



PRIFYSGOL CYMRU  
**Y Drindod Dewi Sant**  
UNIVERSITY OF WALES  
**Trinity Saint David**

Institute of Education and Humanities/  
Yr Athrofa Addysg a'r Dyniaethau

**MA Dissertation Approval Form/  
Ffurflen Gymeradwyo Traethawd Hir MA**

|                                        |                                     |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Student Name/<br><i>Enw Myfyriwr</i>   | Anna Morris<br>1904007              |
| Degree Scheme/<br><i>Cynllun Gradd</i> | MA - Western and Eastern Philosophy |
| Start date/<br><i>Dyddiad</i>          | Sept 2019                           |

I have completed Part 1 of my degree.

\*Please delete as appropriate.

*Yr wyf wedi/ ar fun cwblhau Rhan 1 o fy ngradd*

*\* Dileu fel sy'n briodol*

Title of Dissertation: TBC, research questions I would like to discuss further.

What did Jesus Look Like ? A reference to Joan E. Taylors depiction of Jesus will be the primary source of reference throughout the dissertation.

Dissertation Question ideas:

How was the depiction of Joan E. Taylors image of Christ received universally as the true image of Jesus?

How does Taylors image of Christ challenge white supremacist evangelical views on white superiority and segregation?

The erasure of Jesus's colour and jewishness via the representation of art throughout time? Did the exclusions of Jesus's identity have a agenda or were they merely subjective ?

How has the exclusion of Jesus's racial identity played a role in the ontological Christian ideals of white supremacy in White American Evangelical Christian churches and how Taylors image of Christ challenges these ideals?

How compatible would Taylors image of Jesus be in the Third Reich of Nazi Germany's Protestant Theologians and their assertion that Jesus was an "Aryan"?

How does Taylors image of Jesus compare to the most notable chronological art depictions of Christ throughout time?

*Teitl eich Traethawd Hir*

Aims and Objectives:  
*Nodau ac Amcanion*

*IDEAS ONLY:*

Erasure of Jesus's racial identity?

My aim is to investigate whether the race and jewishness of Christ was intentionally erased to promote white superiority and to encourage anti semitism in some Protestant Christian churches and thought?

My objective and aim is to prove the theory that Jesus's racial identity has been excluded intentionally or erased to promote white political objectives and superiority.

Draw parallels between white supremacy, civil rights movement in America and the lack of involvement of white protestant christian groups to support racial equality, how does their imagery of Jesus compare to Taylors imagery of a brown skinned middle eastern jewish man.

To investigate how white evangelical churches can justify racism via Christian imagery and how Taylors image can challenge this.

To discuss Jesus's image captured within the Bible and to compare to Taylors image of Jesus.

Art History - The depictions of Jesus - Were the depictions of Jesus a sole subjective representation of peoples racial biases of their own cultures and times?

To investigate whether the art depictions had a hidden agenda when representing Jesus in a particular way?

Was Jesus painted a certain way to further political agendas within the time / context it was painted? How important was the truth of what Jesus looked like? Did it matter?

Christ visitations to Christian saints - religious experience?

Was Jesus's image painted from the views of notable saints who claimed to have seen Jesus?

The aim would be to investigate any commonalities and discrepancies in Jesus's image when appearing to saints and to draw a comparison to Taylors image of Jesus.

My theory is that Jesus's image has always had an agenda and is restricted to cultural biases of the time.

Abstract (approximately 500 words):

## RACE AND JESUS

*Crynodeb (tua 500 gair):*

*The basis of the dissertation will be based upon the thesis of Joan E. Taylors proposal that Jesus's racial identity and image throughout history has been based upon largely European cultural biases and imagery of a white man with Eurocentric skin and hair. I will primarily focus on Jesus racial identity and how it differs from the dominant universal image of christ most persons recognise today.*

*I am interested in investigating when and where Jesus turned into a white European man and whether this was motivated by subjective cultural biases and beliefs of the time or whether his identity was intentionally erased to further political agendas of white supremacy and anti - semitism. Or was the imagery of Jesus merely due to races making Christ in their own image as philosopher argues.*

*Taylors image of Jesus will be the foundation of the dissertation because it depicts a person of colour , with dark hair and eyes. This image challenges the view that Jesus was white, and therefore penetrates some sectors of Christian thought who promotes Jesus's whiteness to solidify their agenda that white people are superior to other races.*

*Taylors image will challenge many sectors of white christian protestant ideals and an idea for the dissertation would be to draw comparisons between Taylors image of Christ and how a non white Jesus impacts on protestant ideals on race.*

## HISTORY OF ART AND JESUS

To investigate the most notable depictions of Jesus chronologically throughout time and compare the art pieces to Taylors image.

Which art representation was the most realistic ? A comparative essay on art pieces of Jesus image and Taylors image throughout time.

## RECEPTION OF JESUS

Reception of Taylors image of Christ? To investigate book reviews from Christian scholars and lay persons regarding Taylors image of Jesus.

I would also write to Taylor to see if she was willing to disclose any information on how her book has been received by the masses in academia, christians and lay persons.

I would aim to collect some data by asking various Christian churches in my county to ask church members to complete a questionnaire created by myself. The nature of the questionnaire would be to display Taylors image of Christ and a stereo typical image of Christ and ask the persons to comment on which image they feel best represents Jesus and why. Then reveal that Taylors image is the most realistic and gather their opinions on this notion.

Short Introductory Bibliography:

What Did Jesus Look Like? By Joan E. Taylor - I have purchased this book and am reading it , as I would like this book to be the foundation of the dissertation regarding Jesus appearance.

Reception of Taylors book

UWTSD - Library online sources -

What did Jesus look like reviews -

Greene, Clement William - Review

Shedd, Nathan L

Jose, de Carvalho

The Aryan Jesus \_ Christian Theologians and the Bible in Nazi Germany by Susannah Heschel

The Nazi Quest for an Aryan Jesus , Peter Head

Parsing science and prejudice - Susannah Heschel

Jesus and Justice : Evangelicals, Race and American Politics by Peter Goodwin Heltzel

Depending on the subject matter the bibliography would consist of various books, journals , reviews and texts from UWTSD library and other sources.

*Llyfryddiaeth rhagarweiniol byr*

Proposed Supervisor: Dr. Jessica Keady

Goruchwyliwr awgrymedig

Please indicate whether ethical approval for project is needed – NO

*Nodwch a oes angen cymeradwyaeth foesegol ar gyfer y prosiect - OES / NAC OES*

Please indicate whether sufficient resources are available for the project – YES/  
NO

*Nodwch a oes digon o adnoddau ar gael ar gyfer y prosiect - OES / NAC OES*

The above topic, proposal, and supervisor have been agreed:

*Cytunwyd ar y pwnc, y cynnig a'r goruchwyliwr uchod:*

Signed : .....Programme Director/  
Llofnod Cyfarwyddwr y rhaglen

Date:.....  
Dyddiad

**Please return this form to your Programme Director.**  
**Dychwelwch y ffurflen hon at eich Cyfarwyddwr Rhaglen.**