

**IASYM European Biennial Conference 2021 in Helsinki:  
Cultivating Youth Spirituality: Faith, Nurturing and Youth Ministry**

**Program (updated March 17, 2021)**

Helsinki, Finland – *Conference will be held online in ZOOM*

7-8 April 2021

**Wednesday April 7 (Program Finnish time, EET)**

**9:30-11:00 Opening and plenary session I**

Welcome and Opening Session

Jouko Porkka

Greetings from the Lutheran Church of Finland: Bishop of Espoo diocese Kaisamari Hintikka

Greetings from Diak: Vice Rector Pirjo Hakala

Chair: Kati Tervo-Niemelä

**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**

Respondent: Patrik Hoering

**11:15-13:15 Paper Session I (3 parallel paper sessions)**

UNDERSTANDING CHILDREN AND YOUTH THEOLOGICALLY	VULNERABLE YOUTH, PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING	YOUTH MINISTRY AND CONFIRMATION WORK
Chair: Bård Eirik Hallesby Norheim	Chair: Katarina Westerlund	Chair: Susie Mapledoram
Tone Stangeland Kaufman & Kristin Graff-Kallevåg "This is me!" A study of young people theologizing on sin, shame, and salvation Respondent: Frantisek Stech	Astrid Sandsmark; Elisa Stokka; Lars Johan Danbolt Youth, Christian counseling, and faith communities Respondent: Christina Baillie	Jari Pulkkinen, Jouko Porkka, Kati Tervo-Niemelä Adolescents' experiences and wellbeing in confirmation work during the corona pandemic Respondent: Katherine Douglas

<p>Marjukka Laiho <b>Young activists in the crossroads of religion and society: Cosmopolitan theology in/as practice</b> Respondent: Tone Kaufman</p> <p>Ron Becker <b>Beyond Epistemology. Understanding Youth Theologically</b> Respondent: Monique van Dijk-Groeneboer</p>	<p>Suvi-Maria Saarelainen <b>Spiritual Needs of Emerging Adults with Cancer</b> Respondent: Astrid Sandsmark</p> <p>Shorena Sadzaglishvili, Teona Gotsiridze, Ketevan Lekishvili <b>Violence and victimization among street connected youth</b></p> <p>Shorena Sadzaglishvili, Teona Gotsiridze, Ketevan Lekishvili <b>Ethical Considerations for Social Work Research with Vulnerable Children and their Families).</b> Respondent: Berit Weigand Berg (for both two papers above)</p>	<p>Patrik Hoering <b>Confirmation - Expectations and Effects</b> Respondent: Salla Poropudas</p> <p>Katherine Douglass <b>Holy Disorientation: Ministry with young adults that takes risks and builds confidence</b> Respondent: Jari Pulkkinen</p>
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**13:15-14:15 Lunch break**

**14:15-16:00 Paper session and workshop session II (3 parallel paper sessions)**

INNOVATIVE YOUTH MINISTRY	WORSHOP ON DEVELOPING YOUTH MINISTRY AND CHURCH PRACTISE	YOUTH MINISTRY AND YOUTH LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS
<p>Chair: Kevin Huddleson</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> Respondent: Astrid Sandsmark</p> <p>Paul Folland <b>Sin, Shame, and the Seminary</b> Respondent: Pekka Launonen</p> <p>Berit Weigand Berg and Monique van Dijk-Groeneboer <b>Why are we standing? Inclusion as a theological necessity</b> Respondent: Anne-Maria Trygg-Jouttijärvi</p>	<p>Chair: Patrik Hoering</p> <p>Sanna Jattu <b>Increasing participation through mobile technology and phenomenal learning</b></p> <p>Susie Mapledoram Sanna Lehtisaari <b>Isonen On the Road - faith, identity and leadership</b></p>	<p>Chair: Scott Paget</p> <p>Katarina Westerlund <b>Christian youth leaders' learning in Christian Spirituality</b> Respondent: Minna Valtonen</p> <p>Porkka Jouko <b>The Young Confirmed Volunteers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland - Motivation, Religiosity, and Community</b> Respondent: Jarmo Kokkonen</p> <p>Frantisek Stech <b>Doing Theology Together: Fundamental Theology and Youth Ministry in Conversation</b> Respondent: Marjukka Laiho</p>

