The Society of Christian Ethics

and

The Society of Jewish Ethics

January 3-6, 2008

Hilton Atlanta
Atlanta, Georgia
BLANK – inside front cover
49th Annual Meeting of
The Society of Christian Ethics

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Program Chair: Jonathan Crane
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2009
January 8 - 11, 2009
Hyatt Regency Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

2010
January 7 - 10, 2010
Doubletree Hotel
San Jose, California

2011
January 6 - 9, 2011
Astor Crowne Plaza
New Orleans, Louisiana

SCE CONTACT INFORMATION

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St. Cloud, MN 56302-5126

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Fax: 320-252-6984
Email: sce@cord.edu

Associate Executive Director: Linda Schreiber

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68 Cedar Avenue
Highland Park, NJ 08904

Phone: (212) 877-7747, ext. 249
Email: dov@alumni.brown.edu

The Society of Christian Ethics and the Society of Jewish Ethics are meeting concurrently. Sessions offered by SJE are listed at the end of each concurrent session.
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David Cloutier, PhD
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Catholic Ethics in Today’s World

Jozef D. Zalot, PhD
College of Mount St. Joseph, Cincinnati, OH

Rev. Benedict Guevin, OSB, PhD
Saint Anselm College, Manchester, NH

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Thursday, January 3, 2008
8:00am-10:00pm Lutheran Ethicists
11:00am-9:00pm SCE/SJE Registration Desk Open
12:45-7:30pm Atlanta Tour
1:00-5:30pm SCE Board Meeting
1:00-5:00pm Theology and Ethics Writers
1:00-5:00pm Fieldwork in Christian Ethics
1:30-8:00pm The University of Chicago Writers
3:00-10:00pm Baptist Ethicists
6:30-8:30pm SJE Board Meeting
8:00-10:00pm Presbyterian Ethicists

Friday, January 4, 2008
7:30am-6:45pm SCE/SJE Registration Desk Open
8:30am-8:15pm Exhibits Open
9:00-10:30am Plenary: "Race and Class in the Criminal Justice System"
11:00am-12:30pm Concurrent Session I
12:45-2:00pm Lunch, Student Caucus, Junior Faculty Caucus, JRE Editorial Board
2:00-3:30pm Concurrent Session II
4:00-5:30pm Concurrent Session III
5:45-6:45pm SCE Presidential Address
6:45-8:00pm SCE Presidential Reception
7:00-9:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Services and Shabbat Dinner
8:00-9:30pm Interest and Working Groups I
9:30pm Student Members' Social, Junior Faculty Social

Saturday, January 5, 2008
7:15-8:45am Breakfast with an Author/Breakfast with a Scholar
8:30am-6:00pm Exhibits, Registration Desk Open
9:00-10:30am Concurrent Session IV
11:00am-12:30pm Shabbat Service
11:00am-12:30pm SCE Business Meeting
12:30-2:00pm Lunch, Women's Caucus, Shabbat Lunch
2:00-3:30pm Concurrent Session V
4:00-5:30pm Plenary Session: "Managing Diversity in Academe"
5:45-7:00pm Catholic Sunday Liturgy
6:00-8:00pm Economics Writers
6:00-8:00pm The Work of Max Stackhouse
6:00-8:00pm Emory/Candler Reception in Honor of Jon Gunnemann
8:00-9:30pm SJE Business Meeting and Socializing
8:00-9:30pm Interest and Working Groups II

Sunday, January 6, 2008
6:45-8:30am SCE Board Meeting
7:45-8:45am Ecumenical Worship Service
8:30am-12:30pm Registration Desk Open
8:30am-12:30pm Exhibits Open
9:00-10:30am Concurrent Session VI
9:00-10:30am Plenary: "The Indeterminacy of Rabbinic Ethics"
11:00am-12:30pm Concurrent Session VII
12:30-2:00pm The Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics Editorial Board
12:45-5:00pm American Coalition of Jewish Bioethics Sessions

Group Contact Information
Participant Listing
Exhibitor Listing
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LIBERALISM'S TROUBLED SEARCH FOR EQUALITY
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**Wednesday**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<td>7:30-10:00pm</td>
<td>Lutheran Ethicists</td>
<td>Offsite: Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center</td>
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**Thursday**

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<tr>
<td>8:00am-10:00pm</td>
<td>Lutheran Ethicists</td>
<td>Offsite: Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Speaker: John Witte, Jr., Emory Law School</td>
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<td>Theme: &quot;Lutherans on Law in Human Society&quot;</td>
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<td>11:00am-12:30pm</td>
<td>SCE Finance Committee</td>
<td>Board</td>
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<td>11:00am-9:00pm</td>
<td>SCE/SJE Registration Desk Open</td>
<td>Grand Salon West</td>
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<td>12:45-7:30pm</td>
<td>Atlanta Tour</td>
<td>Hotel Lobby near Concierge</td>
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<td>1:00-5:00pm</td>
<td>Theology and Ethics Writers</td>
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<td>1:00-5:00pm</td>
<td>Fieldwork in Christian Ethics</td>
<td>Directors</td>
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<td>1:00-5:30pm</td>
<td>SCE Board Meeting</td>
<td>Embassy</td>
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<td>1:30-8:00pm</td>
<td>The University of Chicago Writers</td>
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<td>3:00-10:00pm</td>
<td>Baptist Ethicists</td>
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<td>6:30-8:30pm</td>
<td>SJE Board Meeting</td>
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<td>8:00-10:00pm</td>
<td>Presbyterian Ethicists</td>
<td>Fulton/Cobb</td>
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**SIGNIFICANT**

Forthcoming March 2008

**Catholic Moral Theology in the United States**
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7:15-8:45am  Union Theological Seminary Alumni/ae Breakfast
Grand Salon A

7:30am-6:45pm  Registration/Conference Desk Open
Grand Salon West

8:30am-8:15pm  Exhibits Open
Grand Salon West

9:00-10:30am  Plenary (sponsored by SCE)
"Race and Class in the Criminal Justice System"
Speaker: William Montross, Southern Center for Human Rights, Atlanta
Respondent: Simeon Ilesanmi, Wake Forest University
Convener: Christine E. Gudorf, Florida International University

10:30-11:00am  Break
Grand Salon West

11:00am-12:30pm  Concurrent Session I
Kathryn Blanchard, Alma College
"The Protestant Ethic or the Spirit of Capitalism"

Some Christian ethicists argue that capitalism is the economic system best suited to a Christian worldview, emphasizing that freedom, not greed, is its true foundation. Others argue that capitalism is the opposite of a Christian worldview, emphasizing that exploitation of laborers and the earth for the profits of executives and shareholders is so common as to seem a necessary component. Protestantism has no Rerum Novarum on which to draw, but John Calvin's economic writings point (with help from feminist economics) toward a system that gives the market its due, without resigning itself to any inevitable laws of the dismal science.

Convener: James Calvin Davis, Middlebury College

Nathan Colborne, Nipissing University
"A Peace Crueler than War?: A Defense of 'Just Policing' in Response to a Foucauldian Critique"

The paper attempts to develop a critique of the theory of just policing from a Foucauldian perspective. I will argue that a transformation of just war theory into a theory of just policing involves an unexamined transformation of political identity on the part of those who come to view themselves as policing agents. Christian political identity formation is, in important ways, fundamentally at odds with the formation of identity required by the theory and practice of just policing. The paper concludes with a contrast between the practices of forgiveness and reconciliation and the practice of just policing.

Convener: John T. Pawlikowski OSM, Catholic Theological Union

Wyndy Corbin Reuschling, Ashland Theological Seminary
"Preaching What We Should Practice, Practicing What We Preach: Shaping Moral Imagination for Political Action"

Preaching is a liturgical practice which shapes moral imagination for just political action. This paper will explore the moral and political dimensions of preaching as a practice, "things Christian people do together over time to address fundamental human needs in response to and in the light of God's active presence for the life of the world" (Dykstra and Bass, Practicing Theology). Preaching shapes moral imagination through content, and by developing moral awareness and the virtue of courage. I will offer suggestions for content, practices and strategies that enable us to preach what we should practice and practice what we preach.

Convener: Brian Matz, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
Aboriginal people in Canada have suffered a turbulent history and many forms of devastation as evident in the health care arena. The health science literature often exposes health programs as ineffective in dealing with aboriginal health concerns which, I argue, are rooted in political and socio-economic conditions. This paper identifies the high rates of diabetes, cervical cancer for aboriginal women, and high morbidity/mortality rates of newborns as indicative of a continuing mode of colonization and failure to address fundamental notions of justice. By utilizing Nussbaum and Cahill I seek to articulate an ethical basis for public health policies by contextualizing social justice in relation to a six-point criterion of well-being, arguing that we must recognize "the urgency" and "entitlement" arguments in order to effect substantial change.

Convener: David E. DeCosse, Markkula Center for Applied Ethics, Santa Clara University

Mary M. Doyle Roche, College of the Holy Cross
"Eyes on the Prize and the Iconography of Childhood"

PBS recently featured a 20th anniversary reprise of the civil rights documentary *Eyes on the Prize*. Images of children and young people playing active and crucial roles in the movement abound. They made moral decisions and took action in the context of extremely limited options. This paper will challenge our (often unacknowledged) assumption that children participate in society only insofar as this participation does not challenge the status quo or call for institutional change. A review of *Eyes on the Prize* suggests possibilities for children's participation in work for the common good of society today.

Convener: Cristie Traina, Northwestern University

James E. Helmer, University of Notre Dame
"Recovering a Theology of Nationality: John Howard Yoder, Cultural Rights, and the Ethics of Individuality"

Contemporary liberal defenses of group-differentiated rights for ethnocultural minorities have characteristically tended to be justified in terms of an "ethics of individuality" according to which the value of any particular culture—as well as its correlative protection and/or preservation through the medium of rights—is predicated on its ability to serve as a suitable context for the realization of individual autonomy. Drawing on the political theology of John Howard Yoder, and in particular, his interpretation of the providential nature of cultural pluralism as the condition for the possibility of the Church's evangelical mission, I attempt to go beyond the autonomist paradigm by reconsidering some of the theological considerations for recovering a more robust form of cultural pluralism, as a basis for assessing the intrinsic moral significance of cultures and for attributing group-differentiated rights to cultural communities.

Convener: Kevin Carnahan, Hendrix College

Christian T. Iosso, Presbyterian Church (USA) Social Witness Policy Office
"'A Social Creed for the 21st Century: ' A Test for Ecumenical Ethics"

The Social Creed of 2008 celebrates but does not recreate the 1908 Social Creed of the Churches. More theological than the original Social Gospel invention, it grounds a mixture of middle axioms, policy specifics and biblical allusions in a modified contrast model for the church. Compared with the much longer New, Spiritual and Black covenants of Jim Wallis, Michael Lerner and Tavis Smiley, today's Social Creed reclaims an ecumenical consensus for public witness. Broadened far beyond the original's economic focus, however, and reflecting NCCC's ecumenical constraints, can the Social Creed's two-front strategy succeed in changing the Christian contract with America?

Convener: Mark Douglas, Columbia Theological Seminary
Craig Steven Titus, Institute for the Psychological Sciences (Arlington, VA) and Univ. of Fribourg
"Moral Development: Aquinas and Positive Psychology"

This paper will present the warrants for engaging in a critical conversation about moral development between Positive Psychology's empirical comparative approach to the virtues (Martin Seligman et al.) and Thomas Aquinas' Christian ethics. It will demonstrate how such a multidisciplinary dialogue can contribute to the renewal of Aquinas' understanding of moral development, at the level of the function of the virtues and their interconnection. It will especially focus on the development of cognitive skills (the virtue of prudence for Aquinas; the virtue strengths of wisdom and knowledge for Seligman), not only as a study in moral psychology, but also as an exercise in normative ethics.

Convener: Paul A. Lewis, Mercer University

Cat Jonathan Tran, Baylor University
"Transgressing Borders: Genetic Research, Immigration and Discourses of Sacrifice"

This paper relates the odd yet revealing linguistic similarities between immigration and genetic research and figures this congruence through notions of sacrifice. This paper claims that America's plans for genetically screening undocumented persons emanates from an ethos where the borders of acceptable human research are guarded by totalizing conceptions of humanness. The argument of this paper unfolds in three parts: first, I will briefly relate government policy regarding the respective languages of immigration and genetic research. Second, I will review Rene Girard and Hans Jonas on discourses of sacrifice and citizenship. Third, borrowing from Michel Foucault, I will characterize American immigration and research agendas as signifying "liturgies of sacrifice."

Convener: Stewart W. Herman, Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota

Interest Groups: Liturgy and Ethics
African/African American

Panelists: Bryan Massingale, Marquette University
Traci West, Drew University

The conveners of the Liturgy and Ethics interest group and the African and African American Interest Group will convene a joint session integrating the issues of liturgy, ethics, and race. Recognizing that Sunday morning is the most segregated hour of the week, we will focus on the implications racial difference might have for liturgy and ethics. Concepts that will frame panel presentations and discussion include: the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; the life, liturgy, theology and moral teachings of Black churches that served as the roots of the 1960s Civil Rights movement; methods and strategies useful for ethicists who recognize the socio-political nature of liturgy and the development of social justice-based liturgy and coursework.

Conveners: Stacey Floyd-Thomas, Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University
Melanie Harris, Texas Christian University
Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan, Shaw University Divinity School
M. Therese Lysaught, Marquette University (Liturgy and Ethics)

SJE: Barry Pakes, University of Toronto
"Of Ethics and Pandemics: Jewish Law and Pandemic Influenza"

SCE Respondent: James F. Keenan, S.J., Boston College

The imminent influenza pandemic presents one of the greatest threats to human life and human civilization ever known. The current spread of the H5N1 strain between species and across continents has forced us to confront the innumerable practical, ethical, legal, geopolitical and philosophical challenges that pandemic planning present. Though Jewish Law has rarely been used to explicitly address critical global public health issues, the halachic system and extant literature present an invaluable model for the development of an ethical framework for communicable disease pandemic planning. This presentation will draw on the author's experience in municipal, provincial and WHO pandemic influenza planning to demonstrate how a halachic approach may succeed where pandemic planners and ethicists have failed, in producing a practical, comprehensive and robust pandemic ethics framework.

Convener: Toby Schonfeld, University of Nebraska Medical Center
12:30-2:00 pm  Lunch

12:45-2:00 pm  JRE Editorial Board

12:45-2:00 pm  Student Caucus  (Pre-registration needed for lunch.)

The Student Caucus will host a roundtable lunch session and business meeting. This is an opportunity to meet fellow graduate students as well as share thoughts and questions on graduate school life. A portion of this year's caucus lunch will be dedicated to professional development, with experienced individuals offering advice on the issues of publishing and teaching.

Please see the registration desk if you have not yet purchased a lunch ticket.

Conveners:  Kathryn Getek, Boston College
AnneMarie Mingo, Emory University

12:45-2:00 pm  Junior Faculty Caucus  (Pre-registration needed for lunch.)

The Junior Faculty Caucus is organized for the purpose of allowing Christian ethicists (pre-tenured Ph.D.’s and teaching ABD’s) to help one another navigate our new roles as professors and scholars. In addition, we hope to encourage greater involvement of newer scholars in the Society of Christian Ethics, and to strengthen our communal voice with an eye toward shaping the SCE’s long-term goals. Because we recognize that junior faculty members are whole persons, we schedule both business and social gatherings during each annual meeting. There is also an online network (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/scejuniorfacultynetwork/).

Conveners:  Melanie Barrett, University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary
Kathryn Blanchard, Alma College

2:00-3:30 pm  Concurrent Session II

John Berkman, Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology/Graduate Theological Union  Fulton
"Foretelling Death Morally: Virtue and Medical Prognostication"

In end-of-life care, prognosticating death is perhaps the most existentially difficult communication entrusted to physicians. Recent empirical studies show that physicians are typically poor at prognostication, they ‘dread’ doing it, and that the primary impediment to improved communication is not technical, but ethical. This presentation will argue that physician prognostication about death requires particular moral skills to adequately “foretell” or communicate prognoses. Drawing on an account of the ends of medicine and of the virtues necessary to pursue these ends, this paper will argue that improvement in prognostication at the end of life requires a reappraisal of our understanding of the needs of patients and physicians.

Convener:  Christopher Vogt, St. John's University, New York

James F. Caccamo, Saint Joseph's University  Rockdale
"Teachings Too Important Not To Teach: Catholic Social Teaching on Media and Social Communications"

The past twenty-five years has seen an explosion of interest in Catholic Social Teaching. Yet one topic within CST has gone almost entirely unnoticed: social communication (the media). This paper will introduce scholars to CST on media, identifying its central ethical principles, moral norms, and policy recommendations. The paper will also offer a critical assessment of the ethics of media articulated within CST, placing it in dialogue with contemporary media theory (e.g., Borgmann, McLuhan, Postman, Hoover, and Rheingold). It identifies both where CST enriches our understanding of social communication and where it fails to account adequately for the broad spectrum of ways in which media shape human life for good and ill.

Convener:  Patrick Flanagan, CM, St. John's University, New York
This paper explores reconciliation and restorative justice in post-apartheid South Africa from the perspective of the resurrection. I review critical literature on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) as well as studies of the social issues faced in post-apartheid South Africa to demonstrate the liminal state of reconciliation, particularly regarding structural transformation of the inequalities created by colonization and apartheid. I then review recent proposals in theology and philosophy to develop an account of reconciliation that is centered on the resurrection, that follows the rhythm of the human enacted by the TRC, and that is appropriately contextualized, concretized, and hopeful.

Convener: Johnny B. Hill, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Ann E. Herpel
"The Total Economy of War: Militarism, Materialism, and Communities of Resistance"

In the era of full spectrum dominance, Dr. King's warning that "a nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death" assumes a renewed moral urgency. This paper examines American militarism as a metaphysics permeating an American culture that is dedicated to the innovation of war. Following Dr. King's call for a "radical revolution of values," the paper sketches an ethic of resistance that is as much an economic and ecological project as a political one. Resistance capable of disrupting militarism requires a fundamental reorientation of our lives together in community.

Convener: Peter R. Gathje, Memphis Theological Seminary

Judith W. Kay, University of Puget Sound
"Racism and the Exodus: Paradoxes for Jewish Liberation"

This paper argues that the Exodus motif obscures why eliminating racism is central to Jewish liberation. Against the weight of racism directed at African Americans, the biblical Exodus served as a model of emancipation. Racism and the Exodus figura evolved into a motif that, ironically, fails to capture the dynamics of anti-Jewish oppression that drive a wedge between Jews and other oppressed groups. The paper identifies strategies for liberation that are obscured by the Exodus motif and seeks to provide Christians and Jews a clearer understanding of how their work against racism can also challenge anti-Jewish oppression.

Convener: Lloyd Steffen, Lehigh University

Jerry O. Nwonye, Fuller Theological Seminary
"Tokenism: An American Perspective on Racial Equality"

This paper examines and critiques the status of King's dream of equity and justice and argues that the idea of tokenism is the most prevalent rationale for the continuing racial and economic injustice in the United States. The paper examines the significance of race and class distinction in the United States and uses King's "Paul's Letter to the American Christian" to critique capitalism. This paper posits a proposal for the renewal of the "Poor People's Campaign" as an avenue for the renewal of King's vision of the beloved community where justice becomes the outworking agape love and tokenism is eradicated.

Convener: Wilton Bunch, Samford University-Beeson Divinity School
The standard narrative suggests that political stability has advanced as religion has receded into the background of modern life; secularism has provided the common ground for social coordination under conditions of religious pluralism. Nicholas Adams challenges this standard narrative as represented in the work of Jürgen Habermas and turns to the practice of "scriptural reasoning" for clues for how argumentation across traditions can proceed without effacing theological distinctions as a precondition. I explore Adams's robust challenge to this standard narrative while suggesting some reservations about what we can learn from scriptural reasoning regarding public discourse under conditions of religious pluralism.

Convener: Thomas Ogletree, Yale Divinity School

"Feminists Among The Virtues"
Panelists: Margaret Adam, Duke University
           Kelly S. Johnson, University of Dayton
           Laura Yordy, Bridgewater College
Respondent: Gloria H. Albrecht, University of Detroit-Mercy

Can the vir (male subject) be taken out of "virtue" to the benefit of Christian communities? What would feminist virtue ethics look like? Panelists will explore the feminist subject in contrast to the Aristotelian privileged male and his various autonomous descendants, including early feminist versions of a subject who is just-as-good-as the male subject. Secondly, we will look at gendered identities and how they play out in Christian households. Thirdly, we will step outside the household and explore feminist virtue in the context of creation. Finally, a feminist critic of traditional virtue ethics will respond to the three panelists.

