**International Association for the Study of Youth Ministry**

Call for Papers

IASYM European Biennial Conference 2021:

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

Helsinki, Finland

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

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

The IASYM European biennial conference 2021 will be held in Helsinki 7-10 April 2021. The conference was originally scheduled for 2020, but rescheduled to 2021 due to the corona situation. We invite all those involved in youth and emerging/young adult ministry as researchers, teachers, lecturers or thoughtful practitioners to join the conference. This four-day conference provides an opportunity to engage with the latest scholarship and research related to ministry among young people as well as a forum for building stronger networks.

The new call for papers is open until Oct 30, 2020. All those papers that were accepted to the program in 2020 are automatically accepted for the conference in 2021. If your paper is already accepted to the program, but you are not able to join, please let us know by October 30. If you wish to make some changes to your presentation, please send us a new proposal also by the deadline (small changes to the proposals are automatically accepted, major changes will go to the Academic Committee).

We also invite new scholars and practitioners submit their papers. The papers may address a wide variety of aspects related to Youth and/or Youth Ministry. The theme of the conference “Cultivating youth spirituality: Faith, nurturing and Youth Ministry” highlights both the role of many actors in the spiritual growth of the youth and the active role of the young people themselves in constructing their religious lives and seeing the youth as active constructers of theology. The topics may include various research related to youth and youth ministry, for example:

* youth constructing theology
* religious growth and nurturing in childhood and adolescence
* families, communities and faith
* leaving religion and religious distancing in the youth
* religion, youth and the media
* children and youth-based theology
* worship life and youth participation
* secularization, liquid religion and the youth
* youth diaconia and young people on the edge
* religious development in childhood and youth
* faith communities and their role in youth spirituality and spiritual development
* youth ministry in public institutions e.g. schools, Universities and hospitals
* Other topical issues in youth ministry including:
  + eco-anxiety
  + sexual identities and faith in youth
  + digital youth work
  + diversity and pluralism
  + pastoral care in adolescence
  + ethical questions
  + emerging faith communities
  + the aim and the role of youth ministers
  + new innovations in youth ministry
  + people on move and transnationalism
  + crisis and conflicts and youth ministry

We also invite papers on other themes that meet the IASYM’s stated aim to further the academic study and research of youth and youth ministry to raise the profile of youth ministry as a calling, career and/or professional enterprise, and to encourage the reflection on youth ministry and academic discipline that will support the practice of youth ministry.

The program for 2021 offers three formats for engagement and interaction: research papers, emerging research and workshops:

* **Research Papers** present new research in children’s, youth and emerging/young adult ministry submitted by conference delegates. In each session the presentation will be followed by a prepared response as well as group discussion.
* **Emerging Research** sessions provide an opportunity to share ‘works-in-progress’ and developing thoughts as well as completed ideas not yet established in a formal paper. These sessions provide an opportunity for new or emerging researchers (whether engaged in formal study or as a thoughtful practitioner) to road-test ideas and receive feedback in a constructive environment.
* **Workshops** offer professional development opportunities to assist delegates in the craft of research and the teaching of ministry to children, youth and emerging/young adults.

Proposals for Research papers and Emerging research should include a 200-word abstract, along with the author’s name, email address, and academic institution or place of employment.

Proposals for Workshops should include a description of the workshop content of no more than 200 words and may include suggested workshop leader if other than the person proposing the workshop. The proposal should include the proposer’s name, email address, and academic institution or place of employment.

**Submit your proposal**

by October 30th, 2021 using this link: [https://elomake.uef.fi/lomakkeet/26039/lomake.html](https://elomake.uef.fi/lomakkeet/26039/lomake.html" \t "_blank)

**Venue of the Conference**

Main campus of Diaconia University of Applied Sciences

Kyläsaarenkuja 2

00580 Helsinki

Finland

**More Information**

Web-page of Diaconia University of Applied Sciences: <https://www.diak.fi/en/calendar/iasym-european-biennial-conference-2020-in-helsinki-cultivating-youth-spirituality-faith-nurturing-and-youth-ministry/>

**Registration**

Registration covers all the expenses including the food and other refreshments in the venue but not the accommodation which you should book yourself – see the instruction below.

* Early bird before Jan 30: Full conference, IASYM Member: 150 €
* Early bird before Jan 30: Full conference, non-member: 200 €
* Registration after Jan 30: IASYM member 200 €, non-member 250 €
* Day registration without visiting programme non-members 50 €, members 40 €, Saturday only non-members 30 €, members 20 €
* Thursday night visiting programme: 30 €
* Friday night visiting programme including conference dinner: 30 €

**Academic Committee:**

Kati Tervo-Niemelä, the Chair of the Academic Committee, Professor in Practical Theology, University of Eastern Finland; [kati.tervo-niemela@uef.fi](mailto:kati.tervo-niemela@uef.fi)  
Astrid Sandsmark, Assistant Professor of Practical Theology and director of the bachelor  program Youth, Culture and Faith  
Christian Noval, Rev. Dr., Catholic Diocese of Copenhagen  
David Bailey, Dr., Senior Lecturer in Practical Theology, Oasis College of Higher Education

**Local committee:**

Jouko Porkka, Chair of the Local Committee, Senior Lecture, Diaconia University of Applied Sciences  
Minna Valtonen, Principal Lecturer, Diaconia University of Applied Sciences

Sami Ritokoski, Senior Lecturer, Diaconia University of Applied Sciences  
Salla Poropudas, Advisor, Diocese of Helsinki  
Jari Pulkkinen, Advisor, Church Council of Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland