



2022 APTO Conference

Gracious Engagement: Dialogue across the theological spectrums

30 November 2022 – 2 December 2022

Pilgrim Theological College (Centre for Theology and Ministry, Parkville, Melbourne, Australia), or online via Zoom

Register now via [TryBooking](https://www.trybooking.com/CDDEK) (<https://www.trybooking.com/CDDEK>)

(Updated 17 November 2022)

Conference blurb

Dialogue across the theological spectrums has always been an important component of practical theology. “No peace among the nations, without peace among the religions. No peace among the religions without dialogue between the religions. No dialogue between the religions without investigation of the foundation of the religions” (Hans Kung, 1997). How do we navigate those complex spaces of religious and theological difference in both ideas and practices? A respectful, participatory and collaborate approach seems sensible. Respect for each other’s diverse experiences and viewpoints is vital. After all, theology plays an important role in the search for a synthesis of knowledge as well as in the dialogue between faiths. However, practice within diversity does not necessarily flow into participation and collaboration, not to mention understanding and peace. What does a gracious engagement in dialoguing across the theological spectrums look like? How can we best learn about the theological other and engage with each other across the theological spectrums in ways that are comfortable, polite, meaningful, challenging? Basically, in a way that is gracious? And what is the nature and role of dialogue in the engagement? We want to convert our diversity into healthy dialogue, a symphony and multiplicity of theological voices.

Conference keynote speakers

Brooke Prentis

‘Time to Yarn! Indigenous generosity and grace for healing for all peoples’

Brooke Prentis is an Aboriginal Christian Leader, a descendant of the Wakka Wakka peoples (one of 300 nations in the lands now called Australia). Brooke is an international speaker, writer, educator, and poet, as well as a community pastor and pursuer of justice. I’ve published a number of academic papers, chapters of books, lectures.



Alfred Pang

'Gracious Generosity in Engaging LGBTQ Christians: A Singaporean Catholic's Experience'

Alfred Pang has a PhD in Theology and Education from Boston College. He is currently an educator and independent researcher in Singapore. He researches on spirituality and ethics in education, with a focus on Lasallian spirituality and pedagogy. He lectures on ethics in educational leadership and is passionate about the holistic formation of teachers and school leaders in Catholic education. Alongside this passion is his commitment toward fostering a church that truly welcomes our LGBTQ siblings-in-Christ.



Rebekah Pryor

'The Art of Ethical Exchange: Materials and other strategies for becoming communicating subjects together'

Dr Rebekah Pryor is a visual artist and an Honorary Postdoctoral Associate at Pilgrim Theological College, University of Divinity (Australia). She is also a member of the Australian Collaborators in Feminist Theologies and currently writes justice education resources for a large international aid and development organisation. Her artistic and research practice is interdisciplinary and explores the spatial and iconic potential of the body.



Patrice Brodeur (via Zoom)

'Gracious Engagement in Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue'

Patrice Brodeur is an expert in Islamic studies and comparative Abrahamic religions. His current research focuses on the intersection between Islam, pluralism, and globalization, including issues of integration, radicalization, and Islamophobia. In applied research, he works on different forms of dialogue as an approach to conflict resolution: intra-religious, inter-religious, inter-cultural, inter-civilizational and inter-worldviews.



Jill Gowdie

'Thinking Theologically about Gracious Engagement: Principles for respectful dialogue across the theological spectrums'

Jill is known across Australia and overseas as a speaker, writer, facilitator, educator and system leader for her work in Mission and Vision in Catholic Education and Teacher and Leader Formation. Jill is Vice President of APTO. Jill has been a visiting scholar at both Oxford and KU Leuven universities. The focus of her work has been at the interface of theology and leadership. She is Director, Catholic Identity & Mission for Catholic Education, South Australia (CESA).



Conference keynote panellists

On Wednesday, 30 November 2022, between 7:30pm-9:00pm AEDT, APTO will host an open public panel, featuring several keynote panellists, who will respond to a series of questions arising from the conference theme of *Gracious Engagement: Dialogue across the theological spectrums*. Our conference keynote panellists are:

Cecilia Tan

Cecilia Francisco-Tan is a systematic theologian, and an alum of the University of Divinity. She currently lectures at Yarra Theological Union, where she serves on the education board of the College. Cecilia was a recent resident fellow with the Lonergan Institute, Boston College. Her pastoral concern for women's issues in the Church emerged from her pastoral work and shared experiences with other women and men. Cecilia's involvement with the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy Australia and Papua New Guinea has given her the opportunity to exercise her lifelong vocation as an educator and pastoral practitioner through teaching theology to Melanesian women religious. She was a past executive secretary of APTO.



Kevin Treston

Kevin Treston lives with Kathryn in Brisbane. He has been involved in ministry for over sixty years throughout Australia and many countries. He graduated BA (Hons), MA (Hons), MEd, PhD (Notre Dame USA), post-doctoral studies in Loyola (Chicago), The Catholic University of America (Washington), Boston College, Visiting Scholar (Boston College). He is a member of the Association of Practical Theology Oceania (APTO). He was awarded Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for services to Catholic education and Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Contribution to Marist Education, Australia. Kevin's special interest is fostering adult inclusive faith and life development and the reframing of the Christian Story within the Great Story of the Universe.