Convener: Kathryn Blanchard, Alma College

"Between Kierkegaard and Levinas: The Ethics of K.E. Logstrup"
Panelists: Amy Laura Hall, Duke University
           William Schweiker, University of Chicago Divinity School
           Kees van Kooten Niekerk, University of Aarhus

K.E. Løgstrup (1905-1981) is undoubtedly the most prominent philosopher-theologian Denmark has fostered since Søren Kierkegaard. Løgstrup adopted Kierkegaard’s concept of an unconditional ethical demand. But unlike Kierkegaard, he situated the demand in the interrelatedness of human beings. As in Levinas the encounter with the other makes us radically responsible. The panelists will discuss the significance of Løgstrup’s thinking for contemporary work in ethics: The core ideas will be presented against the background of Løgstrup's controversy with Kierkegaard. This controversy will be discussed from a Kierkegaardian point of view. And finally Løgstrup's ethics will be related to the contemporary ethical debate.

Convener: Svend Anderson, University of Aarhus

Working Group: Christian-Muslim Ethics

This year's program will focus on discussion of Qur'an 4:75 ("And why should you not fight in the cause of God and of those who, being weak, are ill-treated and oppressed?… ") in the context of an interest in the justification and conduct of war.

Discussion of Qur'an 4:75 will be followed by a discussion of the future of the working group, in particular with respect to the possibility of forming a Society of Muslim Ethics.

The Working Group's meetings are open to all interested persons attending the SCE and SJE meetings.

Convener: John Kelsay, Florida State University
Interest Group: Church and Academy  
"Church-wide Ethical Reflection and Action in Four Communions"  

Paulding

This year's session will examine similarities and differences in the ways Christian Churches develop social stances. A panel of practitioners from different denominations will identify structures and practices used by that Church to introduce new ideas and norms into the lives of congregations and public policy. Chris Iosso (PCSUA) and Roger Willer (ELCA) are confirmed at press time.

The Church and Academy Interest Group seeks to strengthen connections between the academic study of Christian Ethics and congregational life.

Conveners: Paul A. Lewis, Mercer University  
Roger J. Gench, New York Avenue Presbyterian Church

SJE: Noam Zohar, Bar Ilan University  
"Halakhah and Ethics: against 'meta-halakhah'"  
Forsythe

SCE Respondent: Scott Bader-Saye, The University of Scranton

The concept "meta-halakhah" is commonly employed to account for recourse to ethical (and other) values in the halakhic process. Goldman described a two-tiered system, in which the meta-halakhic level exercises a sporadic regulative effect upon first-level halakhic discourse. Others, who view the meta-halakhic as external to halakhah, often express concern for authenticity. Both these versions of meta-halakhah distort the function of values in halakhah. This will be shown both by theoretical considerations and by two examples, one from bioethics and the other involving moral conduct in warfare. Pace the "internal/external" distinction, value considerations are entirely integral to the halakhic process.

Convener: Aaron Mackler, Duquesne University

3:30-4:00pm  
Break  
Grand Salon West

4:00-5:30pm  
Concurrent Session III

David Cloutier, Mount Saint Mary's University  
"The Size and Location of Affection: Connecting Sexual and Environmental Ethics"  
Clayton

This paper draws analogies between sexual ethics and environmental ethics (thus making both methodological and substantive points), recognizing that opposition to "instrumentalization" can take two forms: one, affection for the "grand" that provoke a dramatic subjective response, and two, affection for ordinary places that is not dramatic but developed over time, in learning the geography of the land or of another's heart. Building on diverse work by Charles Taylor, Wendell Berry, Jean Vanier, and Benedict XVI, I will suggest that, in rejecting instrumentalization of the land or the heart, lust for the "grand" also ought to be avoided in favor of affection that has a necessary size and location.

Convener: David S. Cunningham, The CrossRoads Project, Hope College

Alejandro Crosthwaite, O.P., Pontificia Università San Tommaso D'Aquino, Rome  
"A Critical Appraisal of CELAM's New Approach to the Continent's Socio-Economic Problems"  
Paulding

CELAM's Aparecida documents noted that the Latin American Church has neglected the "countless builders of the influential and baptized society." Does this apparent change of strategy mean a paradigm shift from a "preferential option for the poor" to a preferential option for the elites? Is this a reflection of the struggle between bishops who hold on to a "Christendom" vision and those who presuppose a "class struggle" in their socio-political commitments? Or is it a movement towards a more inclusive and balanced praxis, reaffirming the laity's specific political vocation to order the world's temporal goods according to the common good?

Convener: Daniel Finn, St. John's University, Minnesota
Jennifer A. Herdt, University of Notre Dame
"Humility and the Code of the Streets"

By examining, against the backdrop of the distinctive shape of Christian humility, social contexts in which humility becomes unintelligible, this paper seeks to identify the conditions of the possibility of a "natural" virtue of humility. Within both contemporary inner-city street life and early modern courtly civility, persons are seen as acquiring value through being acknowledged by others. Though dependent on others for a sense of self-worth constructed by external tokens of respect, they are unable to experience dependency as gift. Humility thus appears as an admission of lack of worth, rather than, as it should, as a confession of the dependent character of one's worth.

Convener: Jonathan Rothchild, Loyola Marymount University

Simeon O. Ilesanmi, Wake Forest University
"The Darfur Humanitarian Crisis: A Case of Impermissible Neutrality"

"When choice must be made between the perpetrator of injustice and the many victims of it, the latter may and should be preferred." With this bold assertion, Paul Ramsey provided an unassailable justification for humanitarian intervention in situations of armed conflict marked by imbalance of power and asymmetry of force. The crisis in Darfur exemplifies such a situation, which has been compounded by the Sudanese government’s continued invocation of the sovereignty doctrine to fend off effective international intervention. Drawing on the normative traditions of religious ethics and international law, this paper challenges the myth of inviolability associated with this doctrine and defends unilateral humanitarian intervention in Darfur against the current preference for multilateralism.

Convener: Theo Boer, Protestant Theological University

Grace Y. Kao, Virginia Tech
"Mission Impossible? 'Non-Sectarian Prayer' in the Military Chaplaincy"

Recent events such as Navy Chaplain Klingenschmitt's "involuntary separation" and charges of evangelical bias at the USAFA have renewed concerns about the content of chaplain-led prayers in ostensibly secular contexts (e.g., ship commissionings). While some have touted the advantages of delivering "non-sectarian" prayer, such prayer ultimately does a disservice to the chaplain's dual-identity as an ordained minister with a particular ecclesiastical endorsement and commissioned officer in the armed forces. Nevertheless, Christians ought not to petition for the right of chaplains to pray "in Jesus' name," but instead call for the separation—and prioritization—of their religious functions over civil religious ones.

Convener: Robin J. Steinke, Gettysburg Seminary

Randall Miller, Graduate Theological Union
"Colored Justice: Situating King's Integrative Justice Ethic in Contemporary Discourse"

This paper offers a hypothetical reconstruction of the underlying conceptual framework of King's justice ethic. Drawing on Benhabib's proposal for a theoretical via media, I argue that a distinctive mark of King's framework is that it integrates universalist and contextualist strands of moral reasoning rather than succumbing to the oppositional approach so typical in normative justice discourse. King's perspective, which I have dubbed, "colored justice," demonstrates how an enlarged perspective can originate within contextual narratives. It also counters the widespread notion that King favored a "color-blind" society by underscoring the crucial importance of pluralism and alterity in his ethical viewpoint.

Convener: Robert P. Jones, People for the American Way Foundation
Richard O. Randolph, Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences
"Human Health and Environmental Health Are Interdependent; Removing an Unnatural Partition within Christian Bioethics"

Although the term "bioethics" literally means "life ethics," there is a frequent differentiation of Christian bioethicists into those focusing on bio-medical issues versus those focusing on environmental issues. Yet, many challenges to human and environmental health are interdependent, suggesting the need for greater collaboration. After briefly exploring the historical trajectories that have led to these two distinct foci in Christian ethics, this paper will argue for a greater collaboration between these two specializations and make some suggestions concerning how collaboration may be facilitated. As an illustration of this thesis, the paper will examine avian influenza as a case study.

Convener: Tarris Rosell, Central Baptist Theological Seminary

Laura Stivers, Pfeiffer University
"Making a Home for All in God’s Compassionate Community: A Feminist Liberation Assessment of Christian Responses to Homelessness and Housing"

The American Dream includes owning a home, and the bigger the better. Christian responses to homelessness and housing vary. Some Christian organizations focus on fixing the person and the behaviors that contribute towards homelessness. Others promote home ownership for low-income households. Employing aspects of Traci West's feminist liberationist ethical methodology, I will assess how these approaches buy into our culture's dominant ideology on housing or offer prophetic disruption. Then I will outline an advocacy approach that addresses the multiple causes of homelessness, and prophetically aims to make a home for all in God's compassionate community.

Convener: Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, Seattle University

David Weber, Valparaiso University
"Works of Love: Resentment or Repetition?"

In his Works of Love Kierkegaard posed the fundamental question of love, asking, "Is unity stronger than fragmentation?" If fragmentation is stronger, Nietzsche is right to have argued that Christian love must be characterized by the resentment it produces. If unity is stronger, Kierkegaard is right to see in Christian love a characteristic fidelity which he called repetition. These characterizations of Christian love as fragmenting or unifying cast light on the problem of divorce in the church and what kind of spiritual care is demanded. If the argument proves persuasive, pastors will actively intervene in divorce as witnesses of that unity which is stronger than fragmentation.

Convener: David Haddorff, St. John's University, New York

Werner Wolbert, University of Salzburg, Catholic Theological Faculty
"Are Some Innocents More Innocent Than Others? Shooting Down Civilian Planes as a Test Case"

In 2005 the German Bundestag passed a law (later on cancelled by the Constitutional Court) that legalized the shooting down of a civilian plane to prevent future occurrences of 9/11. There was no intervention by an official Catholic voice against a measure that could mean directly killing of hundreds of innocents. An argument that the lives that would be lost anyway may be "sacrificed" till now has always been rejected by the Catholic magisterium in the case of therapeutic abortion. My paper will concentrate on the notion of "innocent": that there are different kinds of "innocence".

Convener: Mara Kelly-Zukowski, Felician College

5:24pm
Shabbat Candle Lighting

5:45-6:45pm
SCE Presidential Address
"Heroes and Suicides"
President: Christine E. Gudorf, Florida International University
Friday Reception, Shabbat, IG/WG 6:45-9:30pm

6:45-8:00pm  SCE Presidential Reception  Grand Salon West

7:00-8:00pm  Kabbalat Shabbat Service  Walton
Service is in Hebrew; all are welcomed.

