sponsored by Whitefield Institute, Oxford

Supervisors: Dr K. Zebiri (Near & Middle East Studies), Mr S. Weightman (Head of Department); Dr Grace Davie (Sociology of Religion, Exeter); Examiners: Prof. David Martin (LSE), Prof. Douglas Davies (Durham)

Work History

Managing Director, Jenny Taylor Associates including:

Mar 2017 - present

Senior Contributor – *The Media Project*, New York; Consultant to *Stamens Menstrual Hygiene Management Project* focussed on Africa.
Honorary Research Fellow, *Kirby Laing Institute for Christian Ethics*, Cambridge, UK March 2018 - present

Founder CEO, *Lapido Media – Centre for Religious Literacy in Journalism* Jan 2005–Mar 2017
Pioneering Religious Literacy charity
Changing the discourse in the newly globalized news environment, to ‘tell a truer story’.

Media interlocutor for the Woolf Commission on Religion and Belief in Public Life in Britain chaired by Baroness Butler-Sloss; contributed all media recommendations to its *Living with Difference Report*.

Media interlocutor for the All Party Parliamentary Group on Religious Education Report *Improving Religious Literacy* chaired by Fiona Bruce MP.

Media interlocutor and launch manager for the Research Councils’ Partnership for Conflict, Crime & Security Research. 2015 Launched its report *Religion, Security and Global Uncertainties* at Portcullis House, Westminster with Open University.

Without institutional backing, grew the support for the charity from £40K to £114K in ten years. Clients have included Reuters Foundation, the National Union of Journalists, Press Association, Lady Sainsbury’s Save St Mark’s Campaign; Bible Society and others. Working with mainstream journalists whether individually, through parliamentary press conferences or high-profile symposia. Principle funders: Jerusalem Trust, J W Laing Trust, Porticus, Deo Gloria Trust

Book launches at Frontline Club, on ‘taboo’ subjects, most recently the definitive book *Religious Literacy* for journalists, launched with award-winning Chief Investigative Reporter at *The Times* Andrew Norfolk, and historian Tom Holland. In 2016 launched *The Caliphate* at Huddersfield Media School with BBC Head of Religion Aqil Ahmed, achieving national & international headlines.

Westminster event ‘Christianity or the Occult? Emerging Trends in the African Diaspora’ with Jesus House for All Nations (Redeemed Christian Church of God) chaired by Richard Dowden, Director of the Royal African Society.
Conceived & managed event to change negative perception of African churches’ following the *kindoke* – ritual child abuse – scandals in London. Keynote Speaker, BBC *Today Programme* investigative report Angus Stickler. Panellists included Metropolitan Police, and Churches’ Child Protection Advisory Service.

Head of Media

September 2001- Dec 2004

Church Mission Society, London

Responsible to the General Secretary for setting up and running the new CMS Media & Public Affairs Unit; including proactive and reactive press work.

Initiated and implemented the successful ‘Break the Silence’ Campaign to stop the war in Northern Uganda. This was commended in Parliament and is written up in the *Round Table: Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs*.

Devised SL200 – celebrating in House of Commons the founding of Sierra Leone by the Clapham Sect and CMS. Introduced media awareness into induction process, and media training for directors. Answerable to Gen Sec for media strategies. Managing news pages of website. Editor, CMS monthly supporters’ radio programme presented by BBC Radio 4 freelancer Caroline

Swinburne. Travel in Africa; public speaking and acting as media spokeswoman, e.g. Woman's Hour; BBC4 TV *World Today*, Channel News Asia, BBC World Service *Heart and Soul*.
www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/womanshour/2004_25_tue_02.shtml

Associate Editor

'Third Way'

Interviews included Secretary of State Michael Gove; feminist author Fay Weldon; CEO of Muslim Council of Britain Sir Iqbal Sacranie; Metropolitan Police Chief Sir John Stevens et al.

Prior to this, I undertook various research and communication contracts including

Researcher

2001

Book of the Millennium: How the Bible Changed Civilization – 7-part US TV Mini-series written and produced by Vishal Mangalwadi

Journalism

1994 –

Published in *The Times*, *Evening Standard*, *Telegraph*, *Guardian Comment is Free* European and church press

Commissioning Editor, including:

Voice for the Voiceless – the Biography of Baroness Cox

(Lion 1998)

A Short History of Christianity, Prof. Fred Norris

(OneWorld: 2001)

Communications Officer, British Council of Churches 'The Gospel & Our Culture' Programme 1991 - 92

Editor and Press Officer, INTERSERVE UK, London

1988 – 94

Re-developed *GO* magazine for leading international charity, Interserve. Doubled circulation into the US

Devised and researched 'Nambikkai' for BBC2 *See Hear*, broadcast three times

National Launch Press Officer, 'Christmas Cracker'

1988 - 90

Won nationwide media coverage for new concept in fund-raising, incl. BBC *Today* programme

Originated and ran launch event 'The World's Biggest Christmas Cracker' on London's South Bank and got into the Guinness Book of Records.

