Theology and Human Rights
TENSION OR CONVERGENCE?

The Right Reverend Rowan Williams
104th Archbishop of Canterbury

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

APRIL 4-5, 2018
Travis Auditorium
**SCHEDULE**

**Wednesday, April 4**

10:00 am: **Human Rights and Human Identity**

THE RIGHT REV. ROWAN WILLIAMS

This lecture examines where recent tensions have come from—both in regard to Christians arguing that the idea of rights is a mistake, obscuring our dependence on God and one another and reinstating a legal relation in the place of grace and communion; and in regard to the sense that rights activists are pressing an individualistic and morally empty picture of human identity. Is it true that the language of entitlement and legal enforceability is at best awkward and at worst risky. But can we restate this in terms of a proper self-recognition as a bearer of God’s image and potential minister of the gifts of the Spirit in the community?

**Respondents:** Matthew Kaemingk and Clifton R. Clarke

**Thursday, April 5**

10:00 am: **Rights, Recognition, and the Body of Christ**

THE RIGHT REV. ROWAN WILLIAMS

Self-recognition is never a self-initiated matter; it depends on being recognized. Theology establishes that every human, every organic and spiritual individual, is recognized by God as maker and redeemer; and the church can be seen as, above all, a place where recognition is learned and offered. Christian self-recognition and mutual recognition declare that any human has a claim on my attention and service. What makes this more than a formal acceptance of endlessly diverse individual aims and desires is the conviction that recognition changes the character of relation between persons in such a way that faithful nurture, selfless patience, and risk for the good of the neighbor become central and universal aspects of a life lived in recognition of self and one another. We need to build bridges between this vision—essentially the biblical vision of Christ’s body—and the sometimes confused and badly grounded language of rights as we often hear it. Christians have a genuinely crucial perspective to offer on universal human dignity and destiny, and they need to be ready to engage with the language of rights both positively and critically.

**Respondents:** Sebastian Kim and Erin Dufault-Hunter

---

**ABOUT THE LECTURER**

The Right Reverend Rowan Williams, Baron Williams of Oystermouth, is a Welsh Anglican bishop, theologian, and poet. Williams was the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury, Metropolitan of the Province of Canterbury and Primate of All England, offices he held from 2002 to 2012. He was previously the Bishop of Monmouth and Archbishop of Wales, making him the first Archbishop of Canterbury in modern times not to be appointed from within the Church of England. His principal responsibilities as Archbishop were pastoral—leading the life and witness of the Church of England in general and his own diocese in particular by his teaching and oversight, and promoting and guiding the communion of the worldwide Anglican Church.

Williams is acknowledged internationally as an outstanding theological writer, scholar, and teacher, and has been involved in many theological, ecumenical, and educational commissions. He has written extensively across a wide range of related fields of professional study: philosophy, theology (especially early and patristic Christianity), spirituality, and religious aesthetics. He has also written throughout his career on moral, ethical, and social topics and, in recent times, has turned his attention increasingly to contemporary cultural and interfaith issues.

Williams’s other interests include music, fiction, and languages. He is married to Jane Paul, a lecturer in theology, and they have a daughter and a son.

**RESPONDENTS**

**Matthew Kaemingk**
Associate Dean for Fuller Texas and Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics

**Sebastian Kim**
Executive Director of the Korean Studies Center and Professor of Theology and Public Life

**Clifton R. Clarke**
Associate Dean for the William E. Pannell Center for African American Church Studies and Associate Professor of Black Church Studies and World Christianity

**Erin Dufault-Hunter**
Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics

For additional information, including respondent bios, parking information, and campus maps, visit Fuller.edu/PaytonLectures.