

The logo for The Society of Christian Ethics (SCE) consists of the letters 'SCE' in a white, serif font, enclosed within a black rectangular box.

**SCE**

**THE SOCIETY OF  
CHRISTIAN ETHICS**

The background of the page is a vibrant, abstract watercolor wash. It features large, overlapping strokes of blue, yellow, orange, pink, and purple. Scattered throughout the wash are small, golden star-like specks, giving it a celestial or ethereal feel.

**2025 ANNUAL MEETING**

**HILTON PALMER HOUSE | CHICAGO, IL**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025 –  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025**

**FINAL PROGRAM**

Last updated: 12/20/2024

**SCE****THE SOCIETY OF  
CHRISTIAN ETHICS**

# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

## FUTURE ANNUAL MEETING - 2026

**January 8-12, 2026 | Washington, DC**

Capital Hilton  
1001 16th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20036

## SOCIETY CONTACT INFORMATION

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*The Society of Christian Ethics, the Society of Jewish Ethics, and the Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics are meeting concurrently. Sessions offered by SJE and SSME are listed at the end of each concurrent session.*

## BE SOCIAL

Twitter: @sofcethics

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/The-Society-of-Christian-Ethics-682673455244215/](http://www.facebook.com/The-Society-of-Christian-Ethics-682673455244215/)

Meeting Hashtag: #sofcethics25

Have a question? Reach out to the SCE Social Media Coordinator, Andrew Edwards, via email at [socialmedia@scethics.org](mailto:socialmedia@scethics.org)

## REGISTRATION DESK

Wednesday, January 8 | 4:00 PM - 7:00 AM

Thursday, January 9 | 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Friday, January 10 | 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Saturday, January 11 | 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Sunday, January 12 | 7:30 AM - 11:00 AM

## EXHIBIT HALL

Thursday, January 9 | 5:00 PM - 7:00 AM

Friday, January 10 | 8:00 AM - 7:30 PM

Saturday, January 11 | 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Sunday, January 12 | 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM



# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

“Riding on the Moral Arc of the Universe”

Thursday, January 9, 2025 – Sunday, January 12, 2025

## Wednesday, January 8, 2025

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM	<b>Registration</b>	Bays 1-4
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	<b>Lutheran Ethicists</b>	Logan Room-Floor 3

## Thursday, January 9, 2025

7:30 AM - 4:00 PM	<b>SCE Board Meeting</b>	Wabash-Floor 3
8:00 AM - 4:15 PM	<b>Lutheran Ethicists</b>	Logan Room-Floor 3
12:00 PM - 6:00 PM	<b>Registration</b>	Bays 1-4
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM	<b>Critical Realist Sociology Research Group</b>	Wilson-Floor 3
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	<b>SCE Presidential Cabinet Meeting</b>	Wabash -Floor 3
4:15 PM - 5:30 PM	<b>SJE - Halakha, Ethics, and Relationships</b>	Adams Room - Floor 6
Convener: Sarah Wolf		
Jessica Spencer - “What Would Rina Do”: Psak and the Ethical Imagination		
Avigayil Halpern - “Rabbi Zeira vs. the Daughters of Israel: Queer Approaches to Halakhic Stringency		
Joshua Stadlan - A Little Party Never Killed Nobody: The Rabbinic Ethics of Guestlist Selectivity at Social Gatherings		
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM	<b>Student and Invited Seniors Scholars Reception</b>	Crystal Room - Floor 3
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	<b>Exhibit Hall Open</b>	Exhibit Hall - Floor 4

**2025 ANNUAL MEETING**

Thursday, January 9, 2025

**7:00 PM - 8:15 PM | Concurrent Sessions # 1**

1

***Theology After Gaza: Rereading Johann Baptist Metz***

Salon 1 - Floor 3



Presenter: Marie-Claire Klassen, KU Leuven  
 Convener: James Haring, Gould Group

In the aftermath of Holocaust, Johann Baptist Metz asks a provocative question: "Can our theology ever be the same again after Auschwitz?" His answer is that it can't. Today Gaza confronts us with a new question: "Can our theology ever be the same after Gaza?" Drawing on Palestinian liberation theology as well as Bashir Bashir and Amos Goldberg's work on the Holocaust and the Nakba, this paper re-reads Johann Baptist Metz to begin exploring what theology after Gaza might entail. This post-Gaza theology will require that Christian complicity in antisemitism and anti-Palestinian racism are addressed together.

2

***Praying into the Void: Curative Eschataology, Crip Ancestry and Disability Justice***

Salon 2 - Floor 3



Presenter: Kevin Lazarus, Emory University  
 Convener: Ellen Marshall, Emory University/Candler School of Theology

Christian teleologies of moral progress often depend upon curative theo-logics that eschatologically preclude disability. To resist such curative theologies, many disability theologians have called for radical attention to present disabled body-minds. Departing from a strict presentism, I call for theologians to learn from disabled activist-writers' embodied attention to the past as a resource to imagine alternative crip futures. Interpreting these writers' archival research practices through the lens of crip ancestry, I develop a negative theological hermeneutic in which the search for crip ancestors in history and scripture exposes the violence that erases disabled lives, generating future visions of disability justice.

3

***The Moral Arc of the "Hot Girl Summer"***

Salon 3 -Floor 3



Presenter: Nicole Symmonds, Columbia Theological Seminary;  
 Convener: Shatavia L. Wynn, Rhodes College

The erotic performance of Black women in hip-hop is of political significance because it brings the interpersonal to bear on justice. Black women are not just the "strong" fighters in social justice movements, but they are the soft bodies and hard voices desiring love and pleasure, which ought to matter to how we conceive of the moral arc of the universe. Placing hip-hop feminisms in conversation with womanist ethics, I construct a Black erotic justice framework that demonstrates how, if the choice for being a Black woman includes sexual expression, then justice requires protection of and honoring that.

# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, January 9, 2025

7:00 PM - 8:15 PM | Concurrent Sessions # 1 (cont'd)

4

## ***Building the Moral Arc Together: Ethics and Ethicists Beyond the Academy***

Salon 4 & 5 - Floor 3

Presenters: Cara Curtis, Easy Dynamics/Consumer Financial Protection Bureau;  
Dan Rhodes, Loyola University Chicago & the Black Mountain School of Theology and Community  
Convener: Sara A Williams, Fairfield University

Ethics is not the sole property of academics who teach the discipline. Rather, it is a discourse and practice relevant to all. This session will discuss ways to facilitate the “doing of ethics” by both communities and trained ethicists outside the formal academy. Aligned with feminist and womanist ethics, traditions of popular education, and “everyday” ethics discourses, this panel will focus specifically on the practices, institutional forms, and rhetorical tools needed to bolster mutual learning across the academic/non-academic divide. The two panelists will share reflections from their own experiences with ethics outside the formal academy, and then lead attendees in an interactive brainstorming exercise to ground future work.

5

## ***At the Center of the Arc: Tracing the Forces that Bend our Moral Futures***

Presenter: Mary Nickel, University of South Carolina  
Convener: Grace Kao, Claremont School of Theology

Salon 10 - Floor 3 

The universe’s moral arc bends toward justice. So goes the wisdom, mediated to us by King from the Transcendentalist abolitionist preacher Theodore Parker. Yet the commonplace interpretation of the slogan is misguided. The triumph of justice is always contingent, never inevitable. To King’s immortal words I join another curvilinear metaphor, found in the final sentences of Baldwin’s *The Fire Next Time*. Baldwin puts us at the centre of the arc: not the midpoint, but the axis around which an arc bends. Christian ethicists must be devoted to tracing, and advancing, the centripetal forces that propel the coming of God’s kingdom.

**2025 ANNUAL MEETING**

Thursday, January 9, 2025

7:00 PM - 8:15 PM | **Concurrent Sessions # 1** (cont'd)**6 Policing, Domination, and the Question of Abolition**

Salon 6 - Floor 3

Presenter: Charles Guth III, Princeton Theological Seminary

Convener: Tobias Winright, Saint Patrick's Pontifical University

In this paper, I develop a theological account of the purpose of police and a sympathetic critique of police abolitionism. I argue that a primary purpose of government is to curb injustice and domination. I then argue that since we have good reasons to think that some people and groups will always be willing to use violence to dominate others, fulfilling government's task requires establishing police institutions of some sort. I conclude that far from supporting the status quo, this argument supports radical police reform and requires seeing the need for police as a tragic aspect of this fallen world.

**7 Hope in Faithful Witness: The De-Temporalized Eschatology in Black and Latin American Liberationist Thought**

Salon 7 - Floor 3

Presenter: Liam de los Reyes, Mount Angel Abbey and Seminary

Convener: David Cloutier, University of Notre Dame

If the universe has a moral arc, it suggests a tendency towards a better future, what Kathryn Tanner terms a temporal eschatology. The sentiment does not sit easily with the recent work *Embracing Hopelessness* by Miguel De La Torre. David Gushee and Codi Norred suggest that De La Torre's position represents a break with an immanent hope found in liberation theology. I draw on Tanner's de-temporalized eschatology to show that key liberationists, including Derrick A. Bell and Gustavo Gutierrez, did not ground their hope in a better future but nonetheless maintain hope even in the face of an arc-less universe.

**8 Taking Responsibility Amidst the Moral Arc: Redemption and the Challenge of Complicity**

Salon 8 &amp; 9 - Floor 3

Presenter: Kristyn Sessions, Simpson College

Convener: William George, Dominican University

In this paper, I argue that the underlying optimism and certainty woven into "the moral arc of the universe" framing can hinder the assumption of responsibility. In making this claim, I build on recent scholarship by Judith Gruber and Karen Bray which highlights how prevailing understandings of redemption emphasize linear progress and simple reversals of guilt and, as a result, can perpetuate injustice by enabling privileged populations to escape responsibility. Considering these challenges, I discuss how Brian Hamilton and Mark Sanders' respective work aids in conceptualizing moral responsibility outside of redemptive optimism, focusing on taking responsibility while inescapably complicit.



# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, January 9, 2025

7:00 PM - 8:15 PM | Concurrent Sessions # 1 (cont'd)

**9** *Modern and Late Modern Secularities: The Legacy of Hegel and Schleiermacher for Contemporary Political Theology* Salon 12 - Floor 3

Presenters: James K. A. Smith, Calvin University; Enoch Kuo, Princeton University; Molly Farneth, Haverford College

Conveners: David P. Henreckson, Whitworth University; Jesse Couenhoven, Villanova University

The field of political theology is habitually concerned with origin stories of modernity, of liberalism, and of secularization, among other social imaginaries. Post-revolutionary modern political theory is particularly ripe for theological investigation. Confounding some narratives of secularization, this panel will look to the thought of Friedrich Schleiermacher and G.W.F. Hegel for resources to address issues in contemporary political theology. We hope to provide space for a constructive dialogues across traditions and centuries between foundational modern political theologians and their late modern heirs and critics.

**10** *For the Streets: A Conversation Between Local Activists and Blackademics* Wilson - Floor 3

Presenter: Shari Mackinson, Texas Christian University  
Convener: Carlo Calleja, University of Malta

“For the Streets” is not just a panel but a generative platform that aims to bridge the gap between academic research and community engagement. This panel explores the extent to which contemporary Black religious scholarship informs activists’ work instead of the tradition of academics researching and publishing about social justice movements. Is contemporary Black religious scholarship relevant to clergy and activists? How can Blackademics tenably research and disseminate scholarship to those on the front lines? “For the Streets” strives to close the distance between the academy and the streets by listening to and learning from those on the front lines.

**11** **Panel: Jewish and Muslim Urban Justice Initiatives in Chicago**

Presenters: Adams Room - Floor 6

**SJE** SJE: Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, Shalva

**SSME** SSME: Inner City Muslim Action Network (IMAN), Believers Bailout (BBO)

Moderator: Sarah E. Fredericks, UChicago

**2025 ANNUAL MEETING**

Friday, January 10, 2025

7:30 AM - 6:00 PM

**Registration**

Bays 1-4

7:45 AM - 8:45 AM

**Conversation with an Author # 1****Red Lacquer - Floor 4**

Pre-registration was required.

- |          |   |                    |
|----------|---|--------------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b><i>Can you be a Catholic Feminist?</i></b><br>Oxford University Press  | Julie Rubio        |
| <b>2</b> | <b><i>The Ethics of Protection: Reimagining Child Welfare in an Anti-Black Society</i></b><br>Fortress Press                                    | Lincoln Rice       |
| <b>3</b> | <b><i>Christology and Global Ethics: Encountering the Poor in a Pluralist Reality</i></b><br>Paulist Press                                      | Alexandre Martins  |
| <b>4</b> | <b><i>Architecture, Theology, and Ethics: Making Architectural Design More Just</i></b><br>Lexington Books                                      | Elise Edwards      |
| <b>5</b> | <b><i>Suffering Well and Suffering With: Reclaiming Marks of Christian Identity</i></b><br>Cascade Books  | Aimee Patterson    |
| <b>6</b> | <b><i>The Disabled God Revisited: Trinity, Christology, and Liberation</i></b><br>T&T Clark   | Lisa Powell        |
| <b>7</b> | <b><i>Unborn Bodies: Resurrection and Reproductive Agency</i></b><br>Fortress   | Margaret Kamitsuka |
| <b>8</b> | <b><i>Listening to the Spirit: The Radical Social Gospel, Sacred Value, and Broad-based Community Organizing</i></b><br>Oxford University Press | Aaron Stauffer     |



**2025 ANNUAL MEETING**

Friday, January 10, 2025

7:45 AM - 8:45 AM

**Conversation with an Author # 1** (cont'd)**Red Lacquer - Floor 4**

Pre-registration was required.

**9** *The Transcendence of Desire: A Theology of Political Agency* | Tom James  
Palgrave MacMillan | David True

**10** *On Helping One's Neighbor: Severe Poverty and the Religious Ethics of Obligation* | Bharat Ranganathan  
Cambridge University Press

**11** *Encountering Artificial Intelligence: Ethical and Anthropological Investigations* | Matthew Gaudet  
Wipf and Stock

**12** *The Best Effect: Theology and the Origins of Consequentialism* | Ryan Darr  
University of Chicago Press

**13** *Pope Francis as Moral Leader* | Thomas Massaro  
Paulist Press

**14** *Confidence in Life: A Barthian Account of Procreation* | Matthew Anderson  
T&T Clark

**15** *The Ethics of Doing Nothing: Rest, Rituals and the Modern World* | Andrew Blosser  
Orbis Books

**16** *Speaking of Rape: The Limits of Language in Sexual Violations* | Danielle Tumminio Hansen  
Fortress Press

**17** **Breakfast with an Author** **Adams Room - Floor 6**  
**SJE** Rebecca Epstein-Levi author of *When We Collide: Sex, Social Risk, and Jewish Ethics*  
Convener: Sarah Zager

**2025 ANNUAL MEETING**

Friday, January 10, 2025

8:00 AM - 7:30 PM

**Exhibit Hall Open**

Exhibit Hall - Floor 4

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

**SJE - Journal of Jewish Ethics  
Board Meeting**

Wabash - Floor 3

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

**SCE Plenary**

Grand/State Ballroom -Floor 4

Presenter: Nikky Finney

Respondent: Walter Earl Fluker

Moderator: Emilie M. Townes

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

**Break in Exhibit Hall  
Greet International Scholars**

Exhibit Hall - Floor 4

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

**SCE | SJE | SSME Joint Session**

Grand/State Ballroom -Floor 4

Cathleen Kaveny - SCE | Bill Plevan - SJE | Sherman Jackson - SSME

Each speaker will be addressing the following two questions: (1) How have our religious traditions been complicit in authoritarianism? and (2) What resources do they have to resist it and contribute to democratic institutions? for lively and collaborative discussion among the societies.

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

**SJE - Society of Jewish Ethics  
Board Meeting**

Adams Room - Floor 6

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

**Women's Caucus Lunch**  
(ticketed event)

Offsite: Chicago Temple

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

**JRE Editorial Board Lunch**

Price Room - Floor 5

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

**SSME Plenary**

Grand/State Ballroom -Floor 4

Presenter: Sherman Jackson

Moderator: Joseph Leonardo Vignone, Gonzaga University; Raissa Von Doetinchem De Rande, UChicago



# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, January 10, 2025

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM	<b>Break in Exhibit Hall</b>	Exhibit Hall - Floor 4
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Friday, January 10, 2025

## 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Concurrent Sessions # 2

**1** *Reclaiming Hope: Toward a Latine Phenomenology of Liberation* Salon 4 & 5 - Floor 3

Presenter: Ruben Rosario-Rodriguez, Saint Louis University  
 Convener: Aristotle Papanikolaou, Fordham University

De La Torre argues genuine liberation demands ‘embracing the reality of hopelessness’ lest hope become a dangling carrot that keeps the oppressed pining for an unrealized future, and Lloyd conceives of hope as a ‘collective fantasy’ that allows the oppressed to ignore the tragedy of their surroundings. By contrast, a phenomenological analysis of liberation reveals a Christian understanding of hope as a volitional act of resistance even in the face of certain failure. Hope is then grounded in a concrete historical manifestation of the divine as emancipatory action in the world and not a future-oriented yearning for escape or transcendence.

