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

TOPIC SESSION/CONSULTATION: Creation/Eschatology

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM:
Rhodora Beaton (Aquinas Institute of Theology) (Convener)
Daniel Minch (Karl-Franzens-Universität-Graz)
Daniel Horan, OFM (Catholic Theological Union)

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

SESSION DESCRIPTION:
The Creation/Eschatology topic session invites proposals that address the conference theme “‘All You Who Labor…’: Theology, Work, and Economy” in light of its eschatological and creative implications. We are especially interested in proposals that build on recent work related to Laudato si’, engage the relationship between eschatology and the economy, or address the participatory work of humanity in creation.

Specific approaches to consider might include:
- God’s work of creation and the significance of Sabbath as eschatological sign
- Theologies and critiques responding to the motif of “work” in Laudato si’, with particular focus on the “care” or “stewardship” of our common oikos
- Considerations of “labor” or “work” in nonhuman creatures particularly in light of recent ethological work (perhaps with engagement with the Romans 8 motif).
- Explorations of the interdependence or interrelationship of creation conceived in terms of communal labor/work
- The ecological crisis as a “work of human hands” in the context of creation and/or human work as a positive participation in God’s creation
- Economic processes and material creation — the tension between consumption of resources and natural feedback systems
- Interpretations of human work and rest in the Genesis creation stories (tilling the soil, gardening, maternal labor and childbirth)
- Developments of ecofeminist critiques of relationship between materiality, labor, and gender
- Considerations of creatio continua and the “work” of the Holy Spirit in creation.
- The significance of good works in the world in eschatological terms (perhaps with reference to Matthew 25).
- Labor and surplus value creation in relation to the eschatological ‘already/not-yet’ tension
- Eschatology and economic planning for the future
- Economics and finance as ‘self-fulfilling eschatology’ — the promise of trust or prosperity creates/perpetuates trust in markets
• Household and Oikonomia — the deliberate exclusion of ‘householding’ from liberal economic theory as ‘non-productive’ labor in a ‘productive’ society
• Already/Not-Yet tension: Currency as incarnated value
• The eighth day of creation: what happens to capitalism once all debts are repaid?
• Economization of time in the present, especially as it might pertain to the abandonment of an eschatological future

INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN YOUR PROPOSAL:

• Proposals should be no more than 250 words in length and should describe a presentation of 20 minutes. In your proposal, please include the following: your name, the title of your proposed paper, your institutional affiliation with full contact information, any A.V. needs, and a 100-word précis suitable for the online program to be posted on the CTSA website.

• 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. Presentations made to the Women’s Consultation on Constructive Theology are included in this rubric. An exception is made for members of under-represented groups.
  • 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: Rhodora Beaton (beaton@ai.edu)

You will be notified by e-mail whether your paper has been accepted by September 14, 2019.