CALL FOR PAPERS

CTSA CONVENTION, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania June 9-9, 2019

TOPIC SESSION: SPIRITUALITY

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM:

Andrew Prevot (convener)
Julia Feder
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CONVENTION THEME: “All You Who Labor . . .”: Theology, Work, and Economy

Call for Papers:

This year the CTSA has chosen as its theme “All You Who Labor . . .”: Theology, Work, and Economy. We invite papers that reflect on one of the many ways that spirituality is implicated in this theme. We can envision a number of possible ways of doing this (and welcome other ideas as well). The following questions are illustrative of approaches and topics that we would welcome:

1. How might the monastic tradition of *ora et labora* inform theological understandings of a harmonious relationship between prayer and work both within and outside of the monastery?
2. What are the spiritual insights and spiritual needs of unemployed, underemployed, overworked, incarcerated, exploited, or enslaved persons? How might Christian spirituality be developed to more fully embrace a preferential option for the poor?
3. How does the experience of work differ across places and contexts in the globalized economy? What might the field of Christian spirituality learn from a critical geography of labor?
4. Is it better to think of Christian spirituality more nearly as a type of work (practice, exercise, struggle) or as a type of leisure (play, rest, quiet)? What is at stake in such distinctions?
5. In what helpful or unhelpful ways does Christian spirituality draw upon experiences of pregnancy, labor during childbirth, and midwifery? How does Christian spirituality “gender” the experience of work and the relationship between God and the soul?
6. How might spirituality find expression through works of art and in the artist’s practice of making or performing art? How have artists shed new light on the spiritual or theological meanings of work and economy?
7. What is the relationship between work and vocation, and what practices of discernment are most helpful for discovering what one is called to do, particularly in a world troubled by the scarcity of spiritually fulfilling, morally sound, and well-compensated jobs?
Whatever approach one chooses, we would like the paper to advance the conversation about the nature of spirituality and develop the implications of this understanding for the enterprise of doing theology. Generally, the field of spirituality takes as its starting point reflection emerging from lived experience, which is then examined using theoretical perspectives drawn from a variety of disciplines including history, psychology, sociology, literary criticism, biblical studies, and systematic, practical, moral and pastoral theology.

Proposals should not exceed 250 words and should include the author’s name, institution, and contact information. Include as well a 100 word precis that will be posted on the CTSA website should your proposal be accepted. **The deadline for submission is September 1, 2019.** Notification of the administrative team’s decision will be communicated by **September 14, 2019.**

Proposals should present a clear thesis statement developed in response to a well-defined research question, identify major sources to be engaged, and clarify the contributions that the argument makes to the field. Instead of an individual paper, you may wish to propose a panel of two or three presenters. **Please articulate in the proposal any audio-visual support required.** Recall that CTSA policy limits presenters to one speaking role (presenter, respondent, or panelist) on the convention program, with the exception of underrepresented constituencies. It should be noted as well that the CTSA limits members to presenting a maximum of two papers within a period of three years. Presenters should ordinarily be CTSA members in good standing; presenters should review the status of their dues payments at the CTSA website.

**Please send proposals as an email attachment in a Word document to Andrew Prevot at andrew.prevot@bc.edu.**