
Call for Abstracts

2019 SRS Graduate Student Conference
Christian Theology After Christendom

Dates: **Nov 1-3, 2019**

Location: McGill University, Montreal, Canada

Submission Deadline: **July 10th, 2019**

Description of Conference:

The McGill School of Religious Studies graduate student conference in collaboration with University of Toronto's Emmanuel College invites graduate students and emerging scholars to participate in a special edition conference reflecting on the writings of McGill emeritus professor Douglas John Hall and engaging with his contextual theology of the cross. We invite critical reflection on the mission and theology of the Christian religion and the church. 'The Christian Religion' in its dominant (chiefly Western) forms has conceived of its mission and theology in essentially imperialistic/colonizing terms, sometimes explicitly, sometimes modified by the rhetoric of societal and global concern. Hall has sought to reclaim the theology of the cross as a decolonizing contextualizing Christianity within a social framework which no longer seeks to dominate and control. These aspects of Christianity, which Hall calls to attention through a contextual theology of the cross are embedded in the historical tradition of the early church, are being integrated with the Christian theologies of developing communities in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Indigenous populations.

The student conference would like applicants to critically assess the role of Christendom as a dominating/colonizing power and how Hall's theology of the cross could offer different possibilities for thinking about a renewed Christianity and the role and function of the contemporary church. Especially, considering the current political climate in the West, which renders religion and religious symbols as increasingly problematic and offers different forms of secularism as the solution to social cohesion and the growing multicultural environment of Western societies. The student conference wishes participants to examine the relationship between Christian theology and the public sphere in order to inspire a renewed understanding of theology and community which can engage a global society facing global issues of ecological survival, racial injustice, and poverty.

Some questions the conference wishes to consider are: How does the theology of the cross allow for a re-reading and re-imagining of ancient scriptures so as to offer reparative solutions to societal and global issues? What is the relationship between theologies of glory, colonization and evangelization? How does the triune God-concept and /or Christian religion function within the rhetoric of colonization/ theology of glory? Can Christian theology be a positive response to the global ecological crisis? Is it possible to transform a Christian theology of domination into an instrument for justice in the cause of the oppressed?

We invite proposals from all areas of study, including biblical studies, practical theology, history and classics, philosophy, art history, sociology, anthropology, psychology, political science, law, ethics, indigenous studies, African studies and gender studies.

Encouraged topics and themes include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Colonization – Imperial Theory
- Eco-theology
- Liberation theology
- Latin American theology
- Womanist / Feminist Theology
- Trauma Theory
- Theory of Suffering
- Process Responses / Thought
- Secularism / Atheism
- Response to Multiculturalism
- Influence on Pop Culture
- Globalization
- Deconstructionism
- Post-Modernism
- God-Concepts
- Ethics of Healing
- Indigenous Spirituality
- History of the Christian Church
- Continental Philosophy
- Scriptural Interpretations
- The role of NGOs
- Media Response
- Pluralism

Guidelines for proposals:

Please submit a 250-word abstract explaining the topic and main arguments of the paper by **July 10th, 2019**. All disciplines and fields welcome. Papers must engage in and contribute to the scholarly discourse; works of advocacy or mere summary will not be considered.

Presentations should not exceed 20 minutes. Proposals should include all contact information including institutional affiliation and any technical request such as audio-visual equipment.

These proposals as well as any questions or requests for further information should be sent to the following address: gradconference.relgstud@mail.mcgill.ca

Keynote Speakers

Further information regarding keynote speakers, conference schedule and special panels will be posted on the following website: www.mcgill.ca/religiousstudies/events

Publishing Possibility: Following the conference, a select number of high quality papers will be considered for publication in a special volume.