8:15-9:30pm  Shabbat Dinner  Fayette
(pre-registration required for dinner)

8:00-9:30pm  Interest and Working Groups I

African/African American Working Group  Douglas
"'Practicing What We Preach:’ The Teaching of Theological Ethics and Models of Mentoring in Atlanta Black Churches"

The panel will explore models of teaching theological ethics and models of mentoring incorporated within Black Church ministry-training and clergy mentoring programs in the Atlanta metropolitan area. The purpose of the panel is to glean theoretical frameworks and methods from these models to enhance research in the fields of African and African American religious ethics, Christian Social Ethics and Black Church Studies. The panel will produce much needed conversation among academics and preachers, scholars and activists, religious practitioners and organizational leaders who are all committed to developing more relevant sources for theo-ethical education and religious/ministerial training.

Conveners:  Stacey Floyd-Thomas, Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University
Melanie Harris, Texas Christian University
Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan, Shaw University Divinity School

Anglican Theological Ethics  Gwinnett
"Ecclesiology and Authority: Moral Reflections on Current Anglican Debates"

This year’s session focuses on the most pressing issue facing Anglicanism today: the status of the Anglican Communion. The speaker will be Dr. Timothy F. Sedgwick (Virginia Theological Seminary) on: "Ecclesiology and Authority: Moral Reflections on Current Anglican Debates." He will speak for 20 minutes on some key issues (such as ecclesiology, mission, conscience and authority) involved in the February 2007 Tanzania Communiqué, the proposed Anglican Covenant, and the Response of the House of Bishops. Dr. Sedgwick’s presentation will be followed by open discussion.

Conveners:  William Danaher, University of the South
Jeffrey Greenman, Wheaton College

Covenantal Ethics  DeKalb
"Covenant Marriage in Comparative Perspective"

John Witte, Jr., the Jonas Robitscher Professor of Law and Director of the Center for the Study of Law and Religion at Emory Law School, will speak on the topic, "Covenant Marriage in Comparative Perspective."

The doctrine of covenant has reemerged in a number of contemporary Jewish, Christian, and Islamic circles as a common trope to map and measure the spiritual dimensions of the marital union. The doctrine of covenant has also reemerged separately in a number of recent American states as a convenient means of strengthening marital formation and dissolution requirements. This presentation analyzes these two recent movements with an eye to developing an integrative covenant theology, law, and ethic of marriage.

Professor Witte will engage in dialog with those attending the session.

Conveners:  Douglas F. Ottati, Davidson College
Douglas J. Schuurman, St. Olaf College
Environmental Ethics and Theology
"Climate Change and Public Health"

The interest group has invited Jeremy Hess, an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Emergency Medicine and Environmental and Occupational Health at Emory University's School of Medicine and Public Health. He is also a consultant in the Office of the Director at the Center for Disease Control's National Center for Environmental Health, where he works primarily on climate change and peak petroleum. He will speak to the group about climate change and public health, followed by discussion. His expertise concurs well with the interest of the group to have a dialogue with someone from the CDC and the additional interest to address issues related to climate change.

Convener: J. Andy Smith III, Earth Ethics

Ethics and Political Economy

Dr. Glenn S. Johnson will offer a presentation on issues of environmental justice in the Atlanta area and will serve as an interlocutor for the group to discuss the connections between economics and environmental issues, focusing on environmental racism. Dr. Johnson is a research associate in the Environmental Justice Resource Center and associate professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Clark Atlanta University.

Convener: James P. Bailey, Duquesne University
Rebecca Todd Peters, Elon University

Families and the Social Order
"Immigration, Families, and the Social Order"

Panelists: Thomas Greene, S.J., Jesuit Social Research Institute of Loyola University, New Orleans
Kristin Heyer, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles
Ruben Rosario Rodriguez, St. Louis University

Immigration is not only a key social justice issue of our time, it is also a family issue. Panelists will discuss the intersections between immigration policies and family problems. Tom Greene, S.J. will discuss the impact of immigration laws, detention, and deportation on family structures. Kristen Heyer will challenge policies that prevent immigrant workers from attaining or maintaining family unity. Ruben Rosario Rodriguez will discuss the effects of free trade policies and other globalizing trends on the breakdown of the family in Latin American countries.

Convener: Florence Caffrey Bourg, Sacred Heart High School/Loyola
Julie Hanlon Rubio, St. Louis University

Health Care Ethics
"Health Care Reform: Is There a Religious Perspective?"

Audrey Chapman, who addressed access to health care for many years as Director of the human rights program at the American Association for the Advancement of Science and currently has a Chair in Medical Humanities and Ethics and the University of Connecticut Health Center, will discuss the need for health care reform in the U.S., focusing on unjust access to health care in the U.S., comparisons with other countries, why previous efforts to reform the U.S. health care system have failed, and what specific role there might be for religious ethicists in dealing with health care reform. Animated discussion will undoubtedly follow. There will also be time for networking and sharing opportunities related to health care ethics.

Convener: John Kilner, Trinity International University
Gerald Winslow, Loma Linda University
Literature and Literary Theory
Pedagogy
"Literature, Pedagogy, and Religious Ethics: Lessons and Limits"
Panelists: Maria Antonaccio, Bucknell University
Joyce Kloc Babyak, Oberlin College
Timothy P. Jackson, Emory University

A panel of Marie Antonaccio, Joyce Kloc Babyak, and Timothy P. Jackson will offer critical reflections on methodological and pedagogical issues raised by the use of literature in the teaching of religious ethics. The panelists' brief initial presentations will be designed to facilitate candid discussion of a range of questions: What is achieved in the classroom when literature is used in exploring or explaining religious ethics? How do genre, aesthetic considerations, and cultural specificities affect the presentation and perception of religious ethics? What methodological and disciplinary concerns are raised by this use of literature? Does such use do damage to the literature itself? What does literature teach that cannot be taught otherwise and how? Prior to the meeting, a supplemental "white paper" will be posted on the SCE interest groups web site, http://www.scethics.org/next_meeting.php along with some sample syllabi and course descriptions.

Conveners: Emily K. Arndt, Georgetown University (Literature and Literary Theory)
Gerald P. McKenny, University of Notre Dame (Literature and Literary Theory)
C. Melissa Snarr, Vanderbilt University (Pedagogy)
Laura Stivers, Pfeiffer University (Pedagogy)
Todd David Whitmore, University of Notre Dame (Literature and Literary Theory)

Moral and Religious Psychology
"Positive Psychology: Friend or Foe of Religious Virtue Ethics?"
Presenter: James Gubbins, Salem State College
Respondent: Diana Fritz Cates, University of Iowa

This year's session consists of a paper and response followed by group discussion. The paper describes how positive psychology promotes a dialogue between empirical psychology and religious virtue ethics. The paper argues that there is a great deal to learn from positive psychology, but there are also internal contradictions and external challenges to this approach to human virtues. The paper examines one of positive psychology's virtues, the virtue of humanity, and demonstrates how religious virtue ethics—e.g., Thomism—can present a more compelling account of this virtue by describing the interconnection of religious love and human love.

Convener: James Gubbins, Salem State College

Restorative Justice
"A Review and Discussion on Current Work in Restorative Justice by Members"

The 2008 gathering of the Restorative Justice Interest Group is devoted to dialogue among members who are interested in and/or currently engaged in work in Restorative Justice and Christian Ethics. To facilitate the dialogue, brief reports on recent work and work in progress will be made by members currently engaged in Restorative Justice work. The dialogue to follow is intended to provoke critical feedback and discussion of current work in order to promote further dialogue on Restorative Justice within the SCE.

Conveners: Donald W. Shriver, Jr., Union Theological Seminary, New York City
Howard J. Vogel, Hamline University School of Law
A conversation with Sam Wells about his recent book *Power and Passion: Six Characters in Search of Redemption*. This book is particularly fruitful for Scripture and Ethics, because of its argument—the resurrection transforms Christian passion in a way that empowers a new politics, its substance—close readings of the passion texts related to six characters, and its form—a non-technical book for laity that has already outsold Wells' technical books *Improvisation* and *God’s Companions*. After a brief introduction to the book by Wells, the remainder of the session will be common conversation.

Conveners: John Burgess, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary  
Brent Laytham, North Park Theological Seminary

9:30pm  Student Members’ Social  
Meet in Lobby

9:30pm  Junior Faculty Social  
Meet in Lobby
**Saturday**

**Breakfast with an Author**  

*7:15-8:45am*

**SCE/SJE Breakfast with an Author**  
**Grand Ballroom West**

Buffet opens at 7:15; Discussion 7:45-8:45

(Pre-registration is required.)


Facilitator: William Jennings, Muhlenberg College


Facilitator: Mary M. Doyle Roche, College of the Holy Cross


Facilitator: Sharon Tan, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities


Facilitator: Brian D. Berry, College of Notre Dame of Maryland

Childs Jr., James M., *Ethics in the Community of Promise* (Fortress Press, 2006)

Facilitator: Ronald Duty, ELCA

Craig, David M., *John Ruskin and the Ethics of Consumption* (University of Virginia, 2006)

Facilitator: James A. Nash


Facilitator: Nathan Colborne, Nipissing University


Facilitator: John Shelley, Furman University

Ellis, Marc, *Reading the Torah Out Loud: A Journey of Lament and Hope* (Fortress, 2007)


Facilitator: Joseph Holloway, East Texas Baptist University


Facilitator: Pamela Smith SS.C.M., St. Gregory the Great Church


CANCELLED

Facilitator: Gretel Van Wieren, Yale University


Facilitator: M. Therese Lysaught, Marquette University
Saturday  ___  Breakfast with an Author  ___  7:15-8:45am

Facilitator:  Stephen E. Lammers, Lafayette College

Facilitator:  Jan Jans, Tilburg Faculty of Theology

Facilitator:  James R. Thobaben, Asbury Theological Seminary

Lee, Hak Joon, *We Will Get to the Promised Land: Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Communal Political Spirituality* (Pilgrim Press, 2006)
Facilitator:  Michael Hoy, Lutheran School of Theology

Maguire, Daniel C., *The Horrors We Bless: Revisiting the Just War Legacy* (Fortress Press, 2007)
Facilitator:  June O'Connor, University of California, Riverside

Marshall, Ellen Ott, *Though the Fig Tree Does Not Blossom: Toward a Responsible Theology of Christian Hope* (Abingdon Press, 2006)
Facilitator:  Laurie Johnston, Emmanuel College

Facilitator:  David Haddorff, St. John's University, New York

Facilitator:  Catherine Griffith, Augustana College

Facilitator:  Victor Lee Austin, Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue, New York

Facilitator:  Gina Wolfe, Dominican University

Facilitator:  David A. Clairmont, University of Notre Dame

Facilitator:  Jerry O. Nwonye, Fuller Theological Seminary

Facilitator:  Donna Yarri, Alvernia College
   Facilitator: Daniel Westberg, Nashotah House Seminary

   Facilitator: Melissa Proctor, Harvard Divinity School

7:30-8:45am **Student Breakfast with a Scholar**
   Serving starts at 7:30; Discussion 7:45-8:45
   (Pre-registration is required.)

