
Practical Theology as Ecotheology

Call for Papers

This year's conference theme invites engagement from a wide variety of perspectives and in a wide variety of styles and genres. The following list is intended to be indicative of possible topics and approaches, rather than prescriptive. Feel free to offer other topics and titles!

- What has been learnt, or could be learnt, from the COVID19 crisis to inform ecological theology and practice? How do or might we view and understand the world and our actions differently?
- What role can and should the sciences play in the conduct of practical theology in general and in relation to climate crisis in particular?
- What insights from scripture and/or [Christian] tradition may be helpful in informing ecological conversation and action? Which may be more problematic traditions that need to be critiqued?
- Which theological voices speaking and writing today have the most to contribute to the current climate crisis? There may be significant insights from pagan, neo-pagan, wicca and other contemporary spiritual traditions, as well as from Eastern religious traditions and the monotheistic religions. Which paradigms will serve us most creatively?
- Are there examples of creative and prophetic action from which BIAPT could usefully learn? From where is energy for change found and how is hope kept alive? How do we, as practical theologians, judge the limits of right action, particularly when this may include civil disobedience?
- How might the arts be engaged as ways of knowing to inform theological analysis and political action?
- What does an ecological spirituality look like? What (new) forms might lament, contemplation, praise and thanksgiving, intercession and meditation take, in the light of our changing experience of relating to the earth's cries and groans, to the destruction of species and habitats? How does prayer inform and energise thought and action?

We welcome 200 – 300 word abstracts for 20 minute papers, from a range of disciplines and religious and spiritual traditions and emerging themes in non-religion.

The conference is committed to ensuring an inclusive environment for discussion and the dissemination of work.

Please submit your abstract as a word document and include your name, affiliation, geographical location (so we know your time zone), title of paper, and email address, and send to papers@biapt.org

We are asking all paper-givers to provide some form of back-up to mitigate against wi-fi/internet failure. Ideally, this should be in a form as close to the actual delivery of the paper as possible. For example, if you plan to present a PowerPoint to which you will speak, please provide the PowerPoint with a voice-over or separate recorded audio; if you intend simply to read your paper, with or without copies of the paper for participants, then record it as an audio or video file and provide the text as a Word or pdf document. If for any reason, technical or otherwise, it is not possible for you to record your paper, please provide a summary text (of around 1,000 words?) which can be shared in the group in the eventuality of technical failure'.

Deadline for submissions is 11 April 2021 by 5pm BST.

We will inform those whose papers have been accepted by 13 May 2021.