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)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **UNDERSTANDING CHILDREN AND YOUTH THEOLOGICALLY** | **YOUTH MINISTRY AND CONTEXT** | **YOUTH AND CONFIRMATION WORK** |
| Chair: Bård Eirik Hallesby NorheimRon Becker**Beyond Epistemology. Understanding Youth Theologically**Respondent: Frantisek SteckEriikka Jankko**The Concept of Child and the Ideals of Spirituality**Respondent: Kristin Graff-Kallevåg | Chair: Katarina WesterlundScott Paget**Where is Youth Ministry?**Respondent: Christian NovalAnne-Maria Trygg-Jouttijärvi**Parish as a partner at school**Respondent: Jan Minnema | Chair: Susie MapledoramJari Pulkkinen Jouko Porkka **Adolescents’ experiences in confirmation work**Respondent: Katherine DouglasPatrik 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)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **YOUTH DOING THEOLOGY (session I)** | **YOUTH MINISTY AND CHALLENGES OF SECULARIZATION AND POST-SECULARIZATION**  | **YOUTH MINISTY AND PARISH WORK IN CHANGE** |
| Chair: Jos de KockRagnhild N Hungnes**Youth and their articulated resurrection belief - youth ministry & ordinary theology**Respondent: Marjukka LaihoTone Stangeland Kaufman & Kristin Graff-Kallevåg**“This is me!” A study of young people theologizing on sin, shame, and salvation**Respondent: Jussi Murtovuori | Chair: XXXThomas Nedergaard**Youth theology in a post-Christian era**Respondent: Mark ScanlanPaul Folland**The challenge and proposed solutions to the declining attendance of young adults in church**Respondent: Monique van Dijk-Groeneboer | Chair: Christo LombaardAndrew Root**How the Coming Generation Could Set the West A Blaze: Bonhoeffer  as a Response to Our Age of Anger**Respondent: XXMinna 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)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **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)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **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 MapledoramSanna Lehtisaari | Chair: Mari Parkkinen**Alternatives to "one size fits all" spirituality**Roni VattoHarri 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)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **YOUTH DOING THEOLOGY (session II)**  | **FAMILIES AND FAITH** | **YOUTH AT MARGINS AND YOUTH MINISTRY (emerging paper session)** |
| Chair: Paul FollandFrantisek Stech**Doing Theology Together: Fundamental Theology and Youth Ministry in Conversation**Respondent: Andrew RootTobias 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 JankkoFrancesco Cerchiaro**Re-mixing faith. Religious identification amongst offspring of Christian-Muslim couples**Respondent: Trudy DantisKevin Huddleston**Sabbath as Mission: Engaging Families in the Mission of God Through a Rhythm of Rest and Reflection**Respondent: David Bailey | Chair: Suvimaria SaarelainenAmy 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)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **YOUTH ACTIVISM AND THEOLOGIZING** | **VULNERABLE YOUTH, PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING (session I)** | **INVOLVING YOUTH AND FAMILIES (emerging paper session)** |
| Chair: Tobias FaixMarjukka Laiho **Young activists in the crossroads of religion and society: Cosmopolitan theology in/as practice**Respondent: Tone KaufmanMartin 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 SaarelainenShorena Sadzaglishvili, Teona Gotsiridze, Ketevan Lekishvili **Violence and victimization among street connected youth**Respondent: Berit Weigand Berg | Chair: Francesco CerchiaroBård 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)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **YOUTH MINISTRY AND YOUTH LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS** | **VULNERABLE YOUTH, PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING (session II)** | **INNOVATIVE YOUTH MINISTRY (emerging paper session)** |
| Chair: Scott PagetKatarina 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 NedergaardAstrid Sandsmark; Elisa Stokka; Lars Johan Danbolt**Youth, Christian counseling and faith communities**Respondent: Christina BaillieSuvi-Maria Saarelainen**Spiritual Needs of Emerging Adults with Cancer**Respondent: Astrid Sandsmark | Chair: Sami RitokoskiKatherine 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)