**2** *Uprising and Abundance: The Extraordinary Ordinary at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, 2020* Salon 1 - Floor 3 

Presenter: Amy Levad, University of St. Thomas, MN  
 Convener: Robin Steinke, Luther Seminary

The neighborhood around Minneapolis's Third Precinct became an epicenter of protest after George Floyd’s murder, leaving it devoid of resources due to police actions. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, near the precinct, reopened amid COVID-19, serving as a medic station and later an emergency pantry. Decisions to reopen were informed by a ‘theology of abundance’, summarized by the refrain, “There is enough.” A collaborative ethnographic story project conveys how this ordinary conviction shaped the moral life of Holy Trinity, enabling the congregation to respond. This project thus provides insight into ‘ordinary ethics’, extraordinary moral experiences, and the limits of ‘hard cases’ for understanding the moral life.

**2025 ANNUAL MEETING**

Friday, January 10, 2025

**3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Concurrent Sessions # 2** (cont'd)**3*****Womanist Abolition: The Unlawful Salvation and Criminalization of Black Mothers***

Salon 6 -Floor 3

Presenter: Nikia Robert, University of Kansas

Respondent: Vincent Lloyd, Villanova University

Convener: Seulbin Lee, Vanderbilt University

This paper advances a legal, moral, and theological argument justifying poor Black mothers who break the law to survive and secure quality of life for themselves and their families against unjust social conditions. A critical task is to uncover the synergistic and contentious relationship between law and morality that intersect with harmful theologies and punitive philosophies in the context of Black motherhood and the criminalization of survival. In response, the constructive contribution conceptualizes a new paradigm called Womanist Abolition that contributes theoretical and methodological interventions pushing forward frontiers in the study of religion. Womanist Abolition consists of legal analyses, moral reappraisals, and an emancipatory theology to undermine carceral systems that limit and foreclose Black mothers' survival practices. This study's outcome is the organization Abolitionist Sanctuary, which applies the approach of Womanist Abolition to expand a faith-based abolitionist movement validating the divinity and dignity of Black mothers as sources of moral integrity and salvation necessary to create a more just and equitable world beyond punishment, policing, and prisons.

**4*****Bending the Biotechnological Arc Back Toward Justice: A Critique of Historic and Contemporary Rhetorics of Scientific Progress***

Salon 7 - Floor 3

Presenter: Emma McDonald Kennedy, Villanova University

Convener: Theo Boer, Protestant Theological University

Testing the notion that time brings moral progress, this paper considers the history of the eugenics movement and its links to contemporary biotechnological innovation. 20th-century eugenics proponents linked scientific progress to social improvement to advance eugenic practices now recognized as scientifically specious and unjust. Now, biotech companies make similar rhetorical moves, framing innovations in assisted reproduction and genomics as progressive, despite evidence that many so-called advancements shore up social inequities. With resources from Christian ethics, reproductive justice, and disability rights, this paper sketches a more inclusive vision of social progress and argues for regulation and public consultation in biomedical research.

**2025 ANNUAL MEETING**

Friday, January 10, 2025

**3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Concurrent Sessions # 2** (cont'd)

5

***Trailblazer No More: Pauli Murray and the Ethics  
of Temporal Orientation: Trailblazer***

Salon 8 &amp; 9 - Floor 3

Presenter: Ella Myer, Emory University

Convener: Ellen Marshall, Emory University/Candler School of Theology

Trailblazer. Pioneer. These are two of the most common words used to describe Pauli Murray in contemporary discourse. Like King's moral arc, these colonial descriptors are both future-oriented. They underscore Murray's ability to envision and help bring about an improbable future. I contend, however, that this framing conceals as much as it reveals. Specifically, it obscures the key role the past played in Murray's vocations as lawyer and priest as well as in her/their survival in a white supremacist, heteronormative society. I conclude by arguing that Murray's past-oriented approach is more helpful for Christian ethicists than King future-oriented one.

6

***Living in Accord with Human Dignity: Weaving Restorative Justice  
and Active Nonviolence during large-scale violent conflict***

Salon 2 - Floor 3



Presenter: Carl Swarr Stauffer, United States Institute of Peace

Respondent: James W. McCarty, Boston University School of Theology

Convener: Christian Iosso, Presbyterian Church

Restorative justice practices have increasingly been demonstrating their effectiveness. However, there is a pattern of thinking that limits restorative justice practices to healing after violent conflict or perhaps as a form of prevention by functioning before violent conflict breaks out. This session will explore how restorative justice logic and praxis has functioned during violent conflict, especially large-scale conflict; and its potential. Our presenter is Carl Stauffer, Ph.D. who is a global expert in restorative justice with over 30 years of experience in over 37 countries. He was an academic professor and presently works in the U.S. Institute of Peace. \*This session is sponsored by the Restorative Justice interest group along with the Conflict, Nonviolence, and Just Peace interest group.

7

***Ecological Authoritarianism and Environmental Justice:  
Moral Progress and the Diversity of Cultures***

Salon 12 - Floor 3


Presenters: Benjamin Parks, Mercy College; Luca Valera, Global Scholar, Universidad de Valladolid  
Convener: Andrea Vicini, Boston College

Description: There are many connections between environmental justice and respect for the diversity of cultures. Arne Næss's ecosophy – the founder of Deep Ecology – may offer some relevant political guidelines on this topic: in his “total view,” moral progress in socio-ecological concerns calls for respect of local cultures, as these constitute a significant part of the environment (they are “forms of life”). Indeed, the eradication and elimination of these forms of life may lead to more violence, which may mean preventing self-realization, freedom, and flourishing.

# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING


Friday, January 10, 2025

**3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Concurrent Sessions # 2** (cont'd)

**8** *Wondrous “Hermaphrodites”: Reviving the Wonder Tradition for Intersex, Trans and Nonbinary Christians* Salon 3 - Floor 3 

Presenter: Devan Stahl, Baylor University  
 Convener: Peng Yin, Boston University

The concept of "wonder" tradition can help re-imagine sex uncertainty in contemporary theological bioethics. Using the 17th century case study of Marin le Marcis, this paper will explore the difference wonder makes in assessing atypical bodies. Wonder may inspire us to explore theologies that question the sex binary, biological processes of sex and gender development, and medical practices that seek to normalize atypical bodies. Wonder may allow us to value the life before us before demanding to its categorization, alteration, or normalization while also leaving room to affirm the identities that feel salient to individuals.

**9** *Experiments in Worldmaking: Environmental Reparations and the Task of Environmental Ethics* Salon 10 - Floor 3 

Presenter: Andrew Thompson  
 Convener: Mark Douglas, Columbia Theological Seminary

This paper will present a project of environmental reparations to illustrate a particular, pragmatic task for environmental ethics that seek to subvert what has been called a capitalist world ecology. Specifically, it will be argued that environmental ethics can suggest hypotheses for moral experimentation, generative ideas that can drive the emergence of new publics and alternative relationalities. Environmental reparations can be one of these hypotheses that Luke Bretherton calls “inventive tinkering and mustard seed-like improvisations” that can reconfigure the dominant social order of racial capitalism.

**10** **3:30 PM - 4:45 PM** **Islamic Ethics in Context** Kimball Room - Floor 3

**SSME** “Conceptualizing a Communal Amana: towards an Islamic Ethics of Qualitative Human Subject Research” Nisha Keshwani, University of Chicago

“‘Care for the Soul’ as a Possible Paradigm for Islamic Ethics” Mona Hagmagid, University of Michigan

“The Precarity of the Male Body In Islamic Scholarly Ethics” Joseph Leonardo Vignone, Gonzaga University

# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, January 10, 2025

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	<b>Nominating Committee</b>	Marshfield - Floor 3
5:00 PM - 5:15 PM	<b>Lifetime Achievement Award</b>	Grand / State Ballroom - Floor 4
5:00 PM	<b>SJE: Kabbalat Shabbat</b> Candle Lighting 4:19pm All are Welcome!	Offsite (Loop Synagogue)
5:15 PM - 6:15 PM	<b>SCE Presidential Address</b>	Grand / State Ballroom - Floor 4
6:15 PM - 7:15 PM	<b>SCE Presidential Reception</b>	Red Lacquer Ballroom - Floor 4
6:30 PM	<b>SJE: Shabbat Dinner</b> <i>Pre-registration is Required</i>	Offsite
7:30 PM - 8:45 PM	<b>SJE: Engaging the Work of Louis Newman</b>	Offsite (Loop Synagogue)
<p>Panelists: Geoffrey Klausen; Emily Filler; Paul Wolpe Respondent: Louis Newman Convener: Jonathan Crane</p>		

# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, January 10, 2025

8:00 PM - 9:15 PM | Interest & Working Groups # 1

1

## **SCE Student Caucus: *Future Scholars Interest Panel* *Christian Ethics in a Time of Fear and the Unknown***

Salon 1 - Floor 3



Panelists: Rebekah J. Gordon, Florida State University; Noah Karger, University of Notre Dame; Brooklynn Reardon, Duke Divinity School

Conveners: Michelle Bostic, University of Virginia; Cait Lemos, University of Notre Dame

There is no shortage of challenging events facing all of us in both the proximal and distal future. Whether it is international relations, climate change, the economy, the job market, political upheaval, technological vulnerability, or any other prospective occurrence which could radically shift the trajectory of our futures, the present day brings a unique agglomeration of troubles. It is not unreasonable to worry and even be afraid for ourselves and our communities. Indeed, precisely because of the appropriateness of fear given such prospects, such a predicament calls for care, creativity, and radical honesty. What problems are we refusing to face in ways that are hindering our collective life? What changes to our imagination are called for in a time of unprecedented problems? What are necessary insights in previous scholarship that we must take with us; what must we leave behind? What sort of people must we become to bear witness faithfully in these times? Three emerging scholars will assess current challenges and propose responses.

2

## **Ethics and Law Interest Group: *Issues in Constitutional Law III: The 2024 Election***

Salon 3 - Floor 3



Presenters: David Gushee, Mercy University; Terrence Johnson, Harvard Divinity School; Cathleen Kaveny, Boston College; Anna Scheid, Duquesne University

Convener: Cathleen Kaveny, Boston College

As the third year of an envisaged three part series on constitutional issues, the Ethics and Law Interest Group will focus on ethical, legal, and theological issues related to the 2024 election. Panelist Cathleen Kaveny will do a retrospective analysis of the Supreme Court's anticipated decision on gerrymandering, and panelists David Gushee, Terrence Johnson, and Anna Scheid will address fairness of procedures, interventions promoting/threatening democratic practices, and general observations regarding the 2024 election.



**2025 ANNUAL MEETING**

Friday, January 10, 2025

**8:00 PM - 9:15 PM | Interest & Working Groups # 1** (cont'd)

3

**Health Care Ethics: A Conversation with Luca Valera on NeuroRights**

Salon 2 - Floor 3



Presenters: Luca Valera, Universidad de Valladolid; Ben Parks, Mercy College

Conveners: Joseph Kotva, IU School of Medicine - South Bend; Christian Cintron -- Children's National Hospital; Ben Parks, Mercy College

This conversation with Dr. Luca Valera (SCE Global Scholar, 2025) will engage his wide-ranging work in bioethics and neurotechnologies in both Chile and Spain, pushing us outside our Anglophone borders. Neuroimaging technologies such as brain-computer interfaces and neurofeedback have evolved rapidly as new tools for cognitive neuroscience and as potential clinical interventions. However, along with these developments, ethical and political concerns have grown, based on the fear of the possible misuse of neurotechnologies. In October 2021, Chile became the first country to include neurorights in its constitution. Nevertheless, a deep discussion on the epistemological, philosophical, and ethical basis of neurorights is needed.

