CALL FOR PAPERS

CTSA Convention, Cleveland, OH
June 11-14, 2020

TOPIC SESSION: Bioethics and Healthcare

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM:
Michael P. Jaycox (Convener)
Michael McCarthy
Nichole M. Flores

CONVENTION THEME: “All You Who Labor…” Theology, Work, and Economy

SESSION DESCRIPTION: The Bioethics/Healthcare Topic Session invites paper proposals related to the convention’s theme, “All You Who Labor …” Theology, Work, and Economy. This theme suggests numerous avenues for critical conversation and scholarship about the intersections of health, illness, economy, and work. In particular, we can ask ourselves and one another: How and why is the work of healing and health care theologically significant? How can theological voices help reimagine a world in which health care institutions, and in particular Catholic health care institutions, operate in an economically just pattern, or even prophetically in relation to an economically unjust world? How can global justice movements increase opportunities for collaboration and facilitate a shared spirituality of solidarity between the global South and the global North? How can these movements place pressure upon powerful economic and political actors to radically reorder the priorities of health care funding, research, education, and clinical practice in order to meet the health demands of those who are sick and oppressed and to remedy gross disparities in health outcomes?

Some possible topics include:

- The work of healing in the medical field as an expression and affirmation of human dignity.
- The ethical significance of rest for health care workers, especially those who work long hours for less pay.
- Exploration of wage inequality between highly compensated C-Suite positions and the lower paid employees.
- Challenges to labor unions, particularly within Catholic health care.
- Catholic social thought in relation to the institutional realities of contemporary health care; for example, as applied to ethical issues regarding equity in patient access, quality and efficiency of care delivery, racial and gender disparities in health care outcomes, cost of medications and procedures, etc.
- The implications of liberation and political theologies for Catholic health care institutions that seek to serve and accompany oppressed populations.
- Ethical issues with the employment practices of health care institutions, especially regarding outsourcing or offshoring jobs, hiring employees with lower wages, fewer benefits, less control, and less job security.
• Ethical responses to the health care crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border: the physiological and psychological health of migrants and refugees incarcerated in unsafe and unsanitary conditions, particularly children.
• Ethical and theological responses to the increased use of market-based models from the business world in the context of health care institutions.
• The uses and abuses of power in the context of health care work; for example, in doctor-patient relationships, in the denial of adequate insurance coverage for expensive medications and procedures, etc.
• Ethical issues involved in health care work with those who do not “fit” the idealized Western norm of the autonomous, independent individual; such as persons who identify with more communitarian cultures, persons with disabilities, elderly persons with cognitive diminishment, etc.
• The work of providing compassionate and culturally competent health care at the beginning and at the end of life; for example, in the context of hospice care, palliative care, pregnancy, labor and delivery, etc.
• The exploitation of the global poor participating in clinical research trials to produce medical knowledge and technology that will primarily benefit the global non-poor.
• We also invite proposals examining any topic in moral theology or theological ethics related to work, economy, and health care, in both local and global contexts.

INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN YOUR PROPOSAL:

• Your paper proposal should be not more than 250 words.
• You should also include a 100-word précis that will be posted on the CTSA website should your paper be accepted.
• Please provide the name, institution, and contact information of all presenters, including e-mail contact.
• Please also indicate whether you will be requiring A/V equipment.

ELIGIBILITY FOR SUBMITTING PAPER PROPOSALS:

• CTSA guidelines require that those making proposals ordinarily be associate or full members in good standing with their dues paid up. Anyone with an associate or full membership application on file can also submit a proposal if they expect to be accepted for membership in the upcoming June convention.
• No member may present a paper/respond to a paper/participate on a panel more than once at a given convention. An exception is made for members of under-represented groups. Presentations made to the Women’s Consultation on Constructive Theology are included in this rubric.
• Members cannot have a speaking role for more than two consecutive years in a three-year period.

Deadline: September 1, 2019.

Please submit proposals to Michael Jaycox at jaycoxm@seattleu.edu.
You will be notified by e-mail about whether your paper has been accepted by September 14, 2019.