

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

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**Profile**

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

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

**Recent Key Accomplishments**

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

- **Awarded three-year part-time JW Laing Fellowship** in Communication, Media and Journalism at the Kirby Laing Institute for Christian Ethics at Tyndale House, Cambridge.
- **Pioneered the religious literacy movement** in UK, including setting up small publishing operation to support media training. Gave first ever religious literacy presentations to 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, co-launched the *Religion and Security Report* for the Research Councils UK Global Uncertainties Programme with Open University.
- **'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**

**Research Fellow (part-time) in Media, Communication and Journalism, Kirby Laing Centre for Public Theology in Cambridge, Margaret Beaufort Institute, Cambridge. Mar 2018 - present**

Managing Director, Jenny Taylor Associates including: Mar 2017 - present  
Senior Contributor – ReligionUnplugged.com, The Media Project, The King's College, New York  
Consultant to Stamens Menstrual Hygiene Management Project focussed on Kenya.  
Consultant pro bono to PSJ UK, addressing Christian persecution, Northern Nigeria

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. [Launched report Religion, Security and Global Uncertainties](#) at Portcullis House, Westminster with Open University in 2015.

Without institutional backing, grew the support for Lapido Media from £40K to £160K in ten years. Clients 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.

Book launches at Frontline Club for Foreign Correspondents in Paddington, London, on 'tabu' subjects, most recently the definitive book [Religious Literacy](#) for journalists, launched with award-winning Chief Investigative Reporter at *The Times* Andrew Norfolk, (who broke the Muslim sex grooming gangs story); and historian Tom Holland. In 2016 launched *The Caliphate* at Huddersfield Media School with BBC Head of Religion Aqil Ahmed, achieving national & international headlines.

Ran the event [Reporting the Middle East: Why the Truth is Getting Lost](#) in 2015 after the Morsi revolution in Egypt, to improve understanding of Coptic Church persecution. The Liberal Club, Westminster supported by Henry Jackson Society.

Co-wrote and [launched](#) the book [Tablighi Jamaat](#) at Frontline Club to educate journalists about the Newham Megamosque which failed to get planning permission after 23 years. I was the Expert Witness for HM Inspector of Planning at the final Appeal hearing in Docklands in 2017.

Conceived the idea in 2007 to change and improve the negative perception of African churches' following the *kindoke* – ritual child abuse – scandals in London. Worked with BBC *Today Programme* investigative report Angus Stickler and with Metropolitan Police, African church leaders, and social workers focussed around a high-profile Westminster event 'Christianity or the Occult? Emerging Trends in the African Diaspora' chaired by Richard Dowden, Director of the Royal African Society.

Head of Media  
Church Mission Society, London

September 2001- Dec 2004

Responsible to the General Secretary for setting up and running the new CMS Media 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*. See reference below.

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. Producer, 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](http://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

### Publications

- 'From Prophetic Press to Fake News'. In Vishal Mangalwadi *This Book Changed Everything Vol 1: The Bible's Amazing Impact on Our World* (SoughtAfterMedia: 2019)
- '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* (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 Werner Ustorf (ed.) *A Scandalous Prophet: Newbigin's Mission Revisited* (Eerdmans: 2002)
- 'A Media Friendly Cracker'. In Steve Chalke (ed.) *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, 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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

Member, New 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