



2024 BSIR Fellows and Scholars walking to the dining hall at Christ Church, Oxford, after the meeting's opening session

BSIR Co-Directors

Dr. Laine Scales
Dr. João Chaves
Dr. Kim Kellison

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2024 BSIR Fellows

Dr. Loida Martell
Dr. Brad Creed
Dr. Paul Fiddes
Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley
Dr. Nora O. Lozano
Dr. Melody Maxwell
Dr. Caleb Oladipo
Dr. Anthony Reddie

From the Co-Directors

On behalf of the Baptist Scholars International Roundtable (BSIR), we extend our deepest gratitude for the support of our members and partners. This year's gathering at Oxford enabled scholars from diverse backgrounds to share insights on global mission, theological innovation, and the unique challenges facing Baptist communities today. Your commitment has been vital in creating this collaborative space, where scholars can strengthen connections, address shared issues, and develop new perspectives. Together, we are advancing a vision that is both globally informed and deeply impactful. Below, you will see a small sample of our shared work promoting scholarship on Baptists from various perspectives across international, intergenerational, and interdisciplinary lines.

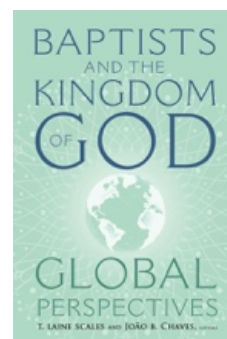
2024 Scholar Spotlight

Stephen Di Trolio, 2024 BSIR Jackson Scholar for Latin American Studies, recently reflected on his roundtable experience in a Baptist News Global op-ed. In it, Stephen described the gathering in Oxford as "a meeting that modeled dialogue, academic excellence and the context to think creatively about our ongoing research." He contrasted this experience with the hurried and dizzying nature of many academic conferences and mentioned how conversations between scholars and fellows often extend beyond meeting rooms to dinner tables. Stephen commented on the value of interacting with both seasoned scholars and cutting edge research on Baptists from around the world. For more details, [visit the full article here](#).



BSIR Publications

Baptists and the Kingdom of God: Global Perspectives (Baylor University Press in 2023) explores the Baptist interpretations of the Kingdom of God, focusing on how diverse local stories and contexts shape universal theological themes from a Baptist perspective. The book outlines four major Baptist interpretations of the Kingdom of God: ecclesiastical, eschatological, social, and providential. Book sections are based on these categories, though the structure is flexible enough to encompass a broad range of historical and theological themes. [Click here for more information.](#)





BSIR Alumnus Spotlight



2019 BSIR Scholar [Dr. Skylar Ray](#) received Baylor Graduate School's Outstanding Dissertation Award for "Healing Minds, Saving Souls: Evangelicals and Mental Health in the Age of the Therapeutic," which she successfully defended in 2023. Her dissertation examines the evangelical relationship to modern psychology and its therapeutic function in treating issues of mental health from the late nineteenth century to the early twenty-first. One member of her dissertation committee described Ray's research as "original, significant, interdisciplinary, and—perhaps rare for dissertations—widely useful." After serving for a year as a Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow at Baylor, Ray joined the faculty of John Brown University as an [Assistant Professor of History](#) in August.

BSIR Resources

The 2024 BSIR lecture, delivered in Oxford by Distinguished Scholar Rev. Dr. Loida I. Martell, can be found [here](#). The title of Martell's lecture was "Baptists, Missions, and Migrants: God's Justice in the World."

BSIR Co-Directors, Drs. Laine Scales and João Chaves appeared in on Baylor Religion Department's [podcast](#) *Currents in Religion* to discuss their latest co-edited book *Baptists and the Kingdom of God* (2023).

In another recent [episode](#), Chaves was joined by 2024 BSIR Scholar Stephen Di Trolio and Dr. Felipe Hinojosa to discuss Christian Nationalism throughout the Americas.

Please watch and share this [promotional video](#) with anyone who wants to learn more about BSIR.



2025 Roundtable Preview

The Baptist Scholars International Roundtable (BSIR) will hold its 19th annual meeting at Christ Church, University of Oxford from August 2-6, 2025. The conference theme will be "Baptists and Global Missions." Scholars from a broad array of disciplines will consider how Baptists worldwide have thought about missions and engaged in missionary work—as well as how locals of different backgrounds appropriated, resisted, and/or disseminated the message and work of Baptist missionaries. [See the 2025 Scholars here](#).

If you would like to become a BSIR member, please complete this [form](#) or contact [Laine Scales](#).