Zuleyha Keskin

Zuleyha Keskin is the Course Director at the Centre for Islamic Studies and Civilisation, Charles Sturt University. She is also a lecturer in Islamic spirituality. Zuleyha is the co-founder of ISRA Academy, the Managing Editor of the Australian Journal of Islamic Studies and President of Australian Association of Islamic and Muslim Studies. Zuleyha completed her Master of Islamic Studies at the University of Sydney, writing her thesis on "Interfaith Dialogue from an Islamic Perspective". She completed her PhD at the Australian Catholic University, titled "Attaining Inner Peace in Islam: Said Nursi's Perspective." She recently published her thesis as a book.



Peter Carblis

Peter's experience encompasses pastoral, chaplaincy, and educational ministries. Comfortable in multi-faith contexts, he has served in practitioner, executive, and governance roles including school founder, church pioneer, senior and support pastoral leader, teacher, school principal, and college principal. In the 1990s Peter conducted a top-rating talk-back radio program called "Street Talk" on a NSW Central Coast radio station. He is currently a member of the executive of APTO, a director of the Australian College of Ministry (ACOM), and member of the Morling College Academic Board.



Concurrent paper/workshop presenters

Throughout the conference, APTO is delighted to welcome the following scholars and practitioners who will be offering a paper/workshop addressing the conference theme and/or their own research projects (sorted alphabetical order by first name):

Alexandra Banks

'Hagar: Madonna in the Wilderness'

Bernadette Miles

'Spiritual direction as a resource for teacher formation, wellbeing, and resilience'

Bernadette Tolan

'Recontextualising Relationships and Sexuality Education'

Bet Green

'Troubling Events – Events of Grace'

Brendan Long

'Measuring the economic impact of religiosity in Australia'

Bob Dixon

'Factors influencing Mass attenders' attitudes to clergy sexual abuse in the Catholic Church'

Cathryn McKinney

'Shrouded Dissent: Deidentified Bodies Dialoguing in Protest and Solidarity'

Cecilia Tan

'The Theologian as Pastoral Practitioner: Quid sit? Cur ita sit? An sit? / Utrum ita sit?'

Christopher Longhurst

'Cross-Cultural Interreligious Pictorial Dialogue. Case of the Catholic-Māoriesque. Cultural Appropriation or Appropriate Interculturality?'

Cullan Joyce

'The Impact of Contemplative Research on Religious Experience: Interpreting Centering Prayer considering Psychological Sciences'

Debra Snoddy

'Gracious Engagement in Pastoral Supervision'

Geetanjali Rogers (via Zoom)

'Promoting theological dialogue regarding Physician Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia through compassion'

Geoffrey Cheong

'Gracious Engagement'

Jennifer Lewis (via Zoom)

'The Hard and Holy Work of (Really) Listening: Adapting the Practice of Nonviolent Communication for Intra-theological Dialogue'

John Collins

'Dialogue across theological spectrums: A Practical Application of insights from Bernard Lonergan's understanding of realms of meaning for systematic preparation for ministry'

Merv Duffy

'The Mahia Komiti of 1841'

Nigel Pegram

'Using Relational Integration as a model for engagement across theological traditions'

Peter Carblis

'Theoretical and Theological Perspectives of Gracious Engagement'

Samuel Curkpatrick

'A gift to one another: embodying unity in diversity in Indonesia and Australia'

Siân Owen

'Our Common Cloth'

Tom Edwards

'An architecture of defiance: Great churches as vehicles of hope'

Conference fees and registration link

Full conference registration (in-person), including morning teas, lunches, and afternoon teas	AU\$250.00 per person
Full conference registration (online via Zoom)	AU\$100.00 per person
Single day conference registration (in-person), including morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea (as appropriate)	AU\$95.00 per person
Single day conference registration (online via Zoom)	AU\$50.00 per person
Single night accommodation - onsite at Pilgrim Theological College or a nearby university residential college. Comfortable room with a single bed and shared bathroom. Inclusive of breakfast.	AU\$90.00 per room
Formal conference dinner	AU\$60.00 per person

A limited number of research student, unwaged, and those experiencing hardship conference scholarships are available. Please contact the APTO secretary, Mr Julian Kluge via email (secretary@apto.asn.au), for more information.

Register now via [TryBooking \(https://www.trybooking.com/CDDEK\)](https://www.trybooking.com/CDDEK) or scanning the QR code below:



Registrations close at 5:00pm AEDT on Monday, 28 November 2022.

