

Connection and Community

CALL FOR PAPERS



**ANZATS Conference,
1-3 Jul 2024**

Uniting College for Leadership and Theology, Adelaide

In an era marked by rapid technological advancements, global challenges, and socially divisive forces, the role of theology in fostering meaningful connections and nurturing thriving communities has become paramount. ANZATS 2024 seeks to explore the multifaceted dimensions of connection and community from theological perspectives with the hope that rigorous examination and constructive dialogue will deepen our understanding of how we can foster genuine connections and bridge divides. As a way of embodying the theme, the conference will also celebrate the connections to the place in which the conference is held by listening to keynote speakers who have special relationships to South Australia: Aunty Denise, an Adnyamathanha woman who will share her wisdom with us, and the scholars behind the Earth Bible project birthed right here in Adelaide!

Please note: *There will be online access to a limited number of sessions across the three days. Not all conference papers will be recorded or streamed.*

Timeline:

- Abstracts due: Friday 29th January
- Complete Emerging Scholar Papers due: Monday 1st March
- Registrations open: Feb 2024

2024 Conference Streams:

Papers can be proposed in any of the following streams, addressing the conference theme, or as a general paper. For more information for each stream see below.

Submissions for the Emerging Scholars Award should nominate an appropriate stream for the paper to be presented in.

- Context and Community
- Biblical Studies
- Christian History
- Faith and Science
- Feminist Theologies
- Issues in Practical Theology, Ministry and Education
- Systematic Theology
- Theological Anthropology
- Theological Ethics
- World Christianity, Intercultural Theology and Mission Studies
- Worship and Liturgy
- Other

Biblical Studies

Convenors: Chris Seglenieks, Anna Nuernberger

This multifaceted stream welcomes papers in one of four sub-streams: Old Testament, the Gospels and Acts, Pauline Studies & Early Christianity, and other New Testament writings. We especially encourage papers that explore the intersection between the conference theme and biblical studies.

Christian History

Convenor: Glen O'Brien

Christian history has often been explored in terms of the individuals who shaped it – the 'great man' or 'great woman' has sometimes dominated the discourse about significant historical movements. The ANZATS Christian history stream seeks papers that focus on viewing history through communities rather than through the individual leaders who stand out among them. What were the group dynamics and communal practices that gave rise to historically significant movements and how might the inherent individualism of the 'heroes of the faith' typology be challenged by such an approach?

Faith and Science

Convenors: Doru Costache, Nicola Hoggard Creegan

The conversation between theology and science is still an overlooked, albeit important, discussion in an increasingly secular culture dominated by science and technology. Two organisations in Australasia are prominent in advocating for and promoting this dialogue: ISCAST (the Institute for the Study of Christianity in an Age of Science and Technology) and NZCIS (New Zealand Christians in Science). Both organisations are committed to historical Christian faith and to actively promoting constructive conversations between theology and science broadly defined. Hence, they regularly seek conversation partners from theologians, philosophers, historians, educators, scientists, including social scientists, and technologists.

This stream, coordinated by ISCAST and NZCIS, welcomes papers and panels that engage with issues of science and Christian theology.

Feminist Theologies

Convenors: Jaimee van Gemerden, Tracy McEwan

Feminism remains a 'dirty' word within studies of theology and religion. This stream is an opportunity to celebrate feminist scholarship and for discussions and presentations in the broad field of feminist theology and biblical studies. Papers may address issues of feminist activism and the ways that feminist theological praxis can function to reduce oppressions among marginalised groups. Submissions are welcome in a range of formats in order to engage with the multiplicity of areas feminist theology seeks to address, including, but not limited to, indigenous approaches, intersections with queer theology, ecofeminism, and pedagogical concerns.

Issues in Practical Theology, Ministry and Education

Convenors: TBC

This stream focuses on the wide range of ministry application in society today. While we will welcome papers in the discipline of practical theology, pastoral ministry, and education, including theological education, this stream will have a special focus on Leaning into the Unspeakable. This focus invites intentional discussion on how difficult ministry, education and theological responses are when considering the reality of life. These discussions can include, but not be limited to recent Royal Commissions, COVID and LGBTIQ+ issues.

Systematic Theology

Convenors: Greg Liston

Papers are invited on all areas of constructive systematic theology/dogmatics as they relate to the intersection of context and tradition in the formulation of theological concepts and doctrines. Papers are welcome on areas of historical theology highlighting the connections or otherwise between context and tradition, constructive theological proposals for the place of context and tradition, critiques of approaches to the topic, and evaluations of people, movements, or ideas relating to the theme. More general papers on other areas of systematic theology are also welcome.

