IASYM European Biennial Conference 2021 in Helsinki:

**“Cultivating Youth Spirituality: Faith, Nurturing and Youth Ministry”**

**Conference rescheduled to 7-10 April, 2021**

**New Call for Papers open until Oct 30**

**Preliminary program: Program will be updated after the new call**

Helsinki, Finland

7-10 April 2021

**Wednesday April 7**

12:00-14:00 Registration

12:00-14:00 Lunch

14:15-16:00 Plenary session I

Welcome and Opening Session  
Jouko Porkka ja Pirjo Hakala, DIAK

Chair: Kati Tervo-Niemelä

**Katherine Douglass (& Richard Osmer)**Seattle Pacific UniversityAssistant Professor of Educational Ministry and Practical Theology

**Cultivating Teen Faith – Findings from The Confirmation Project in the US**

(45 minutes + respondent + discussion)  
Respondent**:** Patrik Hoering

16:15-17:45 Paper Session I (3 parallel paper sessions)

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| **UNDERSTANDING CHILDREN AND YOUTH THEOLOGICALLY** | **YOUTH MINISTRY AND CONTEXT** | **YOUTH AND CONFIRMATION WORK** |
| Chair: Bård Eirik Hallesby Norheim  Ron Becker  **Beyond Epistemology. Understanding Youth Theologically**  Respondent: Frantisek Steck  Eriikka Jankko  **The Concept of Child and the Ideals of Spirituality**  Respondent: Kristin Graff-Kallevåg | Chair: Katarina Westerlund  Scott Paget  **Where is Youth Ministry?**  Respondent: Christian Noval  Anne-Maria Trygg-Jouttijärvi  **Parish as a partner at school**  Respondent: Jan Minnema | Chair: Susie Mapledoram  Jari Pulkkinen  Jouko Porkka **Adolescents’ experiences in confirmation work**  Respondent: Katherine Douglas  Patrik Hoering  **Confirmation - Expectations and Effects**  Respondent: Salla Poropudas |

17:45 Dinner

19:00 Evening Prayer Cathedral Church

20:00 Church House Reception

**Thursday April 8**

8:45 Morning prayer

9:15-10:45 Paper Session II / Workshops (3parallel paper sessions)

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| **YOUTH DOING THEOLOGY (session I)** | **YOUTH MINISTY AND CHALLENGES OF SECULARIZATION AND POST-SECULARIZATION** | **YOUTH MINISTY AND PARISH WORK IN CHANGE** |
| Chair: Jos de Kock  Ragnhild N Hungnes  **Youth and their articulated resurrection belief - youth ministry & ordinary theology**  Respondent: Marjukka Laiho  Tone Stangeland Kaufman & Kristin Graff-Kallevåg **“This is me!” A study of young people theologizing on sin, shame, and salvation**  Respondent: Jussi Murtovuori | Chair: XXX  Thomas Nedergaard  **Youth theology in a post-Christian era**  Respondent: Mark Scanlan  Paul Folland **The challenge and proposed solutions to the declining attendance of young adults in church**  Respondent: Monique van Dijk-Groeneboer | Chair: Christo Lombaard  Andrew Root  **How the Coming Generation Could Set the West A Blaze: Bonhoeffer  as a Response to Our Age of Anger**  Respondent: XX  Minna Valtonen  **A new culture of living – community-based professionality in Tampere parishes youth work**  Respondent: Pete White |

Coffee available

11.15-13:00 Plenary session II

Chair: Astrid Sandsmark

**Trudy Dantis**Australian Catholic Bishops Conference National Centre for Pastoral Research Director, Canberra

**Australian Catholic Bishops Youth Survey 2017 - A study of the attitudes and participation experiences of young people aged 16-29 in the Catholic Church in Australia.**

Respondent: Tobias Faix

**Kati Tervo-Niemelä**Professor of Practical Theology  
University of Eastern Finland  
**”Regardless of my family” – Religious growth among those with no religious upbringing**

Respondent: Francesco Cerchiaro

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:15-15:45 Workshops (3 parallel workshops)

