

Draft program
The bi-annual international IASYM conference
Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, USA
July 11th - 14th, 2022

Engaging With the Prophetic Voices of Young People

Draft of July 11th

Sunday, July 10th

For those who arrive early, there will be [optional excursions](#), including:

- Attending 9:00am in-person worship at Ebenezer Baptist Church (historic church of Martin Luther King Jr. and current church of US Senator Raphael Warnock), then visiting the MLK Center afterwards (no fee, must be able to show proof of vaccination to enter church)
- Visiting the Center for Civil and Human Rights (possibly in afternoon) (ticket fee: \$20)

These excursions will require sharing cars or using Uber/Lyft. If you are interested in either or both of these, please email Helen Blier hblier@pts.edu

Monday, July 11th

- 8:30am [Optional Civil Rights Excursion](#)
- Meet in hotel lobby to take Uber/Lyft or share cars
 - MLK Center, Ebenezer Baptist Church (opens 9am); sign up for Birth Home Tour, hopefully at 9:30 or 10am (tour is 30 minutes)
 - Depending on when/whether Birth Home Tour happens, visit the Freedom Hall and Historic Ebenezer Church before or after.
 - Meet back at parking lot at 12:00pm to return by 12:30pm
 - Cost: only cost is if Uber/Lyft is used
- 1:00pm Lunch on your own at Emory Pointe or Emory Village
- 1:30pm Gathering at Hotel to walk/drive over to Candler (pick up people in dorm on the way). The hotel can offer a shuttle drop off, and/or those with cars can drive a group over. Distance from hotel to Candler is 1 mile/1.7 km.

- 2:00pm **Opening program** (Welcome; Greeting from President; panel on YTI –
keynote #1)
Cannon Chapel (*Streamed*)
- Welcome by Shantelle Weber
 - **Keynote Panel: Elizabeth W. Corrie**, *Research in Context: The Contribution of the Youth Theological Initiative to North American Youth Ministry Research* with David White, Helen Blier, Lauren Calvin Cooke

3:30pm Break
Atrium

4:00pm **Research Paper Session #1**

1. **Mike Severe, Len Kageler, James Hampton, Karen Jones**, *Training Youth Ministry Students to Teach and Preach: A survey of teaching preparation for youth ministers across the United States*
Chair/Response: Graham Stanton
Location: RARB 401 and [Streamed](#)
2. **Søren Østergaard**, *“Every once in a while, a revolutionary product comes along that changes everything.”*
Chair/Response: Richard Rymarz
Location: RARB 411
3. **Natascha Kienstra**, *Humankind as the Image of God: a cognitive-semantic application of Genesis 1:1-2:3 to start a narrative dialogue*
Chair/Response: Ron Becker
Location: RARB 447
4. **Amy Casteel (online)**, *Living religion in liminal spaces: some ways international immigration interacts with adolescent spiritual development.*
Chair/Response: Gareth Crispin (online)
Location: RARB 421 and [online](#)

5:00pm **Research Paper Session #2**

1. **Amy Panton**, *The Experiences of Young People in Memoirs of Self-Injury: What Faith Communities Can Learn from these Stories*
Chair/Response: Amy Jacober
Location: RARB 401 and [Streamed](#)
2. **Monique van Dijk-Groeneboer**, *Into the heart of academics; building resilience through formation.*
Chair/Response: Rowan Lewis
Location: RARB 447

3. **Kelsey Lambright**, *Becoming Eli: The Practice of “Prophetic Listening” and the Collaborative Reimagination of Youth Ministry*
Chair/Response: Mike Severe
Location: RARB 411

4. **Eric Amankwa (online)**, *Correlational Studies on Nurturing the Youth for Effective Ministry*
Chair/Response: Denise Janssen (online)
Location: RARB 421 and [online](#)