   Professor Christine Firer Hinze of Fordham University and Professor Charles Curran of Southern Methodist University will be joining students for breakfast to discuss their own work and their perspectives on the field of ethics.

8:30am-6:00pm **Exhibits Open**

8:30am-6:00pm **Registration/Conference Desk Open**

9:00-10:30am **Concurrent Session IV**

Ana Bedard, Loyola University Chicago
"Us Versus Them? Undocumented Workers and the Common Good"

Theological reflections on U.S. immigration policies have largely focused on mandates to love the stranger and protect human rights. This leaves Christians without sufficient theological guidance when seeking to balance concern for immigrants and U.S. citizens alike. This paper examines this topic through the lens of the common good, using Suzanne DeCrane's retrieval of Aquinas' thought. It examines the common good at the national level in order to be relevant to the public debate, while recognizing that an analysis at that level is necessarily informed by a universal understanding of common good. The paper concludes with some tentative policy recommendations.

Convener: JM Vorster, Northwest University

Nigel Biggar, University of Oxford
"Specifying the Meaning: Jesus, the New Testament, and Violence"

Widely showered with superlatives when it was first published in 1996, Richard Hays' *The Moral Vision of the New Testament* (1996) constructs a pacifist reading of the New Testament that is, arguably, the most comprehensive and sophisticated on offer. To date, Hays' reading has received no systematic critique from the proponents of the doctrine of justified war, even though that doctrine is currently the focus of a notable revival of interest. This paper will present such a critique.

Convener: Brent Waters, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Jesse Couenhoven, Villanova University
"Wash Me, and I will be Whiter than Snow: A Theological Description of Forgiveness"

Forgiveness is widely thought of as the overcoming of anger or resentment. However, understanding forgiveness as mainly an emotional change makes it strangely solipsistic. Furthermore, such approaches have trouble distinguishing forgiveness from indifference, and thus implicitly condone wrongdoing. A puzzling but compelling alternative draws upon Augustine and Luther's asymmetrical view of forgiveness as first of all a divine prerogative that is both performative and social: it is other-directed, releasing offenders from the burden of their sin. Emotional change is neither necessary nor sufficient for such forgiveness, since those who are sinned against but do not resent may still remove transgressions.

Convener: Charles R. Pinches, University of Scranton
This paper will consider the controversial publication by a Danish newspaper of cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad as a test case for Catholic social thought as it grapples with the contemporary dimensions of the problem of free speech. The paper will review Catholic social teaching on free speech and the freedom of the press; recent work by American constitutional scholar Geoffrey Stone; the moral philosophy of Charles Taylor; and the political theology of Oliver O'Donovan. In all, the paper will argue that the Catholic Church needs to develop its teaching on free speech and the press.

Convener: Werner Wolbert, University of Salzburg

Christine Firer Hinze, Fordham University
"Reconsidering Little Rock: Martin Luther King Jr., Hannah Arendt, and Catholic Social Teaching on Families' Engagement in Struggle for Justice"

In 1957 the first black students enrolled at Little Rock High School, Arkansas after violent white resistance required the intervention of the National Guard. In 1959, philosopher Hannah Arendt published "Reflections on Little Rock," criticizing U.S. civil rights leaders for targeting school desegregation, placing children, rather than adult citizens, on the front lines of struggle for racial justice. Martin Luther King, Jr. by contrast, defended the involvement of families and children. I revisit this debate concerning understandings of "private" and "public," and, dialoguing with Catholic and interdisciplinary sources, probe its relevance for contemporary Christian families' justice-seeking at contested boundaries between domestic/familial and public arenas.

Convener: Stephen Pope, Boston College

Mary L. Hirschfeld, University of Notre Dame
"Must Charity and Justice Conflict in Capitalist Society?: Adam Smith as a Key Figure for Understanding the Modern Contours of the Problem"

In Deus Caritas Est, Pope Benedict XVI argues that economic flourishing is only possible if we see that justice and charity are complementary virtues.

Although modern economics tends to see justice and charity as opposed, the foundational figure of the discipline, Adam Smith, did not. However, while Smith saw charity and justice as complementary, his non-theistic account of the virtues creates room for the justice and charity to become detached and finally opposed. A close reading of Smith thus allows us to identify more clearly the challenges facing Benedict in making his argument that both charity and justice are necessary if the economy is to genuinely serve humanity.

Convener: William C. McDonough, College of St. Catherine

Oleg Makariev, University of California, Davis
"Orthodoxy in Post-Soviet Russia: Competing Views of the Church's Public Role"

Russian Orthodox churches have responded variously to their post-Soviet participatory freedoms. Responses have ranged from political indifference and quietism, to ecumenical embrace of liberal pluralism, and to protectionist advocacy of authoritarian, "managed" democracy or even autocratic and nationalist monarchy. This paper will help explicate these varied Orthodox responses to the public life of post-Soviet Russian society by tracing their roots and influences to theological ideas and historical experiences specific to the Russian context, past and present. The author will show how these responses are shaped by competing understandings of both the fitting interaction between the church, state, and society and the question of Russia's identity and role in the world. The analysis will focus especially on the positions and activities of the hierarchy of the Russian Orthodox Church to help interpret and assess its ambivalent and defensive responses to democratic and pluralistic forms of political governance.

Convener: James E. Gilman, Mary Baldwin College
Jonathan Rothchild, Loyola Marymount University
"Selling Captivity: The Ethical Failures of For-Profit Prisons"

The notion of profiting off captivity raises a broad range of significant ethical issues, including adequate prisoner care and prisoners' rights versus cost-benefit analysis, the moral status of the prisoner as commodified (particularly in the American historical context of slavery and the Convict Lease System), and the ethical goods achieved through incarceration. I contend that outsourcing state-sanctioned authority to punish to private corporations exacerbates and extends current failures in the criminal justice system. I develop a critique of privatized prisons with respect to their theoretical foundations and flawed implementations of justice. I also analyze differing theological perspectives on private prisons.

Convener: Kathryn Getek, Boston College

Darryl W. Stephens, Candler School of Theology, Emory University
"Negotiating Expert, Prophetic, and Ecclesial Witnesses: Ramsey and Hauerwas and the Difficulty of Being an Ethicist in an Actual Church"

A tripartite typology clarifies and distinguishes the ethical approaches of Paul Ramsey ("expert") and Stanley Hauerwas ("prophetic") in relation to the "ecclesial" social witness of their common denominational affiliation, The United Methodist Church (UMC). An examination of differences between their ecclesologies and the UMC's polity and procedures for generating social statements, such as In Defense of Creation (1986) and the Social Principles (ongoing), challenges all Christian ethicists to negotiate the sometimes conflicting assumptions, goals, and procedures of these three modes of social witness if we are to be effective contributors to the moral discourse in an actual church.

Convener: Andrew M. Gilman, Trinitarian Congregational Church, Stratham, New Hampshire

"The Consistent Ethic of Life: Twenty-Five Years Later"
Panelists: Thomas A. Shannon, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Emeritus
"Overview of the Consistent Ethic of Life"
Thomas A. Nairn, Catholic Theological Union
"The Consistent Ethic of Life and the Use of Moral Analogy"
Gina Wolfe, Dominican University
"Pastoral Ministry and the Consistent Ethic of Life"
Dawn M. Nothwehr, Catholic Theological Union
"The Attitude and Principle that Roots the Consistent Ethic of Life"
Ron Hamel, Catholic Health Association
"The Consistent Ethic of Life: Corrective Moral Vision for Health Care"

Twenty-five years ago, in December of 1983, Joseph Cardinal Bernardin gave the first of approximately thirty-five lectures dedicated to a consistent ethic of life, a project dear to him until his death in 1996. Since his death, although lip service has been paid to the consistent ethic, there has not been any significant analysis or development of the concept. After a brief overview of the original meaning of consistent ethic of life, this panel will present four papers, two of which investigate the nature of the linkage used in the consistent ethic and analyzing its feasibility and two developing contemporary applications.

Convener: Elisabeth Brinkmann, College of New Rochelle
More than 75 years of media ethics scholarship has wrestled unsatisfactorily with the tensions between being human and being a journalist. Jewish ethics can make a significant contribution toward resolving that tension by providing a perspective on journalism ethics that western philosophical frameworks have been unable to supply. This essay will summarize journalism ethics, trace the relevant lines of thought in Jewish ethics from the Tanakh, rabbinical writings and contemporary strains of Jewish thought and use this to offer a beginning but necessarily incomplete portrait of what journalism ethics could look like if it took Jewish ethics seriously.

Convener: Marc Ellis, Baylor University
Elizabeth A. Barre, Florida State University

"The Possibility of Religious Liberalism: The Role of Reason and the Dignity of the Human Person in Catholic and Islamic Political Thought"

As part of a larger project comparing the arguments of John Courtney Murray with three contemporary Muslim reformers (Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im, Abdulaziz Sachedina, and Khaled Abou El Fadl), this paper argues that Catholics and Muslims have made strikingly similar moves in their attempts to make theological sense of religious pluralism and political liberalism. Focusing on their defense of popular sovereignty and the rights of religious minorities, I will show that judgments about the epistemic value of reason and the dignity of the human person play analogous (though not identical) roles in the arguments of both traditions.

Convener: Edward T. Barrett, United States Naval Academy

Todd V. Cioffi, Whitworth University

"Karl Barth and Oliver O'Donovan on the Mission of the Church and the Rule of the State"

This paper seeks to compare and contrast the political theology of Karl Barth and Oliver O'Donovan. It is argued that while O'Donovan's work is akin to Barth's, it parts company in significant ways from Barth's political theology. Barth's nuanced treatment of secular political liberalism, social and political pluralism, and the church's participation in political life critically challenges O'Donovan's notion of "Christendom" while retaining O'Donovan's concern for a distinctly Christian vision of political life. Finally, it will be suggested that Barth's political theology, as opposed to O'Donovan's, exhibits the most promise for adapting and incorporating the ever-changing political landscape in America.