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| **WORKSHOP: ECUMENICAL EDUCATION AS TOOL TO DEVELOP RELIGIOUS GROWTH AND YOUTH SPIRITUALITY** | **WORKSHOP:**  **SUPPORTING CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES IN THE FINNISH LUTHERAN CHURCH** | **WORKSHOP: DEVELOPING YOUTH MINISTRY RESEARCH** |
| Chair: Jussi Murtovuori  **Part 1**  **I: The construction of religiosity in consequence of ecumenical training**  Juhana Malme  **II: Ecumenical Education as an instrument for ecumenical learning**  Virpi Paulanto  **Part 2**  **Nonformal Ecumenical Education in Youth Ministry - a Threat or a possibility?**  Virpi Paulanto & Juhana Malme | Chair: Jan Minnema  **Supporting children, youth and families in the Finnish Lutheran Church**  Katri Vappula  Laura Pellikka  **Part 1: Walking aside of children living in the city of Helsinki**  .  **Part 2: Baptism and godparenting** | Chair: Andrew Root  **Youth Ministry Research... So what?**  Ron Becker, Frantisek Stech, Christian Noval and Berit Weigand Berg  **Christian Youth Ministry in Europe. A comparative overview**  Patrik Hoering |

15:45-16:15 Coffee break

16:15-17:45 Workshops (2-3 parallel workshops)

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| **WORSHOP ON DEVELOPING YOUTH MINISTRY AND CHURCH PRACTISE** | **WORKSHOP ON YOUTH SPITUALITY AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT** | **VOICES OF THE MARGINALIZED YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE EARTERN EUROPE** |
| Chair: Patrik Hoering  **Increasing participation through mobile technology and phenomenal learning**  Sanna Jattu  **Isonen On The Road - faith, identity and leadership**  Susie Mapledoram  Sanna Lehtisaari | Chair: Mari Parkkinen  **Alternatives to "one size fits all" spirituality**  Roni Vatto  Harri Nurmi  **Exegesis and catechesis: impulses towards spiritual growth in the younger believer?**  Christo Lombaard | Chair: Berit Weigand Berg  **Voices of the marginalized young people in the Eastern Europe**  Oksana Prosvirnina, Jouko Porkka, Teona Gotsiridze, Qnarik Mardirosyan, Kadri Kesküla |

17:45 Dinner

Free/optional evening: Löyly, Allas Sea Pool, Ecumenical Program

**Friday April 9**

8:45 Morning prayer

9:15-10:45 Plenary session III (2 speakers, both talks 30 minutes + respondent + discussion)

Chair: David Bailey

**Mark Scanlan**St Mellitus CollegeLecturer in Theology and Youth Ministry

**Playing Their Part: Exploring the Normative Value of Participation in Youth Ministry and Theology**

Respondent: Bård Eirik Hallesby Norheim

**Jos de Kock**Evangelische Theologische Faculteit, Leuven, Belgium  
Professor of Practical Theology

**The meaning of learning in encounter in and for youth ministry in protestant-evangelical faith communities in Flanders**

Respondent: Jouko Porkka

Coffee

11:15-12:45 Paper Session V (3 parallel paper sessions)

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| **YOUTH DOING THEOLOGY (session II)** | **FAMILIES AND FAITH** | **YOUTH AT MARGINS AND YOUTH MINISTRY (emerging paper session)** |
| Chair: Paul Folland  Frantisek Stech  **Doing Theology Together: Fundamental Theology and Youth Ministry in Conversation**  Respondent: Andrew Root  Tobias Faix  **“I'm good at talking about God” - Examples of highly religious youth as a contribution to the controversies for a theology of youth.**  Respondent: Christo Lombaard | Chair: Eriikka Jankko  Francesco Cerchiaro  **Re-mixing faith. Religious identification amongst offspring of Christian-Muslim couples**  Respondent: Trudy Dantis  Kevin Huddleston  **Sabbath as Mission: Engaging Families in the Mission of God Through a Rhythm of Rest and Reflection**  Respondent: David Bailey | Chair: Suvimaria Saarelainen  Amy Panton  **“Why Are You Doing That? I Just Don’t Understand”: Self-Injury in Youth and the Impact on the Family System**  Christina Baillie  **A Theology of Difficulty: young people’s perspectives**  Mari Parkkinen  **Life challenges and spiritual support among Christian Palestinian University students** |