- 6:00pm Dinner
Atrium and Plaza
- 7:00pm Worship with YTI youth
Cannon Chapel
- 8:30pm Social Time
Back at ECCH or Emory Pointe (people can walk back or ride with someone with a car—sun will still be up at this point)

Tuesday, July 12th

- 7:45am *Group meets to walk/drive over together from hotel, by dorm, and then on to Candler (optional)*
- 8:00am Continental Breakfast
Atrium and Plaza
- 8:30am Morning Worship (Reggie Nel)
CST 248 Wesley Teaching Chapel
- 9:00am Keynote Session #2
Cannon Chapel (Streamed)
- **Keynote: Garth Aziz (online - Africa)**, *African youth ministry as a public practical theology: Cutting the umbilical cord of West/Euro hegemony*
Chair: Ronelle Sonnenberg
Response: Graham Stanton
- 10:30am Morning Break
Atrium
- 11:00am **Discussion Paper/Emerging Research Sessions #1 and #2** (2 presenters in each session)

Chair: Ronelle Sonnenberg, two sessions:

1. **Kevin L. Huddleston**, *Empowering the Voice of a New Generation*

7:00pm Dinner and social time (on your own at Emory Pointe, etc.)
Emory Village, ECCH, or Emory Pointe or even downtown Decatur (locals and other attendees with cars could volunteer to take small groups to Decatur)

Wednesday, July 13th

8:00am Breakfast
Atrium and Plaza

8:30am Morning Worship (Gretchen Schoon-Tanis)
RARB 248 Wesley Teaching Chapel

9:00am Keynote Session #5
Cannon Chapel ([Streamed](#))

- **Keynote: Monique van Dijk and Ronelle Sonnenberg, *Faith and wellbeing of Young People***
Chair: Gretchen Schoon-Tanis
Response: David White

10:30am Morning Break
Atrium

11:00am **Research Paper Session #3**

1. **Eunjin Jeon, *From Friendship with God to Friendship between Asian Sisters: A Reimagination of the Image of Jesus Christ in Response to Anti-Asian Hate Crime***
Chair/Response: Kelsey Lambright
Location: RARB 411
2. **Sarah Bixler, *Networks of Belonging: Adolescent Attachment in Congregations***
Chair/Response: Søren Østergaard
Location: RARB 447
3. **Sabine van der Heijden (online), *Youth ministers and Jesus: talking together about espoused and operant theology***
Chair/Response: Garth Aziz (online)
Location: RARB 401 and [online](#)
4. **Ransford Kwabena Awuku-Gyampoh (online), " Rethinking the Overlooked African Cultural Values for Diaspora Christian Youth Ministry"**
Chair/Response: Amy Casteel (online)
Location: RARB 421 and [online](#)

12:00pm **Research Paper Session #4**

1. **Ruth Lukabyo**, *The Development of Sunday Schools in Australia*
Chair/Response: Lauren Calvin Cooke
Location: RARB 411
2. **Helen Blier**, *Embracing An Atheism / Anatheism: Turning From Certitude to Imagination in Youth Ministry*
Chair/Response: Monique Van Dijk-Groeneboer
Location: RARB 401 and [online](#)
3. **Seyram Amenyedzi (online)**, *The Afrocentric Youth Paradigm*
Chair/Response: Kevin Muriithi (online)
Location: RARB 421 and [online](#)

1:00pm Lunch
 Atrium and Plaza

2:00pm **Research Paper Session #5**
 RARB 401, 411, 421

1. **Sam E. Baker**, *The Apophatic Predicament in Emerging Adult Faith Formation: Teaching The Mystery Of God In Highly Digitized Kataphatic Learning Contexts*
Chair/Response: James Hampton
Location: RARB 411
2. **Graham Stanton and Rowan Lewis**, *Introducing Your Story: Researching faith journeys of young Australians*
Chair/Response: Monique Van Dijk-Groeneboer
Location: RARB 401 and [online](#)
3. **Oliver Ward (online)**, *Becoming Storytellers of the Divine: Empowering Young People to Prophetically Enact the presence of God.*
Chair/Response: Ransford Kwabena Awuku-Gyampoh (online)
Location: RARB 421 and [online](#)