Convener: David VanDrunen, Westminster Seminary, California

David M. Craig, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI)

"Catholic and Jewish Values in the Health Care Market"

Market mechanisms—consumer choice, high deductibles, physician incentives, specialty hospitals, insurance clearinghouses—are playing an increasing role in U.S. health care. Based on interviews at Catholic and Jewish hospital organizations, this paper examines how participants in mission-driven organizations balance market values and other values in health care delivery and reform. What arguments support state initiatives toward universal access? How much can consumer-directed care and specialty hospitals contain costs? How might religious activists, congregations and hospitals advance reforms aimed at affordable and accessible care? The participatory discourses about mission and values at religious hospitals are an overlooked resource for addressing these questions.

Convener: Judith Merkle, Niagara University

Leslie E. Gerber, Appalachian State University

"Besides No, Do We Have Anything Interesting to Say? Christian Ethics and 'The Culture of Hooking Up'"

Recent writings have sharply challenged "hooking up culture." Critics argue that random, commitment-free, anonymous one-night stands place our students at risk for STDs, depression, emotional self-deception, and future regret. Thus, a "No!" message has never been more appropriate. Christian Ethics, especially when grounded in liturgy and church history, can usefully re-frame this debate and raise intriguing questions. Three structure this discussion: 1) What if the Academy reintroduced the Christian Week—thus destroying "the Weekend"? 2) How would sex look if it were undertaken by fully present, embodied selves, rather than "utilitarian individuals"? 3) What is the relation of sexual intercourse to the serving of the Eucharist at weddings?

Convener: Ramón Luzárraga III, University of Dayton
Theodore W. Nunez, RedHawk Communications
"Without a Vision…': A Case Study of Post-Katrina Planning Processes and Deliberative Democracy in South Louisiana"

Brian Matz, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
The Hermeneutical Function of the Principle of Detachment from Private Property in Early Christian Homilies.

This paper evaluates the place and function of discussions about detachment from private property in the Greek Fathers. Specifically, this paper considers the hermeneutical function of the principle in Asterius of Amasea's Homily 2 and Basil of Caesarea's Homily 7. The objectification of the hermeneutical function of this principle supports a translation of this important early Christian teaching into modern discussions of social ethics with respect to the meaning of private property. The decision to consider hermeneutical function is a departure from earlier studies on private property in the Fathers. It is hoped the results of this study will spur studies of the principles at stake in other economic issues in order that a biblical-theological-hermeneutical map may be constructed with respect to Christian attitudes towards late antique economy and culture.

Convener: Virginia M. Ryan, Rivier College

Ruth L. Smith, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
"King's Democratic Claims on Alienations"

In the "Letter from a Birmingham Jail", King interrupts a discourse of non-violent resistance to identify alienation with three hundred and thirty-one words that state why waiting is impossible. The sentence presents the denial of seemingly non-institutional life - staying in motels or treating your child to amusement parks. Such instances of thwarted motion, displaced time, and deconfigured agency produce a gap in the text that contests modern criteria of agency alienation. With questions of liminality, representation, and participation, King makes democratic claims on ordinary and extraordinary terms of alienation in their tacit arrangements of social life and moral discourse.

Convener: Carol Robb, San Francisco Theological Seminary/Graduate Theological Union

Donna Yarri, Alvernia College
"The Justification of Political Assassination"

Political assassination has been around virtually since the inception of human society. Assassination is the intentional killing of any individual with at least tacit government approval. This paper will argue that in certain very limited circumstances it can be justified, primarily when the targeted person is one guilty of severe acts of oppression, significant abuse of the rights of others, and/or in general, engaging and promoting serious acts of injustice. The tool for analysis of and justification for political assassination will be the "jus ad bellum" criteria for just war.

Convener: James Tubbs, University of Detroit-Mercy

"Deliberation and Descriptions: Moral Psychology and Christian Ethics"
Panelists: Darlene Fozard Weaver, Villanova University
Heidi Gehman, Hartford Seminary
Elizabeth A. Sweeny, University of Chicago

We consider the pedagogical character of Christian ethics in relation to moral psychological theories of identity and decision-making. Gehman engages Sallie McFague's appropriation of Iris Murdoch for Christian environmentalism to explore the difference Christian beliefs make to moral vision and our prospects for moral change. Sweeny considers the way various relational descriptions create or preclude one's sense of being obligated or excused; she brings Carol Gilligan's insights to bear on Charles Curran's approach to absolute moral norms. Weaver uses Christian reversals of worldly wisdom and evangelical foolishness to address Amelie Rorty's contention that some self-deception accompanies ordinary psychological adaptation.

Convener: Sandra Sullivan Dunbar, University of Chicago
Interest Group: Evangelical Ethics

The Evangelical Ethics Interest Group Session will be dedicated to honoring the Rev. Dr. Stephen Mott, his work and his influence in evangelical social ethics over the past 30 years. We will particularly recognize the enduring impact of his book, Biblical Ethics and Social Change. Stephen Mott has been a long time member of the Society of Christian Ethics and was granted Life Membership in the Society at the 2007 Annual Meeting. Society members Christine Pohl and John Kilner will offer formal reflections on his life and work. Stephen Mott will also provide reflections and a response.

Conveners: Wyndy Corbin Reuschling, Ashland Theological Seminary
James R. Thobaben, Asbury Theological Seminary

SJE Text Study
Paul Wolpe, University of Pennsylvania
Michael Cartwright, University of Indianapolis

3:30-4:00pm Break

4:00-5:30pm Plenary (sponsored by SCE and SJE)
"Managing Diversity in Academe"
Panelists: Grace Y. Kao, Virginia Tech
Ramón Luzárraga III, University of Dayton
Darryl Trimiew, Medgar Evers College
SJE Respondent: Adrienne Asch, Yeshiva University
Moderator: Christine E. Gudorf, Florida International University

5:45-7:00pm Catholic Sunday Liturgy

6:00-8:00pm Economics Writers

6:00-8:00pm Max Stackhouse Celebration

6:00-8:00pm Emory/Candler Reception in Honor of Jon Gunnemann

8:00-9:30pm SJE Business Meeting and Socializing

8:00-9:30pm Interest and Working Groups II

Asian and Asian American Working Group

This first meeting of the Asian & Asian American Working Group will attempt to discuss: 1) how to support and encourage the study of ethics among AA scholars, students, teachers; 2) how to provide mentorship to those who are interested in and concerned with academic and professional development; 3) how to develop and advance a cooperative relationship among AA scholars, students, and teachers in the field of Christian ethics.

Convener: Ilsup Ahn, North Park University
Latino/a Working Group
"De la teologia de la liberacion, hacia una critica-ethica de la idolatria de la modernidad"
("Of Liberation Theology: Toward a Critical Ethics of the Idolatry of Modernity")
Speaker: Juan Jose Bautista Segales

8 – 8:45: A Liberation Ethicist from Bolivia, Dr. Bautista Segales will present a paper developing a critical ethics by using the works of Dussel and Hinkelammert.
8:45-9:30: Business meeting.

Convener: Victor Carmona, University of Notre Dame

Christian Ethics and Enlightenment
"Property and Modern Social Order: The Tension between Christianity and Political Economy in Hegel's Early Work and its Implications for Christian Ethics and Modernity"
Presenter: Thomas Lewis, Brown University

Deeply influenced by the Scottish political economists James Steurat and Adam Smith, Hegel holds that private property cannot be given up in the modern state, yet he thinks it is incompatible with fundamental Christian teachings of love. Hegel's struggles with this issue constitute a powerful element of his broader thinking about religion and social cohesion in the modern world. (To receive a longer version of the paper, please contact Prof. Thomas Lewis: Thomas_Lewis@brown.edu.)

Conveners: Jennifer A. Herdt, University of Notre Dame
Gerald P. McKenny, University of Notre Dame

Comparative Religious Ethics
"Equality, Mastery, and Dependence: Reconceiving the Ethics of Hierarchy"

Aaron Stalnaker will present an overview of work in progress, tentatively titled "Equality, Mastery, and Dependence: Reconceiving the Ethics of Hierarchy." Drawing on sources in Confucian, Daoist, and Christian thought, this is an attempt to work through and synthesize philosophical arguments that certain kinds of hierarchically ordered practices contribute to the cultivation of virtue, with feminist critiques of unjust authority and the spurious denial of human neediness and dependence.

Conveners: Bruce Grelle, California State University, Chico
Sumner B. Twiss, Florida State University

Ethics and Catholic Theology
"Sacramental Commons: Christian Ecological Ethics"
"Moral Climate: The Ethics of Global Warming"
The Ethics and Catholic Theology interest group will examine moral questions related to Global Warming. We are fortunate enough to welcome John Hart and Michael Northcott, whose works on the intersection of theology and environmental ethics are at the forefront of contemporary research in this area. Prof. Hart's latest book is entitled Sacramental Commons: Christian Ecological Ethics (Rowman & Littlefield, 2006). Prof. Northcott's latest book is entitled Moral Climate: The Ethics of Global Warming (Orbis, 2007). Prof. Hart's address is entitled "Global Warming and Catholic Faith" and Prof. Northcott's address is entitled "Clouds of Witness: Lying, Truth Telling and Global Warming."
As always, the group leaves ample time for questions and dialogue with our speakers.

Conveners: John Berkman, Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, Berkeley
William Mattison, Catholic University of America
Ethics and Law
Presenter: Frank Brennan, S.J., Australian Catholic University

Frank Brennan, S.J., is a Jesuit priest and lawyer, and Professor of Law at the Australian Catholic University. A specialist in human rights law, he was awarded the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal for his work in East Timor and was a recipient of the Australian Centenary Medal in 2003 for his work with refugees and for human rights work in the Asia Pacific region. He is a member of the Order of Australia.

His book, Acting On Conscience: How Can We Responsibly Mix Law, Religion, and Politics examines issues of law, religion and morality in comparative perspective, drawing upon examples from both Australia and the United States. Topics discussed include the proper scope for a free conscience, the standoff between politicians and religious leaders over the war in Iraq, same sex marriage, and abortion.

Convener: M. Cathleen Kaveny, University of Notre Dame Law School

Ethics of Sexuality
Lesbian/Gay Issues
"Can Churches and Theologians Talk to Each Other About Sexuality?: Ecclesial and Theological Discourses of Sexuality"

Sexual behavior and norms are central preoccupations for nearly all American Christians, but the substances of these worries and the rhetorics in which they are expressed vary significantly across denominations and contexts. The Ethics of Sexuality and Gay and Lesbian Issues interest groups will meet to discuss these differences and to reflect upon their implications for our work. Presenters will include Diane Yeager of Georgetown University, member of the writing team that drafted the ELCA's newest "Journey Together Faithfully" discussion resource (www.elca.org/faithfuljourney/study/), and Mark Jordan of Emory University, author of several books on ethics and sexuality.