12:45 Lunch

14:00-15:30 Paper Session VI (3 parallel paper sessions)

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| **YOUTH ACTIVISM AND THEOLOGIZING** | **VULNERABLE YOUTH, PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING (session I)** | **INVOLVING YOUTH AND FAMILIES (emerging paper session)** |
| Chair: Tobias Faix  Marjukka Laiho  **Young activists in the crossroads of religion and society: Cosmopolitan theology in/as practice**  Respondent: Tone Kaufman  Martin Tanui  **ECO-ANXIETY: Youth as Ecological Evangelisers among the Pokot**  Respondent: Ron Becker | Chair:  Ragnhild N Hungnes  **Created and loved - like this? - An empirical analysis of LHBT+person's image of God and themselves**  Respondent: Suvimaria Saarelainen  Shorena Sadzaglishvili, Teona Gotsiridze, Ketevan Lekishvili  **Violence and victimization among street connected youth**  Respondent: Berit Weigand Berg | Chair: Francesco Cerchiaro  Bård Eirik Hallesby Norheim  **Range anxiety in the age of the smart phone? How to «charge» a confirmation sermon**  Nelleke Plomp-Rodenburg  **From words to Word - Involving young people in sermons**  Jan Minnema  **A Contextual Perspective on Transmission of Faith in Families** |

16.00 Conference Excursion

Bus leaves to Porvoo

Visiting Porvoo scouts (with coffee); Porvoo Cathedral and the City of Porvoo

19:30 Conference dinner at Sinne

22:00 Bus leaves to Helsinki

**Saturday April 10**

8:45 Morning Prayer

9:15-10:45 Paper Session VII (3 parallel paper sessions)

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| **YOUTH MINISTRY AND YOUTH LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS** | **VULNERABLE YOUTH, PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING (session II)** | **INNOVATIVE YOUTH MINISTRY (emerging paper session)** |
| Chair: Scott Paget  Katarina Westerlund  **Christian youth leaders´ learning in Christian Spirituality**  Respondent: Minna Valtonen  Porkka Jouko  **The Young Confirmed Volunteers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland - Motivation, Religiosity, and Community**  Respondent: Kevin Huddleston | Chair: Thomas Nedergaard  Astrid Sandsmark; Elisa Stokka; Lars Johan Danbolt  **Youth, Christian counseling and faith communities**  Respondent: Christina Baillie  Suvi-Maria Saarelainen  **Spiritual Needs of Emerging Adults with Cancer**  Respondent: Astrid Sandsmark | Chair: Sami Ritokoski  Katherine Douglass  **Holy Disorientation: Ministry with young adults that takes risks and builds confidence**  Pete White  **Formed and Transformed - Insights on discipleship and vocational discernment in young adults on the Peterborough Diocese Ministry Internship Programme**  Berit Weigand Berg and Monique van Dijk-Groeneboer  **Why are we standing? Inclusion as a theological necessity** |

Coffee available

11:00-12:45 Plenary IV

**ROUNDTABLE SESSION: Innovative methodological approaches to the study of children and young people**

Chair: Christian Noval

**Tone Stangeland Kaufman together with Astrid Sandsmark, Elisa Stokka, Linn Sæbø Rystad, Karin Rubenson, Ingunn Aadland, Kristin Graff-Kallevåg**

Organizer: Tone Stangeland Kaufman

MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society  
Associate Professor of Practical Theology

12:45-13:15 Closing of the conference, future plans

13:15-14:00 Lunch

14:00-17:00 A chance to visit the largest Nordic children’s and family gathering at Messukeskus (Lapsimessut) (free of chance with a prior registration)