4

**Contemplative Ethics: Scripture, Ethics, and the Role of Suffering in Deification**

Salon 4 &amp; 5 - Floor 3

Presenter: Melanie Barrett, University of Saint Mary of the Lake

Conveners: David Clairmont, University of Notre Dame; Elisabeth Rain Kincaid, Baylor University

For the matter of Christian ethics to be Christian, it must rely upon Christian revelation, which includes both scripture and tradition. Yet contemporary Catholic ethics typically under-utilizes scripture as a source, despite the Second Vatican Councils call for it to be foundational. This paper presents a test case for how to remedy this methodological deficiency, by analyzing four Pauline epistles to ascertain the role of suffering in deification, arguing that suffering becomes a constitutive part of deification, by spurring both internal transformation and external forms of witness that empower others toward their own conversion.

5

**Asian and Asian American Working Group: Affirmative Action and the Ends of American Education**

Salon 6 - Floor 3

Presenters: SueJeanne Koh; University of California, Irvine;

Nicholas Hayes-Mota, Santa Clara University; LaShaunda Reese,

Advocate Health &amp; Morehouse College

Convener: Peng Yin, Boston University

In June 2023, the U.S. Supreme Court reversed decades of race-conscious admissions programs in institutes of higher education. The case was brought forth by Edward Blum, who represented Students for Fair Admissions, a group of Asian American students who argued that affirmative action programs discriminated against Asian American students in the application process. This session, with members from the Asian and Asian American, African and African American, and Latino/a Working Groups, will take the case, *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College* as a starting point to identify the important ethical issues at play in the American educational system, including: how education feeds into the idea of the "American Dream", the relationship between meritocracy and equity, what alternatives to affirmative action exist, and how ethicists might offer different visions of the ends of education.

**2025 ANNUAL MEETING**

Friday, January 10, 2025

**8:00 PM - 9:15 PM | Interest & Working Groups # 1** (cont'd)

6

**Anglican Theological Ethics: Luke Bretherton's "A Primer in Christian Ethics" and Anglican Theological Ethics**

Salon 7 - Floor 3

Presenters: Luke Bretherton, Duke University; Jennifer Herdt, Yale University; Steve Long, Southern Methodist University

Conveners: Luke Zerra, Stevenson School for Ministry; Dallas Gingles, Southern Methodist University

This panel focuses on Luke Bretherton's new work, "A Primer in Christian Ethics: Christ and the Struggle to Live Well" (Cambridge, 2023). Responses from D. Stephen Long (Southern Methodist University) and Jennifer Herdt (Yale University) will engage the book as a contribution to Anglican theological ethics. Among the topics addressed will be the book's focus on living well, its merits as an introductory text, and its place within the wider field of Christian ethics and moral theology. A response from Bretherton and conversation will follow Long and Herdt's responses.

7

**Climate Justice and Migration: *Migrating Together: A Panel on Climate Justice and Displaced Persons***

Salon 10 - Floor 3



Presenters: Frederick Simmons, Cambridge University; Katerina Myers, University of Chicago; Wonchul Shin, Villanova University

Conveners: Eric Schnitger, Independent Scholar; Mark Douglas, Columbia Theological Seminary

While the causes of migration are multiple, climate change is exacerbating these myriad reasons. From economic impacts to larger unlivable hot zones, some estimates suggest that up to 1.5 billion people will migrate across a national border by 2100. This panel will consider some of the impacts this movement will have on myriad forms of ethical discourse and meaning-making in a rapidly changing world. What are the important questions for our ethical formation and decision-making around politics, economics, and identity? How will justice and fairness be conceived of in these national and international contexts?

8

**Catholic Theology and Ethics: *The Idea of Progress in Catholic Social Thought***

Salon 8 &amp; 9 - Floor 3

Presenters: Lisa Sowle Cahill, Boston College; Dana Dillon, Providence College; M.T. Davila, Merrimack College

Conveners: David Cloutier, University of Notre Dame; Dana Dillon, Providence College

In light of this year's convention theme, three panelists reflect on the understanding of "progress" in Catholic social thought. The motif "signs of the times" has had a prominent place in Catholic social thought since Gaudium et Spes, but its meaning can be read in many different ways. Which signs? And what ways do they point? Panelists will reflect on the complexities of the question of historical "progress" in light of modern CST, current events, and the variety of voices in the broader Catholic intellectual tradition.



# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, January 10, 2025

8:00 PM - 9:15 PM | Interest & Working Groups # 1 (cont'd)

9

**Caucus For Contingent Faculty Concerns: *What does justice look like for New Scholars, Contingent Faculty, and Independent Scholars, and what contribution does Christian Ethics in Academia make to the moral issues?***

Salon 12 - Floor 3

Presenters: Mark Wood, VCU  
Convener: Mary Beth Yount, Saint Vincent College

We will be discussing, among other things, how the moral purpose of the university is understood in the SCE, the ways in which the SCE takes a stand on moral issues and problems faced by those with less power in academia, how language addressing concerns is framed, and what possibilities and limits exist. As part of the conversation, we will explore how and when unions might be of help in addressing such concerns.

10

**Christianity and Prison Abolition Group: *Theological Ethics of Abolition: Womanist, Liberationist, and Eschatological Interventions***

Wilson - Floor 3

Presenters: Andrew Krinks, American Baptist College; Christophe D. Ringer, Chicago Theological Seminary; Nikia Robert, University of Kansas

Convener: Anne-Marie Ellithorpe, Vancouver School of Theology

Despite its direct continuity with the deeply religious eighteenth and nineteenth century movement to abolish chattel slavery, the present-day movement to abolish police and prisons is regarded by most popular commentators as an inherently secular political movement. In sharp contrast to this presumption, the presentations that comprise this session explore police and prison abolition as a Christian ethical orientation embodied in womanist practices of survival against the forces of criminalization, liberationist refusals of police expansion in the movement to Stop Cop City, and the inherently eschatological dynamic of what contemporary abolitionists call “non-reformist reforms”.