Theological Anthropology

Convenors: Christy Capper

This stream seeks papers in the broad category of theological anthropology, which reflects theologically on the question, "What does it mean to be human?" This may be approached from a biblical studies or systematic perspective, but could also be explored at various other intersections, including eco-theology, technology, bioethics, psychology, literature, and gender, queer, and race studies. Interdisciplinary papers are encouraged, and we particularly welcome contributions looking at humanity from marginal perspectives.

Theological Ethics

Convenors: Peter Kline

This stream invites papers responding to some of the pressing challenges confronting both the church and the world. We are interested in papers addressing any aspect of the relationship between faith and ethical thinking and action. This may include papers that develop ethical perspectives by drawing on figures and themes from the Christian tradition, Scripture, or global church. It may also include interdisciplinary papers that engage with issues from postcolonial studies, indigenous studies, feminist theories, disability studies, political activism, animal ethics, gender and queer studies, biomedical ethics, environmental and climate studies, and so forth.

World Christianity, Intercultural Theology and Mission Studies

Convenors: Xiaoli Yang, Graham Hill

This stream welcomes submissions in World Christianity, Intercultural Theology, and Mission Studies, which reflect on the following questions. What embedded and embodied experiences enhance connection and community (e.g., sang prayers expressing local theology and community living)? How might we reflect on these experiences theologically and missiologically? How do those insights in local context foster genuine connections and bridge divides within communities, societies and the global church? How do lived experiences of faith, worship, discipleship, or mission enrich theology, mission, church life, and surrounding neighborhoods, cultures, and societies? Interdisciplinary papers are especially welcomed

Worship and Liturgy

Convenors: Kieran Crichton, Michelle Eastwood

This stream considers the breadth of topics related to worship and liturgy. It welcomes perspectives from a range of denominational viewpoints as well as ecumenical perspectives. It is also open to consideration of the way current events impact and inform our worship practices.

2024 Emerging Scholars Award:

About the Award

The ANZATS Emerging Scholars Award aims to encourage doctoral students and recent graduates to communicate their research and to gain recognition for their work by the community of scholars. The award is for the best academic essay in a theological discipline by an emerging scholar presented at the ANZATS Conference.

Entries for the Award to be presented at the 2024 ANZATS Conference are now open. The closing date for submissions is **1 March 2024**. Papers are to be submitted to the ANZATS Executive Officer (secretary@anzats.edu.au).

Successful entries are expected to attend the Conference and present their paper in a session determined by the conference organisers.

Please note: Individuals intending to enter the Emerging Scholars Award should submit an abstract by Friday 19th January. The full paper is due on 1 March 2024.

Prize Winner Benefits

- Free registration for the ANZATS Conference
- \$800 bursary to support future studies or research
- Consideration for publication in *Colloquium* (subject to peer review)

Eligibility

Applicants must be

- an Australian or New Zealand citizen or permanent resident, or enrolled in or a graduate of an institution that is a member of ANZATS; and
- either students currently enrolled in a doctoral award in a theological discipline; or
- persons with a doctorate in a theological discipline who graduated after 1 January 2022

Submissions

- Include evidence of eligibility (doctoral enrolment or date of graduation)
- For doctoral students: include a letter of support from your Principal Supervisor
- Essay to be between 4,000 and 6,000 words in length (including footnotes)

Judging Panel and Selection Criteria

The ANZATS President appoints three ANZATS members as the judging panel for submissions. The judges are responsible for:

- deciding whether the entry is accepted as a paper by a New Scholar for presentation at the ANZATS Conference
- selecting up to three entries as finalists based on the written submission
- attending the conference presentations by the finalists
- selecting one of the finalists as the winner based on the written submission and the conference presentation

Entries are judged on their scholarly excellence with reference to content, style, clarity, and presentation.

The judging panel may exclude applications from ineligible persons, or submissions which are outside the word limit. The judges' decision on all matters is final.

ANZATS reserves the right not to make the Award during any given year.

Announcements

- Entrants are notified if their paper has been accepted for the New Scholars Stream of the ANZATS Conference at least three months prior to the Conference
- Successful entrants are advised if they are a finalist or not at least two weeks prior to the Conference
- The award will be presented to the winner during the Conference.