3:00pm **Discussion Paper/Emerging Research Session #3**

1. **Kevin Huddleston** (facilitator) with panelists **Sarah Bixler, Justin Forbes and Amy Peacock Jacober**, *The Congregations Youth Ministry Profs Attend*
Location: RARB 411
2. **Lauren Calvin Cooke**, *The Youth Minister as Midwife: Birthing the Vocation of Young People*
Chair: Ron Becker
Location: RARB 447
3. **David Fagg (online - AUS)**, *The Vocation and Virtue Ethic of Christian Youth Workers in Secular Contexts: Church and Workplace as Formative Social Ecologies*
Chair: Sara Parsons (online)

Location: RARB 401 and [online](#)

4. **Karen J D van Lonkhuyze (online)**, *An investigation into the initial engagement and attendance of youth attending Australian Pentecostal megachurches.*

Chair: Oliver Ward (online)

Location: RARB 421 and [online](#)

- 3:45pm Free Time
Time for people to go to café, visit library, go back to hotel/dorm, etc.
- 16:00 option: Workshop for research students organized by Helen Blier and Monique van Dijk. Both students and others are welcome!
Location: RARB 401 and [streamed](#)
 - 16:00 option: Guided Library Tour. For those interested, an optional guided tour of Pitts Theology Library's collections and exhibitions will be offered. Pitts is one of the premier theological libraries in North America and is the home of the Howard Thurman Digital Archive.
Meet at the Circulation Desk for the tour.
- 5:45pm Members Meeting
RARB 322 (Streamed for all IASYM members)
1. Welcome & opening prayer
 2. Updates since January 2022 meeting:
 - a. Membership update
 - b. Journal update
 - c. Finance update
 - d. Executive business update
 3. Next International IASYM Conference in Manchester 2024
- 6:30pm Dinner (dinner with YTI youth and staff)
Atrium and Plaza
- 7:30pm Social time TBA
- 9:00pm Group walk/drive back to ECCH

Thursday, July 14th

- 8:00am Breakfast
- 8:30am Morning Worship (Graham Stanton)
RARB 248 WESLEY TEACHING CHAPEL
- 9:00am Keynote Session #7
Cannon Chapel (Streamed)
- **Keynote: Ron Becker**, *Too Young To Speak – The Story of Young Jeremiah The Prophet*

Chair: Ruth Lukabyo
Response: Brian Hull

10:30am Break

11:00am **Research Paper Session #6**

1. **Richard Rymarz**, *What about us! What is the place for the highly religious in youth and young adult ministry?*

Chair/Response: Andrew Zirschky

Location: RARB 411

2. **Sara Parsons (online)**, *Refracted Visions of the Beautiful Life: How fairy tales and poetry can inform an imaginative approach to youth ministry*

Chair/Response: Seyram Amenydezi (online)

Location: RARB 401 and [online](#)

3. **Olusola O. AYO-OBIREMI (online)**, *Preventing Peer Pressure through VICTORY Family Discipleship Model*

Chair/Response: Sabine van der Heijden (online)

Location: RARB 421 and [online](#)

4. **Emily Jendzejec** (online. **Emerging paper**), *Prophetic Ambivalence: Supporting young adult women on the institutional margins of the Catholic Church*

Chair: ???

Location: RARB 447 and [online](#)

12:00pm Keynote Session #8 and Closing
Cannon Chapel (Streamed)

- **Keynote: Jos de Kock**, *Spiritual Maturity? A Literature Review on Desired Outcomes in Youth Ministry*

Chair: Helen Blier

Response: Shantelle Weber

1:30pm Lunch
Atrium and Plaza

2:30pm Departure