IASYM European Biennial Conference 2021 in Helsinki:

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

**Program** (updated March 31, 2021)

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

7-8 April 2021

The participation is free.

**Please register for the conference (free of change):** [http://www.iasym.net/EU](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.iasym.net%2FEU&data=04%7C01%7C%7C4169494a7a1649b0d66008d8c9f3c228%7C87879f2e73044bf2baf263e7f83f3c34%7C0%7C0%7C637481396082863797%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=2rqxzsdcPDXxvd7ZAXN%2B5gRavZItfsMb8I0spH1gNdc%3D&reserved=0)

You need to have a IASYM login to register. You get a login to the webpage by [signing up](https://iasym.wildapricot.org/Join-us) (Free affiliation or Full membership).

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

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

Welcome and Opening Session  
Jouko Porkka

Greetings from Diak: Vice Rector Pirjo Hakala

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

Greetings from DIAK rector Elina Juntunen

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**

Respondent**:** Patrik Hoering

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

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| **UNDERSTANDING CHILDREN AND YOUTH THEOLOGICALLY** | **VULNERABLE YOUTH, PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING** | **YOUTH MINISTRY AND CONFIRMATION WORK** |
| Chair: Bård Eirik Hallesby Norheim  Tone Stangeland Kaufman & Kristin Graff-Kallevåg **“This is me!” A study of young people theologizing on sin, shame, and salvation**  Respondent: Frantisek Stech  Marjukka Laiho **Young activists in the crossroads of religion and society: Cosmopolitan theology in/as practice**  Respondent: Tone Kaufman  Ron Becker  **Beyond Epistemology. Understanding Youth Theologically**  Respondent: Monique van Dijk-Groeneboer | Chair: Katarina Westerlund  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  Shorena Sadzaglishvili, Teona Gotsiridze, Ketevan Lekishvili  **Violence and victimization among street connected youth**  Shorena Sadzaglishvili, Teona Gotsiridze, Ketevan Lekishvili  **Ethical Considerations for Social Work Research with Vulnerable Children and their Families**).  Respondent: Berit Weigand Berg (for both two papers above) | Chair: Susie Mapledoram  Jari Pulkkinen, Jouko Porkka, Kati Tervo-Niemelä **Adolescents’ experiences and wellbeing in confirmation work during the corona pandemic**  Respondent: Katherine Douglas  Patrik Hoering **Confirmation - Expectations and Effects**  Respondent: Salla Poropudas  Katherine Douglass  **Holy Disorientation: Ministry with young adults that takes risks and builds confidence** Respondent: Jari Pulkkinen |

**13:15-14:15 Lunch break**

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

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| **INNOVATIVE YOUTH MINISTRY** | **WORSHOP ON DEVELOPING YOUTH MINISTRY AND CHURCH PRACTISE** | **YOUTH MINISTRY AND YOUTH LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS** |
| Chair: Kevin Huddleson  Pete White  **Formed and Transformed - Insights on discipleship and vocational discernment in young adults on the Peterborough Diocese Ministry Internship Programme** Respondent: Astrid Sandsmark  Paul Folland **Sin, Shame, and the Seminary**  Respondent: Pekka Launonen  Berit Weigand Berg and Monique van Dijk-Groeneboer  **Why are we standing? Inclusion as a theological necessity** Respondent: Anne-Maria Trygg-Jouttijärvi | Chair: Jari Pulkkinen  Sanna Jattu  **Increasing participation through mobile technology and phenomenal learning**  Susie Mapledoram  Sanna Lehtisaari  **Isonen On the Road - faith, identity and leadership** | 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: Tim Feak  Frantisek Stech  **Doing Theology Together: Fundamental Theology and Youth Ministry in Conversation**  Respondent: Marjukka Laiho |

**16:30-18:00 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, Maria Stensvold Ånonsen**

Organizer: Tone Stangeland Kaufman

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

**18:00 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)**

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| **YOUTH AT MARGINS AND YOUTH MINISTRY** | **WORKSHOP ON SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND YOUTH SPIRITUALITY AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT** | **FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND FAITH** |
| Chair: Suvi-Maria Saarelainen  Amy Panton  **“Why Are You Doing That? I Just Don’t Understand”: Self-Injury in Youth and the Impact on the Family System**  Respondent: Hanna Niemi  Christina Baillie  **A Theology of Difficulty: young people’s perspectives**  Respondent: Marjukka Laiho  Oksana Prosvirnina, Jouko Porkka, Irina Trofimova, Riikka Hillebrand  **Voices of the marginalized young people in the Eastern Europe**  Respondent: Suvi-Maria Saarelainen | Chair: Sami Ritokoski  Katri Vappula  Jari Pulkkinen  **Supporting children, youth and families in the Finnish Lutheran Church: Walking alongside the families from birth to adulthood**  Christo Lombaard  **Exegesis and catechesis: impulses towards spiritual growth in the younger believer?** | Chair: Kati Tervo-Niemelä  Francesco Cerchiaro **Re-mixing faith. Religious identification amongst offspring of Christian-Muslim couples**  Respondent: Trudy Dantis  Eriikka Jankko  **The Concept of Child and the Ideals of Spirituality**  Respondent: Kristin Graff-Kallevåg  Jan Minnema  **A Contextual Perspective on Transmission of Faith in Families**  Respondent: Ilkka Tahvanainen |

**12.30-13:30 Lunch break**

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

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| **INVOLVING YOUTH IN SERMONS AND SCHOOLS AND ENGAGING FAMILIES** | **WORKSHOP: ECUMENICAL EDUCATION AS TOOL TO DEVELOP RELIGIOUS GROWTH AND YOUTH SPIRITUALITY** | **DEVELOPING YOUTH MINISTRY AND ITS RESEARCH** |
| Chair: Christo Lombaard  Bård Eirik Hallesby Norheim  **Range anxiety in the age of the smart phone? How to «charge» a confirmation sermon**  Respondent: Eveliina Ojala  Anne-Maria Trygg-Jouttijärvi  **Parish as a partner at school**  Respondent: Astrid Sandsmark  Kevin Huddleston  **Sabbath as Mission: Engaging Families in the Mission of God Through a Rhythm of Rest and Reflection**  Respondent: Eriikka Jankko | Chair: Helena Kauppila  **Part 1**  Juhana Malme  **The construction of religiosity in consequence of ecumenical training**  Virpi Paulanto  **Ecumenical Education as an instrument for ecumenical learning**  **Part 2**  Virpi Paulanto & Juhana Malme **Nonformal Ecumenical Education in Youth Ministry - a Threat or a possibility?** | Chair: Ron Becker  Patrik Hoering  **Christian Youth Ministry in Europe. A comparative overview**  Respondent: Pete White  Jouko Porkka, Minna Valtonen, Mia Kuronen and Jenni Surakka  **Inspiring and encountering education – The Barometer of Church education** Respondent: Pekka Launonen  Scott Paget  **Where is Youth Ministry?**  Respondent: Tone Kaufman |

Coffee break

**15:45-17:45 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: Jussi Laine

**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

**17:45 Closing of the conference: next conferences, future plans**

**18:15 Evening prayer and summary of the conference using ”Godly play” method** (Anita Ahtiainen)