9:00 PM - 10:00 PM

**University of Chicago Reception**

Monroe Room- Floor 6



# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, January 11, 2025

8:00 AM - 6:00 PM    **Registration**    Bays 1-4

7:45 AM - 8:45 AM |    **Conversation with an Author # 2**    **Red Lacquer - Floor 4**  
Pre-registration was required.

- 1**    *A Primer in Christian Ethics: Christ and the Struggle to Live Well*    | Luke Bretherton  
Cambridge University Press
- 2**    *A Christian and African Ethic of Women's Political Participation: Living as Risen Beings*    | Leocadie Lushombo  
Rowman & Littlefield
- 3**    *How Would We Know What God is Up To?*    | Cynthia Moe-Lobeda  
Wipf and Stock  
| Ernst Conradie
- 4**    *Ecological Moral Character*    | Nancy Rourke  
Georgetown University Press
- 5**    *Theological Fragments: Confessing What We Know and Cannot Know about an Infinite God*    | Ruben Rosario-Rodriguez  
Westminster John Knox Press
- 6**    *My Body, Their Baby: A Progressive Christian Vision for Surrogacy*    | Grace Kao  
Stanford University Press
- 7**    *An Augustinian Christology: Completing Christ*    | Joseph Walker-Lenow  
Cambridge University Press

**2025 ANNUAL MEETING**

Saturday, January 11, 2025

7:45 AM - 8:45 AM | **Conversation with an Author # 2 (cont'd) Red Lacquer - Floor 4**  
Pre-registration was required.

**8** *Beyond Virtue Ethics: A Contemporary Ethic of Ancient Spiritual Struggle* | Stephen Meawad  
Georgetown University Press

**9** *On Teaching and Learning Christian Ethics* | D. Stephen Long  
Georgetown University Press

**10** *Black, Quare, and Then to Where: Theories of Justice and Black Sexual Ethics* | Jennifer Leath  
Duke University Press

**11** *Constructing Moral Concepts of God in a Global Age* | Myriam Renaud  
Routledge

**12** *The Good News of Church Politics* | E. Ross Kane  
Eerdmans

**13** *Justice After War: Jus Post Bellum in the 21st Century* | David Kwon  
The Catholic University of America Press

**14** *A Transpacific Imagination of Theology, Ethics, and Spiritual Activism: Doing Feminist Ethics Transnationally* | K. Christine Pae  
Palgrave Macmillan

**15** *Have You Got Good Religion?: Black Women's Faith, Courage, and Moral Leadership in the Civil Rights Movement* | AnneMarie Mingo  
University of Illinois Press



# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, January 11, 2025

8:00 AM - 6:00 PM	<b>Exhibit Hall Open</b>	Exhibit Hall - Floor 4
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	<b>SCE Plenary</b>	Grand/State Ballroom - Floor 4
<p>Panel: Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty; Mary E. Hunt ; Traci C. West; Thelathia “Nikki” Young  Moderator: Emilie M. Townes</p> <p><b><i>Feminist and Womanist Musings:</i></b>  <b><i>Is justice an effective strategic goal for a society in chaos?</i></b></p> <p>The panelists are invited to respond to this question in light of the theme, “Riding on the Moral Arc of the Universe.” They are encouraged to explore the question on either the macro- or micro-level or both and to make use of their own work as appropriate to respond to the question and theme</p>		
9:45 AM	<b>SJE: Shabbat Morning Services</b> <i>All are Welcome!</i>	Adams Room - Floor 6
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	<b>Break in Exhibit Hall Greet New Members</b>	Exhibit Hall - Floor 4
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	<b>SCE Business Meeting</b>	Grand/State Ballroom - Floor 4
11:45 AM	<b>SJE: Kiddush</b>	Adams Room - Floor 6
12:15 PM - 1:30 PM	<b>SJE: Responding to Tragedy</b>	Adams Room - Floor 6
<p>Convener: Michal Rauscher</p> <p>Maeera Schreiber - <i>Thinking With bell hooks: How to Teach the Holocaust post 10/7</i>  Phil Keisman - <i>Media and Humanitarian aid in the wake of Famine in the Pale of Settlement in 1867</i>  Noam Zohar - <i>War and Starvation: A Judaic Discussion of Siege, Blockade, and the Scope of Responsibility</i></p>		

# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, January 11, 2025

1:30 PM - 2:45 PM | Concurrent Sessions # 3

**1** *Breeders, [Auction] Blocks, and Bodily Resistance to the Violence of Black Birthing: A Womanist Appraisal*

Salon 1 - Floor 3



Presenter: Eboni K Marshall Turman, Yale Divinity School

Convener: Aana Maie Vigen, Loyola University, Chicago

This paper is a Black womanist response to the landmark *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* (2022) ruling. It decidedly confronts *Dobbs* as moral failure for Black women. In the US, forced pregnancy and involuntary childbirth is a timeworn tradition with death-dealing implications for Black women. A survey of the legacies of antebellum anti-Black reproductive violence will lead to an examination of Black women's bodily resistance to the violent [necro]politics of Black birthing that perpetuate the physical and social death of Black women and their children - toward consideration of a womanist ethic of abortion that emphasizes the sacrality of life, choice, and endings.

**2** *Renewing the Vocation of Christian Ethics: Practices and Internal Goods in a Post-Institutional Era*

Salon 2 - Floor 3



Presenters: Carl Friesen, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Layne Hancock, Institute for Future Conflict, United States Airforce Academy, James Haring, Gould Group

Convener: Gerald McKenny, University of Notre Dame

The members of this panel are three PhD graduates in Christian ethics who have, for personal and circumstantial reasons, left the Academy. We nonetheless retain our sense of vocation as scholars and ethicists. There are few precedents for this path, since academic employment has traditionally been a necessary, if implicit condition for participation in the field. We contend that this condition should be discarded. Dramatic changes are transforming the institutional setting of Christian ethics. This panel explores these changes, unpacks the internal goods of Christian ethics, and describes affective, intellectual, and liberative practices that would characterize a post-institutional Christian ethics.