Conference schedule

(All times shown in Australian Eastern Daylight Time and schedule may change without notice):

Wednesday, 30 November 2022		
Time	Activity	Room/Venue
11:00am-12:30pm	Arrival and registration (Light refreshments will be available in G1)	G2 and G3
12:30pm-1:30pm	Lunch	G1
1:30pm-1:45pm	Opening of conference & day 1 Welcome & official opening of the conference: Zachariah Duke	G2 and G3
1:45pm-2:00pm	Opening prayer/reflection Facilitated by Fiona Dyball	G2 and G3
2:00pm-3:00pm	Keynote paper 1: Jill Gowdie Chair: Bob Dixon	G2 and G3
3:00pm-3:30pm	Afternoon tea	G1
3:30pm-4:30pm	Concurrent paper session 1:	-
	Stream A i) Christopher Longhurst ii) Bernadette Miles	G2 and G3
	Stream B i) Cullan Joyce ii) Alexandra Banks	G4
	Stream C i) Brendan Long	G1
4:30pm-5:00pm	End of day dialogue and prayer/reflection Facilitated by Debra Snoddy	G2 and G3
5:00pm-6:45pm	Free time & dinner [Kindly note that dinner is <u>not</u> provided as part of the conference registration].	-
6:45pm-7:30pm	Book launches and book/resource showcase	G4
7:30pm-9:00pm	Public panel Keynote panellists: Kevin Treston, Cecilia Tan, Peter Carblis, Zuleyha Keshin Moderated by Zachariah Duke	G2 and G3

Thursday, 1 December 2022		
<i>Time</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Room/Venue</i>
9:00am-9:15am	Opening of conference day 2	G2 and G3
9:15am-9:30am	Opening prayer/reflection	G2 and G3
9:30am-10:30am	Keynote speaker 2: Patrice Brodeur Chair: Christopher Longhurst	G2 and G3
10:30am-11:00am	Morning tea	G1
11:00am-12:00pm	Concurrent paper session 2:	-
	Stream A i) Cecilia Tan ii) Merv Duffy	G2 and G3
	Stream B i) Peter Carblis ii) Debra Snoddy	G4
12:00pm-1:00pm	Lunch	G1
1:00pm-2:00pm	Keynote speaker 3: Brooke Prentis Chair: Zachariah Duke	G2 and G3
2:00pm-3:00pm	Concurrent paper session 3:	-
	Stream A i) John Collins ii) Bet Green	G2 and G3
	Stream B i) Nigel Pegram ii) Geetanjali Rogers	G4
3:00pm-3:30pm	Afternoon tea	G1
3:30pm-4:30pm	Keynote speaker 4: Alfred Pang Chair: Jill Gowdie	G2 and G3
4:30pm-5:30pm	Concurrent paper session 4:	-
	Stream A i) Tom Edwards ii) Cathryn McKinney	G2 and G3
	Stream B i) Bob Dixon ii) Sian Owen	G4
5:30pm-6:00pm	End of day dialogue and prayer/reflection Facilitated by Debra Snoddy	G2 and G3
6:00pm-7:00pm	Free time	-
7:00pm-c.9:00pm	Formal conference dinner	tbc

Friday, 2 December 2022		
Time	Activity	Room/Venue
8:30am-8:45am	Opening of conference day 3	G2 and G3
8:45am-9:00am	Opening prayer/reflection	G2 and G3
9:00am-10:00am	Keynote speaker 5: Rebekah Pryor Chair: Stephen Reid	G2 and G3
10:00am-10:15am	Morning tea	G1
10:15am-11:15am	Concurrent paper session 5:	-
	Stream A i) Samuel Curkpatrick ii) Bernadette Tolan	G2 and G3
	Stream B i) Jennifer Lewis ii) Geoffrey Cheong	G4
11:15am-11:30am	End of day dialogue and prayer/reflection Facilitated by Debra Snoddy Conference Close: Zachariah Duke	G2 and G3
11:30am-12:00pm	Travel time to excursion/cultural immersion experience	-
12:00pm-1:00pm	Excursion and cultural immersion experience – part 1: Birraring Wilam (River Camp) Walk	Birraring Wilam (River Camp) Walk
1:00pm-2:00pm	Excursion and cultural immersion experience – part 2: Exploring the gallery space and collections at the Koorie Heritage Trust	Koorie Heritage Trust

Questions?

Please contact the APTO president, Dr Zachariah Duke via email (president@apto.asn.au) if you have any questions about the 2022 APTO conference.

Terms and conditions: If after booking a ticket(s) you are unable to attend, you are welcome to nominate someone else to attend in your place at no additional cost, provided this is notified in writing to the APTO secretary, Mr Julian Kluge: secretary@apto.asn.au. Cancellations more than two (2) weeks before the event will be refunded 100% of the registration fee. Cancellations less than two (2) weeks before the event will receive no refund, unless the substitution option (see above) is exercised. If an in-person ticket is purchased, this can be converted to an online ticket, but no refund of the difference will be offered if it's less than two weeks from the event. Cancellations must be sent in writing to the APTO secretary, Mr Julian Kluge: secretary@apto.asn.au. APTO reserves the right to alter, amend or cancel all or any of the arrangements contained in the program. In the unlikely event that APTO must cancel the event, APTO does not accept responsibility for attendees' transport or accommodation expenses.

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