Conveners: William C. McDonough, College of St. Catherine (Lesbian/Gay Issues)
Cristina Traina, Northwestern University (Ethics of Sexuality)

Monetary Policy

Currently prevailing monetary policy—including money creation, public and private debt, interest charges, foreign exchange, and the role of banks—has little understood, but profoundly damaging impact on the environment and on human welfare. In this session these destructive dynamics, including the recent flood of defaults on mortgages in the U.S., will be discussed, as will some extraordinary possibilities for social transformation through alternative monetary policies. Expertise is not required for participation in this group. For background on the issue, see George Crowell, "The Power of Monetary Policy: Ethical Insights from Canadian Experience," in the SCE Journal, Volume 22, Fall 2002, pp. 49-65. Check also the website of the American Monetary Institute.

Convener: George Crowell, University of Windsor (retired)
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C. Reproductive Decision Making in the Context of World Religions
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Rabbi Bonnie Margulis
Director of Clergy Programming
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
1025 Vermont Ave. NW, Suite 1130
Washington DC, 20005
bmargulis@rcrc.org

The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice brings the moral power of religious communities to ensure reproductive choice through education and advocacy.

The Coalition seeks to give clear voice to the reproductive issues of people of color, those living in poverty, and other underserved populations.
**Sund**ay, January 6

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**6:45-10:30am**

**CS VI, Plenary**

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<td>6:45-8:30am</td>
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**Plenary** (sponsored by SJE, SCE and ACJB)<br>Baruch A. Brody, Baylor College of Medicine and Rice University<br>"The Indeterminacy of Rabbinic Ethics"

SCE Respondent: Lisa Sowle Cahill, Boston College<br>SJE Respondent: Louis Newman, Carleton College

I intend to talk about the indeterminacy of rabbinic ethics--on every major topic, most of the plausible positions have significant support. The two questions I want to raise is why this is so and whether this is a good thing. The paper will be divided into 3 sections: the first will demonstrate the indeterminacy in a few crucial cases, and the second and third will deal with my two questions.

Convener: David Teutsch, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

**Paul Alexander**, Azusa Pacific University<br>"Praise the Lord But Don't Pass the Ammunition: Pentecostal Pacifism and Resistance to Imperialism"

I employ historical evidence from primary sources to suggest that early Pentecostals held to pacifist theology and practice to a greater degree than is often believed. I then identify key elements of the theological rationale for the Pentecostal peace witness as a christocentric hermeneutic and reliance on spirit empowerment. With six hundred million mostly non-American adherents, Pentecostalism is primarily a religion of the urban poor, possibly "because it resists the unjust structures of global capitalism, and glossolalia is the language of such resistance." Early twentieth century Pentecostal pacifists resisted nationalism and war; twenty first century Pentecostals in the majority world resist imperialism. Although tongues and resistance are "castigated as mad," I encourage ecumenical and interfaith cooperation on peacebuilding initiatives.

Convener: David P. Gushee, Mercer University

**Anselma Dolcich-Ashley**, University of Notre Dame<br>"Ecclesial Privilege as Sin in and of the Church: Revisiting the 'Haze of Fiction'"

An examination of US Catholic episcopal responses to the recent sexual-abuse crisis reveals a pattern of privilege in relation to powerlessness that mirrors similar patterns described in the literature on white privilege and racism. This literature offers interdisciplinary resources to analyze the embeddedness of ecclesial privilege in the church, and to expand ecclesiological studies on the phenomenon famously identified by Yves Congar as a 'haze of fiction.' I suggest that a church affected by white privilege and its accompanying moral blindness engaged in similar strategies when the sexual-abuse crisis revealed institutional moral and theological flaws.

Convener: Jennifer Beste, Xavier University

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**Sunday, January 6**
M. Therese Lysaught, Marquette University

"Friendship with God: Anointing the Sick as a Theological Hermeneutic"

This paper offers a first step in the development of a Christian politics of medicine, one that takes its starting point from the ancient Christian practice of anointing of the sick. Drawing on recent biblical scholarship on anointing and healing (LT Johnson, C Myers, R Horsley) this paper outlines a theo-political hermeneutic for medicine, a hermeneutic embodied in the work of Paul Farmer and Partners In Health. Farmer's witness silences critiques of naïve idealism by practicing an approach to medicine that sees the world as an open system, ordered to a God who continually gives all to all, shaped by a radical socioeconomic egalitarianism, constantly seeking to create a community of pragmatic solidarity, that prophetically witnesses against the violence of the world and yet bears the enmity of the world peaceably and patiently.

Convener: D. Brent Laytham, North Park Theological Seminary

Kirk J. Nolan, Princeton Theological Seminary

"Theological Politics or Political Theology: Racism as a Test Case"

Stanley Hauerwas advocates a theological politics in which a narrative of the church serves as an interpretive lens for politics, over a political theology shaped primarily by social and political concerns. This paper argues that black experiences of racism and slavery challenge Hauerwas's position in two ways. First, church complicity in condoning racism makes church narratives suspect. Second, Hauerwas's argument assumes the church is not primarily shaped by surrounding social conditions. However, the deep effects of slavery and racism on the black church contradict this assumption.

To resolve these problems with Hauerwas's position, I examine Martin Luther King's theological and political vision of non-violent action in the public square.

Convener: Judith W. Kay, University of Puget Sound

Tobias Winright, Saint Louis University

"The Profiled as Person: A Christian Ethical Examination of a Modern Mark of Cain"

Martin Luther King, Jr. criticized "the license that our society allows to unjust officials who implement their authority in the name of justice to practice injustice against minorities." James Cone chastises white theologians for their silence about racism in a criminal justice system that "can be said to be doing much of the lynching today, in a new form." This paper examines the debate about racial profiling, which one criminologist calls a modern "mark of Cain," by law enforcement officials. Drawing on John Langan's claim that just war reasoning provides an "analogical framework for assessing justifications for the voluntary infliction or imposition of evils on others, particularly when this results from social and political actions," it offers a Christian ethical evaluation of racial profiling.

Convener: Mark Allman, Merrimack College

"What We Whites Must Do to Diversify SCE"

Presenter: Christine E. Gudorf, Florida International University

Panelists: Jennifer Harvey, Drake University
Daniel Maguire, Marquette University
John Raines, Temple University

Respondent: Emilie M. Townes, Yale Divinity School

Daunting challenges remain in the effort to achieve greater diversity in the SCE. This panel maps the terrain of questions, issues, obstacles, and resources affiliated with the Society's goal of diversity. An opening presentation frames the issue historically, conceptually, and practically. In a moderated conversation, three panelists speaking from dominant perspectives explore how they have changed and must change further, and how the SCE could change in order to pursue fruitfully the aim of diversity. A respondent speaks from a marginalized perspective, followed by discussion among panelists and audience. The panel continues work begun in the 2005 plenary regarding diversity.

Moderator: June O'Connor, University of California, Riverside
Sunday

10:30-11:00am  Break  

11:00am-12:30pm  Concurrent Session VII

Gloria H. Albrecht, University of Detroit-Mercy
"Detroit: Still, the 'Other' America"

Bell hooks defined feminism as: "...a commitment to eradicating the ideology of domination that permeates Western culture..." Detroit offers a place to study the anatomy of this domination. A place of hope for generational opportunity in the mid-twentieth century, by 1967 it lay exposed - a desolate city of despair for those who could not cross 8 Mile Road. Today despair marches across city and color lines into the ranks of newly threatened white laborers. Using a feminist liberatory methodology, I analyze Detroit's raced and gendered political economy as a morality play for the 21st century. I offer some resources for recasting King's unfinished agenda: the restructuring of capitalist America.

Convener: Gretel Van Wieren, Yale University

Maria Antonaccio, Bucknell University
"Environmental Ethics After the End of Nature"

In recent years, many writers have declared the "end" of nature: although the natural world has not literally ceased to exist, a certain idea of nature--as a reality independent of the human--has been lost. This paper asks how an environmental ethic can be conceived in a so-called postnatural world. Should the objective be to regain the idea of an independent nature? Or should the end of nature be accepted as irrevocable and the ethical task be reconceived on those terms? The paper attempts to work out an alternative to these options and to recast the terms of the debate.

Convener: John Hart, Boston University

Victor Lee Austin, Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue, New York
"The Necessary Functions of Authority in Ecclesial Ethics"

Yves Simon and Michael Polanyi show that authority functions inexorably both in social life and in epistemology. With their insights, this paper examines three historically-diverse Anglican theologians. Richard Hooker provides a foundational Anglican epistemology of reserve and humility. Charles Gore employs epistemological humility to address scientific challenges to faith. Oliver O'Donovan reclaims past insights for our contemporary crisis in political life. The paper concludes that authority functions essentially in the church for its flourishing as a communion of saints. To act humanly requires a social context (marked by authority) and an apprehension of what is true (unachievable without authority).

Convener: Mark Douglas, Columbia Theological Seminary

Ki Joo Choi, Seton Hall University
"The Deliberative Practices of Aesthetic Experience: Edwards' Contribution to the Study of Beauty, Art, and Ethics in Interdisciplinary Context"

This paper seeks to address the question of whether art—seeing, creating, displaying, performing art—can be morally relevant, even if its subject matter is not directly linked to a specific moral issue. To do so, I attempt an interpretation of Jonathan Edwards's notion of beauty by comparing and contrasting it with current studies in art history and literary studies. My proposal will be that such an engagement of Edwards's thought can help us to consider the moral import of aesthetic experiences as sources for deliberative practices and, correlatively, as normative paradigm for political life.

Convener: Raymond R. Roberts, The Presbyterian Church in Westfield
Twentieth century Catholic Theological Ethics is marked by enormous change: from the moral manuals with its very specific examination of human acts to their repudiation by Europeans like Odon Lotin, Fritz Tilmann, and Gerard Gilleman. Later, in 1954, Bernard Haering provides a synthesis of the work of the revisionists, but Humanae vitae occasions an enormous split between theologians and hierarchy and each teaches, on separate tracks, very different approaches to moral theology and moral truth. The paper closes looking to the contextual theological ethics on each of the continents.

Convener: Melanie Barrett, University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary

Patrick T. McCormick, Gonzaga University

"Going to War for Friendship's Sake: Supporting a Just War or Just Supporting the Troops?"

