

Curriculum Vitae of Esmé Lily Katherine Partridge

Writer, Researcher and Civic Future Fellow holding an MPhil with Distinction from the University of Cambridge and a First Class BA from SOAS, with professional experience in the political, charity and think tank sectors.

Education

- 2022 - 2024** **Clare College, University of Cambridge**
MPhil Philosophy of Religion
Grade: **Distinction**
Postgraduate studies in the Faculty of Divinity. Dissertation on the Renaissance jurist Jean Bodin’s philosophy of religious pluralism.
- 2018 - 2021** **SOAS, University of London**
BA Study of Religions
Grade: **First Class**
Undergraduate studies in the Religions of the Middle East, Islamic Studies and Arabic.
- 2011 - 2018** **Wood Green School, Oxfordshire**
A-Levels (two **A***s including EPQ) and **GCSEs** (six **A**s and **A***s)

Experience

- November 2025 - Present** **Theos Think Tank**
Researcher
Researching and writing reports on Religion and society, focusing on the “quiet revival” of Christianity among young adults and the rise of Christian nationalism.
- December 2024 - November 2025** **House of Commons**
Parliamentary Researcher
Researched policy for Katie Lam, MP for the Weald of Kent, focusing on Education, Churches, and Housing. Produced briefings; drafted Parliamentary questions and speeches; led constituency surveys; and supported Katie’s role on a select committee.
- June - November 2024** **Civitas: Institute for the Study of Civil Society**
Commissioned Researcher
Authored a report on the future of parish churches entitled “Restoring the Value of Parishes: The Foundations of Welfare, Community and Spiritual Belonging in England”.
- July 2021 - October 2023** **Good Faith Partnership**
Associate Consultant
Authored a policy handbook on religious freedom based on the Marrakesh Declaration and continued to provide the secretariat for the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Christianity in the Holy Land.

Interfaith Coordinator

Coordinated projects at the intersection of religion and politics including a UK interfaith organisation; a religion and diplomacy training programme for the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office; the APPG on Christianity in the Holy Land; and the UK Government's International Freedom of Religion or Belief Ministerial.

October 2020 - Present Freelance Writer and Editor

Writing on religion, philosophy and politics for The Critic, First Things, Theos Think Tank, Times Literary Supplement, UnHerd, The RSA, Renovatio and the Temenos Academy Review. Edited an independent academic book.

Selected Publications

- ❖ 'Jean Bodin's Colloquium Heptaplomeres: A 16th Century Precursor to Perennialism?', chapter in forthcoming edited volume on Perennial Philosophy, SUNY Press, expected 2026
- ❖ 'Charles III's Philosophy of Harmony', Engelsberg Ideas, February 2026
- ❖ 'RE and the Challenge of Worldviews Education', Theos Think Tank, November 2025
- ❖ 'Is astrology part of Gen-Z's spiritual revival?', UnHerd, May 2025
- ❖ 'How faith built the best of the nation' (Book Review), The Critic, May 2025
- ❖ 'Music and the Decline of Civilisation', Renovatio, March 2025
- ❖ 'Jigsaw of Faith' (Book Review), Times Literary Supplement, October 2024
- ❖ 'Pope Francis cracks down on the supernatural', UnHerd, May 2024
- ❖ 'Gen-Z doesn't want disco cathedrals', UnHerd, February 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
- ❖ 'AI and the End of Wisdom', the European Conservative, September 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

- ❖ 'William Blake Masterclass', dialogue with Mark Vernon, UnHerd, July 2025

- ❖ 'The Religious Awakening of Gen-Z', Maiden Mother Matriarch podcast with Louise Perry, June 2025
- ❖ 'Christianity and the Creation of England', dialogue with Bijan Omrani, Civitas, May 2025
- ❖ 'Ficino's Prisca Theologia in 16th Century France: Jean Bodin and the *Colloquium Heptaplomeres*', The School of Philosophy and Economic Science, March 2025
- ❖ 'Cosmic Toryism', The Gnostalgia Podcast, January 2025
- ❖ 'How the West fell for Pseudo-Religions', dialogue with Paul Kingsnorth, UnHerd, December 2024
- ❖ '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
- ❖ 'On Being "Liberated" from Nature', The Trinity Forum, London, September 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

- ❖ Civic Future Fellowship (October 2025)
- ❖ 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)