Senior Reporter *Evening Advertiser*, Swindon

1980 – 84

First Race Relations Correspondent, Westminster Press Group, following nationwide riots

Indentured Reporter, Yorkshire Post Group

1978 - 80

Lapido Publications

The Tablighi Jamaat by Zacharias Pieri, 2012

The Caliphate by Sean Oliver-Dee, 2015

Religious Literacy: an Introduction with contributions by Stephen Bates, Tom Holland, et al., 2017

Publications

'From Prophecy to Fake News: a Christian History of the Free Press' in *This Book Changed Everything* Vol 1 (Delhi et al, Sought After Media & Nivedit Good Books Distributors Pte: 2018)

'The Attitude of the Media to Religion' in *Religious Illiteracy in Europe* (Fondazione per Le Scienze Religiose Giovanni XXIII: forthcoming)

'A Feminine Reading of Christian Missions in the Middle Eastern Context: Response 2' in Moyra Dale, Cathy Hine and Carol Walker (eds.) *When Women Speak* (Oxford, Regnum: 2018)

‘Confessions of a Journalist’: A Case Study in Public Religion’ in Mark T.B. Laing and Paul Weston (eds.) *Theology in Missionary Perspective* (Pickwick: 2012)
A Wild Constraint: the Case for Chastity (Continuum/Bloomsbury: 2008)
Faith and Power: Christianity and Islam in ‘Secular’ Britain Co-authors: Bishop Lesslie Newbigin, Prof. Lamin Sanneh (SPCK: 1998 and Wipf & Stock: 2005)
‘Taking Spirituality Seriously: Northern Uganda and CMS’ Break the Silence Campaign’ in *Round Table – Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs* 382, pp. 559–574 (Routledge: October 2005)
‘It’s Establishment but not as we know it’ in *Political Theology Journal* (Continuum: 2004)
‘After Secularism: Governance and the Inner Cities’ in *Predicting Religion: Christian, Secular and Alternative Futures* (Ashgate: 2003)
‘Newbigin’s Understanding of Islam’ in *A Scandalous Prophet: Newbigin’s Mission Revisited* ed. Prof. Werner Ustorf (Eerdmans: 2002)
‘A Media Friendly Cracker’ in *The Christmas Cracker Manual* Kingsway: 1990

Pre-Lapido Lectures & Presentations

As CEO of Lapido Media, I majored on public speaking from 2007 to date, giving papers around the world, including on religious freedom and the media to journalists in Prague, Kristiansand and Jakarta for partner organization, New York-based The Media Project, and on Women in Islam to theologians in Melbourne, as well as many other talks and lectures across the UK on a variety of topics. Before that:

- 2006 Inaugural Lesslie Newbigin Memorial Lecture ‘RIP Secularism 7 July: Lesslie Newbigin and the London Bombings’ at Christian Resources Exhibition, Sandown, 12 May
- 2006 ‘The Need for Christian Political Discourse’ at Bible Society *Doing God and Finding the Language* Parliamentary Symposium on Faith, Politics and the Media, Portcullis House, Westminster, 9 May
- 2006 ‘This is the Moment’ at Henry Martyn Centre *Wisdom in Mission* Conference, Offa House, Leamington Spa. 2 May
- 2006 ‘The Commonwealth, multiculturalism, faith and tolerance’ to The Round Table – The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs *The Commonwealth after Valetta* Conference, Cumberland Lodge 5-6 January
- 2005 Guest preacher at Evensong, Jesus College, University of Cambridge. 9 October
- 2005 ‘Reporting Islam’ to Gegrapha – Christians in Journalism Fellowship, St Michael’s Chester Square, London on 7 October 2005
- 2004 The Global Dimension of Women Trafficking – to Women on the Move Group, at The Commonwealth Institute, Northumberland Ave, 16 June 2004
- 2001 ‘Faiths and Government: Who’s Using Whom?’ at Edmonton Diocesan Conference, *Catalysts for a Change*, organized by Revd Chris Beales
- 2000 ‘After Secularism: Governance and the Inner Cities’ at Exeter University British Sociological Association Sociology of Religion Study Group 25th Anniversary Conference *Prophets and Predictions*.
- 2000 ‘Kenosis or Conflict? Discourses of Power in the Inner Cities Religious Council’ at Tyndale Conference, Nantwich *God’s Unfolding Purposes*
- 1997 ‘Dilemmas for the Law in Multicultural Britain’ at de Bron Consultation, London *Faith and Power: Christianity and Islam in ‘Secular Britain’*.
- 1996 ‘Islam in Britain’ at Guthrie Centre for Islamic Studies, London Bible College, Northwood Summer School.

Memberships

Fellow, Royal Society of Arts
Member, Hew Humanum Group on issues of human sexuality (convened by Lord Nazir-Ali)
Theological Advisory Group, Evangelical Alliance
Editorial Advisory Board, Lausanne Global Analysis

Council for Christian Muslim Relations, High Wycombe