

IASYM European Biennial Conference 2020:  
**“Cultivating Youth Spirituality: Faith, Nurturing and Youth Ministry”**

Helsinki, Finland  
 15-18 April 2020

**Wednesday April 15**

12:00-14:00 Registration

12:00-14:00 Lunch

14:15-16:00 Plenary session I

Welcome and Opening Session

1 presentation (45 minutes + respondent + discussion)

**Katherine Douglass (& Richard Osmer)**

Seattle Pacific University

Assistant Professor of Educational Ministry and Practical Theology

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

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

<b>UNDERSTANDING CHILDREN AND YOUTH THEOLOGICALLY</b>	<b>YOUTH MINISTRY AND CONTEXT</b>	<b>YOUTH AND CONFIRMATION WORK</b>
Ron Becker <b>Beyond Epistemology. Understanding Youth Theologically</b>  Eriikka Jankko <b>The Concept of Child and the Ideals of Spirituality</b>	Scott Paget <b>Where is Youth Ministry?</b>  Anne-Maria Trygg-Jouttijärvi <b>Parish as a partner at school</b>	Jari Pulkkinen Jouko Porkka <b>Adolescents’ experiences in confirmation work</b>  Patrik Hoering <b>Confirmation - Expectations and Effects</b>

17:45 Dinner

19:00 Evening Prayer Cathedral Church

20:00 Church House Reception

## Thursday

8:45 Morning prayer

9:15-10:45 Paper Session II / Workshops (2 parallel paper sessions; 2 workshops)

YOUTH DOING THEOLOGY (session I)	YOUTH MINISTRY AND CHALLENGES OF SECULARIZATION AND POST- SECULARIZATION	YOUTH MINISTRY AND PARISH WORK IN CHANGE
<p>Ragnhild N Hungnes <b>Youth and their articulated resurrection belief - youth ministry &amp; ordinary theology</b></p> <p>Tone Stangeland Kaufman &amp; Kristin Graff-Kallevåg <b>“This is me!” A study of young people theologizing on sin, shame, and salvation</b></p>	<p>Thomas Nedergaard <b>Youth theology in a post-Christian era</b></p> <p>Paul Folland <b>The challenge and proposed solutions to the declining attendance of young adults in church</b></p>	<p>Andrew Root <b>The Congregation in a Secular Age: When Change Hurts</b></p> <p>Minna Valtonen <b>A new culture of living – community-based professionalism in Tampere parishes youth work</b></p>

Coffee available

11.15-13:00 Plenary session II

### 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.**

### Kati Tervo-Niemelä

Professor of Practical Theology  
University of Eastern Finland

**“Regardless of my family” – Religious growth among those with no religious upbringing**

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
<p><b>Background of the workshop, part I:</b> Virpi Paulanto</p>	<p><b>Supporting children, youth and families in the Finnish Lutheran Church</b> Katri Vappula Laura Pellikka</p>	<p><b>Youth Ministry Research... So what?</b> Ron Becker, Frantisek Stech, Christian Noval and Berit Weigand Berg</p>

<b>Background of the workshop, part II:</b> Juhana Malme  <b>Nonformal Ecumenical Education in Youth Ministry - a Threat or a possibility?</b> Juhana Malme & Virpi Paulanto	<b>Part 1: Walking aside of children living in the city of Helsinki</b> . <b>Part 2: Baptism and godparenting</b>	<b>Christian Youth Ministry in Europe. A comparative overview</b> Patrik Hoering
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15:45-16:15 Coffee break

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

<b>WORSHOP ON DEVELOPING YOUTH MINISTRY AND CHURCH PRACTISE</b>	<b>WORKSHOP ON YOUTH SPIRITUALITY AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>VOICES OF THE MARGINALIZED YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE EARTERN EUROPE</b>
<b>Increasing participation through mobile technology and phenomenal learning</b> Sanna Jattu  <b>Isonen On The Road - faith, identity and leadership</b> Susie Mapledoram Sanna Lehtisaari	<b>Alternatives to "one size fits all" spirituality</b> Roni Vatto Harri Nurmi  <b>Exegesis and catechesis: impulses towards spiritual growth in the younger believer?</b> Christo Lombaard	<b>Interdiac research group</b> Jouko Porkka Oksana Prosvirina

17:45 Dinner

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

## Friday

8:45 Morning prayer

9:15-10:45 PLENARY SESSION

**ROUNDTABLE SESSION (90 minutes)**

**Tone Stangeland Kaufman together with Astrid Sandsmark and 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

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

Coffee

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

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

12:45 Lunch

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

<b>YOUTH ACTIVISM AND THEOLOGIZING</b>	<b>VULNERABLE YOUTH, PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING (session I)</b>	<b>INNOVATIVE YOUTH MINISTRY (emerging paper session)</b>
<p>Marjukka Laiho <b>Young activists in the crossroads of religion and society: Cosmopolitan theology in/as practice</b></p> <p>Martin Tanui <b>ECO-ANXIETY: Youth as Ecological Evangelisers among the Pokot</b></p>	<p>Ragnhild N Hungnes <b>Created and loved - like this? - An empirical analysis of LHBT+person's image of God and themselves</b></p> <p>Shorena Sadzaglishvili; Teona Gotsiridze; Ketevan Lekishvili <b>Violence and victimization among street connected youth</b></p>	<p>Katherine Douglass <b>Holy Disorientation: Ministry with young adults that takes risks and builds confidence</b></p> <p>Pete White <b>Formed and Transformed - Insights on discipleship and vocational discernment in young adults on the Peterborough Diocese Ministry Internship Programme</b></p> <p>Berit Weigand and Monique Berg and van Dijk-Groeneboer <b>Why are we standing? Inclusion as a theological necessity</b></p>

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

8:45 Morning Prayer

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

<b>YOUTH MINISTRY AND YOUTH LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS</b>	<b>INVOLVING YOUTH AND FAMILIES (emerging paper session)</b>	<b>VULNERABLE YOUTH, PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING (session II)</b>
Katarina Westerlund <b>Christian youth leaders' learning in Christian Spirituality</b>	Bård Eirik Hallesby Norheim <b>Range anxiety in the age of the smart phone? How to «charge» a confirmation sermon</b>	Astrid Sandsmark; Elisa Stokka; Lars Johan Danbolt <b>Youth, Christian counseling and faith communities</b>
Dr. Porkka Jouko <b>The Young Confirmed Volunteers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland - Motivation, Religiosity, and Community</b>	Nelleke Plomp-Rodenburg <b>From words to Word - Involving young people in sermons</b>	Suvi-Maria Saarelainen <b>Spiritual Needs of Emerging Adults with Cancer</b>
	Jan Minnema <b>A Contextual Perspective on Transmission of Faith in Families</b>	

Coffee available

11:00-12:45 Plenary IV (2 speakers, both talks 30 minutes + respondent + discussion)

### **Mark Scanlan**

St Mellitus College

Lecturer in Theology and Youth Ministry

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

### **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**

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 (Lapsimesut) (free of charge with a prior registration)