Just War theory obliges democratic citizens to critique and resist their government's call to arms until a persuasive case has been made for military action. But cultural and political voices in the U.S. encourage citizens to sidestep this duty by embracing a warrior's ethic, shaped less by concerns about just cause, right intent and proportionality, and more by loyalty to comrades-in-arms. What are the dangers of supplanting a citizen's responsibility to judge the morality of war with a soldier's loyalty "to the man beside him," reducing the moral calculus of war to the simple duty to "support the troops?"

Convener: Grace Y. Kao, Virginia Tech

Howard B. Rhodes, University of Iowa

"Freedom and Anti-Paternalism in Recent Christian Ethics"

This paper will explore recent attempts by Christian ethicists to clarify the idea of freedom in relation to the question of whether government ought, through its laws and policies, to encourage the virtues of citizens. It will examine how they situate the notion of freedom in relation to the inevitably coercive laws of government. The essay will present an understanding of freedom founded on a person's ability to recognize the norms to which she is subject. It will elaborate this claim from the perspective of a Christian virtue ethics indebted to recent Thomist and Hegelian arguments.

Convener: Michael Hoy, Lutheran School of Theology

C. Melissa Snarr, Vanderbilt University Divinity School

"Waging Religious Ethics: Ethical Reasoning in the Living Wage Movement"

This paper analyzes and assesses the ethical arguments religious organizations use to frame their living wage activism. Religious organizations successfully translate traditional religious arguments about just wages (e.g. Aquinas, Rauschenbusch, and Ryan) into public discourse through the categories of human dignity, vocation, and the moral purpose of government. They also infuse their work with race and gender analyses that challenge previous patriarchal conceptions of "family wages." These organizations, however, face a challenge when clinging too narrowly to wage changes for economic reformation. A more holistic economic reformation must de-center wages as the source of "life" for the working poor.

Convener: Virginia Landgraf, American Theological Library Association
Development of a broadly unifying and yet cross-cultural theory of human rights would mitigate the conceptual heterogeneity and ardent criticisms that still plague rights discourse. I develop a typology of and assess eight kinds of justification for human rights within three types – particularist, universalist, and hybrid justifications – and I defend a hybrid, shared reasons theory that theorizes human rights in terms of fundamental human capabilities. In the long run, a programme of ‘constructive traditioning’ in comparative religious ethics that identifies, builds, and strengthens connections between a cross-cultural vocabulary of human rights and compatible moral resources within and between particular traditions has the best chance of promoting an eventual global consensus in support of human rights.

Convener: Per Sundman, Uppsala University

"Engaging Stanley Hauerwas and Romand Coles: Critical Responses to Christianity, Democracy, and the Radical Ordinary"
Panelists: John Bowlin, Princeton Theological Seminary
Timothy P. Jackson, Candler School of Theology, Emory University
Kathleen Roberts Skerrett, Grinnell College
Respondents: Romand Coles, Duke University
Stanley Hauerwas, Duke Divinity School, Duke University

Christianity, Democracy, and the Radical Ordinary: Conversations Between a Radical Democrat and a Christian is the fruit of several years of collaboration, both in and out of the classroom at Duke University, between theological ethicist Stanley Hauerwas and political theorist Romand Coles. Hauerwas (long-time SCE member) and Coles (radical democrat) have produced a book that is unlike any other. Some portions of the book are co-authored; others consist of individually authored essays. Both are crafted to take as seriously as possible the challenging witness of the other. What emerges is a hopeful vision for theopolitical engagement. This panel is a first opportunity for critical interaction within and beyond the guild of Christian ethicists.

Convener: Charlie Collier, Wipf & Stock Publishers

SJE: Mark Popovsky, New York Presbyterian Hospital, Weill Cornell Medical Center
"A Jewish Perspective on Genetic Screening and Prophylactic Interventions to Prevent Cancer"

This paper analyzes the concepts in classical Jewish tradition relevant to genetic screening and prophylactic interventions for women carrying BRCA1&2 mutations, a genetic condition associated with increased incidence of breast and ovarian cancer, more common in women of Ashkenazi Jewish decent than in the general population. This paper assesses if any argument can be made from Jewish tradition that a woman should or should not be tested for these mutations. It also explores the sources which might guide a woman in how to respond if she finds out that she does carry a mutation in the BRCA1&2 genes.

Convener: Laurie Zoloth, Northwestern University

12:30-2:00pm The Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics Editorial Board
12:45-1:45pm ACJB Lunch and Panel Discussion
2:00-3:15pm  ACJB Session  Gwinnett
"Non-heart Beating Donor (NHBD) Organ Transplantation: A Jewish Bioethical Analysis"
Presenter: Jill G. Hackell, Academy for Jewish Religion, New York
Respondent: Sander Mendelson, Washington Hospital Center, Bethesda

Shortage of organs for donation from patients who meet the criteria for whole brain death has prompted the development of protocols to obtain organs from patients from whom families have decided to withdraw life support, the non-heart beating donor (NHBD). These raise a number of important ethical questions including (1) the decision to withdraw life support; (2) the criteria for diagnosis of death; (3) the understanding of irreversibility; and (4) procedures or drugs used to support organ viability rather than to benefit the patient.

This presentation will analyze the difficulties in reconciling NHBD organ donation with Jewish beliefs about the sanctity of life, while recognizing organ donation as an important act of *pikuah nefesh* (saving a life).

3:30-5:00pm  ACJB Session  Gwinnett
"Pre-Implantation Genetic Haplotyping, Pre-Embryos and Jewish Law"
Presenter: Michael Broyde, Emory University School of Law, Atlanta
Respondent: Analia Bortz, Congregation Or Hadash, Atlanta

Pre-implantation genetic diagnosis raises issues about when and how pre-embryos ought to be screened for characteristics that parents do or do not desire in their offspring. Based on the author's understanding of normative Jewish law, this paper will address and present tentative answers to no less than five vital questions: (1) Is a pre-embryo considered a fetus, and are fetuses persons? (2) What type of selection criteria may an individual use in determining which pre-embryos ought to be implanted and which left to die? (3) May pre-embryos be used for research purposes? (4) Should selection criteria for pre-embryos be held to some objective standard as a matter of Jewish law? (5) May society penalize parents who knowingly transmit genetic diseases to their children by refusing to undergo PGD?
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- Stacey Floyd-Thomas, Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University, Box 298130, Fort Worth TX 76123; tel: 817-257-7140, email: s.floyd-thomas@tcu.edu  
- Melanie Harris, Assistant Professor of Religion and Ethics, Texas Christian University; tel: 817-257-6959, email: m.l.harris@tcu.edu

Asian and Asian-American  
**Fulton**  Saturday, 8-9:30pm  
- Ilsup Ahn, North Park University; tel: 773-204-5517, email: iahn@northpark.edu

Christian – Muslim Ethics  
**Cobb**  Friday, 2-3:30pm  
- John Kelsay, Florida State University, Department of Religion, Tallahassee FL 32306-1520; tel: 850-644-0209, email: jkelsay@garnet.acns.fsu.edu

Latino(a)  
**Cobb**  Saturday, 8-9:30pm  
- Victor Carmona, University of Notre Dame; email: vcarmona@nd.edu  
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- Ramón Luzárraga III, University of Dayton; email: luzarra@notes.udayton.edu

Junior Caucus  
**Fayette**  Friday, 12:45-2:00  
- Kathryn Blanchard, Alma College; tel: 989-463-7136, email: blanchard@alma.edu  
- Melanie Barrett, University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary; tel: 847-837-4523, email: mbarrett@usml.edu

Student Caucus  
**Grand Salon A**  Friday, 12:45-2:00  
- Kathryn Getek, Boston College; tel: 617-527-1807, email: kagetek@hotmail.com  
- AnneMarie Mingo, Emory University; tel: 404-508-0308, email: amingo@emory.edu

Women's Caucus  
**Grand Salon A**  Saturday, 12:30-2:00  
- Michelle Clifton-Soderstrom, North Park Theological Seminary, 3225 W Foster Avenue, Chicago IL 60625; tel: 773-764-1993, email: mclifton-soderstrom@northpark.edu  
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African and African-American Approaches to Christian Ethics  
**Grand Salon B**  Friday, 11am-12:30pm  
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Anglican Theological Ethics  
**Gwinnett**  Friday, 8-9:30pm  
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#### Christian Ethics and Literature/Literary Theory
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#### Christian Ethics and the Professions
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#### Church and Academy
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- Rebecca Todd Peters, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Elon University, 2260 Campus Box, 100 Campus Drive, Elon NC 27244; email: rrpeters@elon.edu

Ethics and Sexuality  
**Newton**  
Saturday, 8-9:30pm  
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Evangelical Ethics  
**Cobb**  
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Families and the Social Order  
**Grand Salon B**  
Friday, 8-9:30pm  
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Health Care Ethics  
**Cobb**  
Friday, 8-9:30pm  
- John Kilner, Trinity International University, 2065 Half Day Road, Deerfield IL 60015; tel: 847-317-8076; fax: 847-317-8101; email: jkilner@tiu.edu  
- Gerald Winslow, Loma Linda University; tel: 909-558-7786, fax: 909-558-7798; email: gwinslow@llu.edu

Lesbian and Gay Issues  
**Newton**  
Saturday, 8-9:30pm  
- William C. McDonough, Department of Theology, College of St. Catherine, St. Paul MN 55105; office tel: 651-690-6072, email: wcmcdonough@stkate.edu

Liturgy and Ethics  
**Grand Salon B**  
Friday, 11am-12:30pm  
- M. Therese Lysaught, 100 Coughlin Hall, Marquette University, PO Box 1881, Milwaukee WI 53201-1881; tel: 414-288-3760, email: Therese.Lysaught@Marquette.edu  
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Monetary Policy  
**DeKalb**  
Saturday, 8-9:30pm  
- George Crowell, 10 Rossmore Court, Unit 43, London, Ontario N6C 6A3, Canada; tel: 519-686-7522, email: georgecrowell@rogers.com

Moral and Religious Psychology  
**Fulton**  
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- James P. Gubbins, Interdisciplinary Studies Department, Salem State College, 352 Lafayette Street, Salem MA 01970-5553; tel: 978-542-6179, email: jgubbins@salemstate.edu

Pedagogy  
**Rockdale**  
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- C. Melissa Snarr, Vanderbilt University, 411 21st Avenue S, Nashville TN 37206; tel: 615-343-0677, email: melissa.snarr@vanderbilt.edu
Reforming Realism
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Presbyterian Ethicists

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