CALL FOR PAPERS

CTSA CONVENTION: Cleveland 2020
TOPIC SESSION/CONSULTATION: Theology and Science
ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM: Paul J. Schutz (Convener), Amanda Alexander, Mark Fusco, S.J.

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

SESSION DESCRIPTION:
The 2020 session will focus on the relationship between economy and labor 1) in socioecological and scientific contexts and 2) in light of developments in A.I. and technology.

We invite proposals that address these questions, or other questions relevant to the convention theme:

❖ Socioecological and Scientific Issues: Poverty, Farming, and Economic Justice
   ➢ What are the moral implications of industrial farming, GMO crops, automated animal harvesting, and so on, especially as these concerns intersect with questions of migrant labor and labor justice?
   ➢ How might, or how should, theological reflection on ecoracism, labor, immigration-migration rhetoric, and other such issues influence public/political discussions of work?
   ➢ What theological issues arise in debates around sustainable and industrial farming? How do issues such as topsoil depletion and groundwater contamination intersect with work and economy?
   ➢ What alternatives exist to industrial food production, and how do they intersect with theological perspectives on nature? How might issues such as the recent Roundup cancer lawsuit influence theological perspectives on work and economy?
   ➢ Theologian Norman Wirzba has proposed a Sabbath Economy based on Wendell Berry’s Great Economy. Is there room for gratitude for and reflection on work in the contemporary economy? How might Christian agrarian perspectives shape approaches to work and economy?

❖ A.I., Technology, and the Technocratic Paradigm
   ➢ How do the rise of A.I. and automation influence discussions of the dignity of human work? How might increased automation shape theological discussions of labor and economic viability?
   ➢ What is the relationship between A.I., the technocratic paradigm, and the instrumentalization of human labor in service of an abstract economic system, especially as these issues affect earth and the poor?
   ➢ How does the development of new technologies for war and surveillance impose limits on freedom and reshape the reasons for which humans work?
   ➢ What is the impact of technology on leisure and enjoyment—the Sabbath rest?
   ➢ How does social media transform how we communicate and interact? What is the influence of social media and networking technologies on the intersection of work and the “public square” (i.e. working from home)? Does work have value without a public square?
   ➢ How does the use of technology in liturgical spaces shape conceptions of God, self, and creation?

Proposals should not exceed 300 words. In the submission, please provide your name, institution, and contact information, as well as a 100-word précis to be posted online should the paper be
accepted. Please indicate whether A/V equipment is required and indicate your membership status when submitting your proposal.

Eligibility Guidelines:

- CTSA guidelines require that those proposing papers be Active or Associate members of the Society with dues paid. 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 Colloquium on Constructive theology are included in this rubric.
- No member may have a speaking role (presenter, respondent, panelist) more than two consecutive years in a three year period

Deadline for submission is September 1, 2019. Submit proposals to pjschutz@scu.edu. You will be notified by e-mail whether your paper has been accepted by September 14, 2019.