**16:15-17:45 Plenary II**

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

Chair: Christian Noval

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

Organizer: Tone Stangeland Kaufman

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

**17:45 Evening prayer by Orthodox Church of Finland (Jaso Pössi and Joakim Pietarinen)**

**Thursday April 8 (Program Finnish time, EET)**

**9:00 Morning prayer** by young people from Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland (Vilho, Helmi and Hilda Ahola)

**9:15-10:15 Plenary session III**

Chair: David Bailey

**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

**10:30-12:30 Paper session and workshop session III (3 parallel paper sessions)**

YOUTH AT MARGINS AND YOUTH MINISTRY	WORKSHOP ON SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND YOUTH SPITUALITY AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT	FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND FAITH
Chair: Suvi-Maria Saarelainen  Amy Panton <b>“Why Are You Doing That? I Just Don’t Understand”</b> : Self-	Chair: Sami Ritokoski  Katri Vappula Jari Pulkkinen <b>Supporting children, youth and families in the Finnish Lutheran</b>	Chair: Kati Tervo-Niemelä  Francesco Cerchiaro <b>Re-mixing faith. Religious identification amongst offspring of Christian-Muslim couples</b>

<p><b>Injury in Youth and the Impact on the Family System</b> Respondent: Hanna Niemi</p> <p>Christina Baillie <b>A Theology of Difficulty: young people's perspectives</b> Respondent: Marjukka Laiho</p> <p>Oksana Prosvirmina, Jouko Porkka, Irina Trofimova, Riikka Hillebrand <b>Voices of the marginalized young people in the Eastern Europe</b> Respondent: Suvi-Maria Saarelainen</p>	<p><b>Church: Walking alongside the families from birth to adulthood</b></p> <p>Christo Lombaard <b>Exegesis and catechesis: impulses towards spiritual growth in the younger believer?</b></p>	<p>Respondent: Trudy Dantis</p> <p>Eriikka Jankko <b>The Concept of Child and the Ideals of Spirituality</b> Respondent: Kristin Graff-Kallevåg</p> <p>Jan Minnema <b>A Contextual Perspective on Transmission of Faith in Families</b> Respondent: Ilkka Tahvanainen</p> <p>Kevin Huddleston <b>Sabbath as Mission: Engaging Families in the Mission of God Through a Rhythm of Rest and Reflection</b> Respondent: Jarmo Kokkonen</p>
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**12.30-13:30 Lunch break**

**13:30-15:15 Paper session and workshop session (3 parallel sessions)**

INVOLVING YOUTH IN SERMONS AND SCHOOLS	WORKSHOP: ECUMENICAL EDUCATION AS TOOL TO DEVELOP RELIGIOUS GROWTH AND YOUTH SPIRITUALITY	DEVELOPING YOUTH MINISTRY AND ITS RESEARCH
<p>Chair: Christo Lombaard</p> <p>Nelleke Plomp-Rodenburg <b>From words to Word - Involving young people in sermons</b> Respondent: Eriikka Jankko</p> <p>Bård Eirik Hallesby Norheim <b>Range anxiety in the age of the smart phone? How to «charge» a confirmation sermon</b> Respondent: Eveliina Ojala</p> <p>Anne-Maria Trygg-Jouttijärvi <b>Parish as a partner at school</b> Respondent: Astrid Sandsmark</p>	<p>Chair: Helena Kauppila</p> <p><b>Part 1</b> Juhana Malme <b>I: The construction of religiosity in consequence of ecumenical training</b></p> <p>Virpi Paulanto <b>II: Ecumenical Education as an instrument for ecumenical learning</b></p> <p><b>Part 2</b> Virpi Paulanto &amp; Juhana Malme <b>Nonformal Ecumenical Education in Youth Ministry - a Threat or a possibility?</b></p>	<p>Chair: Ron Becker</p> <p><b>Christian Youth Ministry in Europe. A comparative overview</b> Patrik Hoering Respondent: Pete White</p> <p>Jouko Porkka, Minna Valtonen, Mia Kuronen and Jenni Surakka <b>Inspiring and encountering education – The Barometer of Church education</b> Respondent: Pekka Launonen</p> <p>Scott Paget <b>Where is Youth Ministry?</b> Respondent: Tone Kaufman</p>

Coffee break

**15:30-17:30 Plenary session III**

**Plenary session IV**

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

**The transmission of religion across generations: a comparative international study of continuities and discontinuities in family socialization**

Respondent: Francesco Cerchiaro

**17:30 Closing of the conference: next conferences, future plans**

**18:00 Evening prayer and summery of the conference using "Godly play" method (Anita Ahtiainen)**