**3** *Hope, Perseverance, and Patience in Abolitionist Movements*

Salon 10 - Floor 3



Presenter: Stephanie Mota Thurston, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Convener: Matt Jantzen, Hope College

Abolitionists have both a critical analysis and an imaginative vision and project. Amid these radical visions, what does it mean for abolitionists to remain steadfast and endure the persistent structural injustices of the saeculum? First, I explain the two features of abolitionist thinking, namely critique and imaginative vision by focusing specifically on the prison/policing and family abolition movements. Second, I explore theological and philosophical conceptions of hope, patience, and perseverance to argue that abolitionists, who envision and work towards an arduous and distant good, while enduring the sorrow and anger that injustice elicits, must rely on hope, perseverance, and patience.

**2025 ANNUAL MEETING**

Saturday, January 11, 2025

**1:30 PM - 2:45 PM | Concurrent Sessions # 3** (cont'd)**4** *Teaching Community Organizing as Riding the Moral Arc: Pedagogical Conundrums and Delights*

Presenter: Cynthia Diane Moe-Lobeda, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and Graduate Theological Union

Salon 3 - Floor 3



Convener: Xavier M. Montecel, St. Mary's University

This paper assesses a six-year experiment teaching community-organizing as a means of riding the moral arc toward justice, as a required ethics course for M.Div. and MA students. The paper harvests insights that may be useful to others seeking to integrate justicemaking into theological education. Assessment draws on three theoretical fields: community-organizing theory developed by feminist and BIPOC organizers, critical pedagogy, decolonial theory. Questions arise: How can courses in communityorganizing address white supremacist undergirdings of theological education, and neoliberal mentalities impacting morality? What are guidelines for teaching social change in academic curricula? How do such courses relate to traditional fields in theological education? What role may arts play in such courses?

**5** *Alternative Virtue Ethics for Disability Inclusion: Counter-readings of Maximus the Confessor and the Nature of Agency*

Salon 4 &amp; 5 - Floor 3

Presenter: Katherine Karam McCray, Trinity College, University of Toronto

Convener: Chris Franks, High Point University

Plural readings of Christian virtue reorient us toward diverse customs and introduce alternative geographies, traditions, and anthropologies into the field of Christian ethics. Drawing past competitive binaries like East and West, this plural scope offers alternatives from within the Christian virtue tradition that are non-rationalistic, non-individualistic, and hospitable toward disability as a diverse form of human embodiment. Instead of a model for human agency having independency as the goal, Maximus inverts the model for activity and passivity conventionally ascribed to Aristotelianism. The goal of the moral life is to rely on others'™ contributions in an interdependent social system.

**6** *Parable Ethics and Practicing Just Futures*

Salon 6 - Floor 3

Presenter: Kate Ott, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Convener: Peter Fay, Villanova University

Octavia Butlers Parable ethic weaves together affective knowledge, counter memories, and temporary liberation braiding queer, childist, and womanist ethical intersections while disentangling gendered, racist, and consumptive threads of a dominant Christian ethic. Racially and gender diverse "faith unbundled" young adults, who no longer find meaning in traditionalist religions, the worldmaking opportunity of speculative/science fiction provides the opportunity to ask profound questions and envision answers beyond the constraints of dominant white religious interpretations. Following the clues of this queer Afrofuturist protagonist, Lauen Olamina, a saccharine Christian ethical vision of moral progress is transformed by a trauma-aware, communal, survivalist social ethic.



**2025 ANNUAL MEETING**

Saturday, January 11, 2025

**1:30 PM - 2:45 PM | Concurrent Sessions # 3** (cont'd)

7

***Amazon's Prime Paradigm and the Algorithmic Surveillance of Delivery Drivers***

Salon 7 - Floor 3

Presenter: Berit Reisenauer Guidotti, Boston College

Convener: Nancy Rourke, St. John Fisher University

This paper analyzes the ethical implications of Amazons A.I.-based surveillance of delivery drivers in light of Pope Francis' technocratic paradigm and Catholic Social Teaching. Amazons surveillance regime creates dehumanizing conditions for delivery drivers and problematically reshapes social relations by appropriating a reductive epistemology which views human persons as controllable objects and fungible instruments of labor. Delivery driver and consumer resistance practices reveal possibilities for an incarnational ethic of encounter structured by mutual acknowledgement.

8

***Christian Ethics, Moral Progress, and the Philosophy of History***

Salon 8 &amp; 9 - Floor 3

Presenter: Eric Gregory, Princeton University

Convener: Todd Whitmore, University of Notre Dame

The idea of moral progress figured prominently in many streams of 20th century Christian ethics, especially those aligned to liberal thought wedded to teleological or providential history. This is no longer the case. What are we to make of this change? This paper argues that accounts of moral progress were part of a broader interest in the shape of history that has also receded in theological and philosophical circles. By recalling this moment, crystallized in King's writings and the Lowith-Blumenberg secularization debates in Germany, I hope to suggest its relation to renewed interest in political theology across various disciplines.

9

***Transpacific Political Theology***

Salon 12 - Floor 3

Presenters: Peng Yin, Boston University; K. Christine Pae, Denison University

Convener: Derek Buyan, Niagra University

A transpacific political theology problematizes essentialized accounts of continents and regions and reflects on the transpacific circulation of peoples, cultures, commodities, and ideas. Its goal is to interrogate the relationship between the state and the political, nationalisms, old and new orientalisms, and U.S. colonial and military presence in Asia and the Pacific. It challenges and queers the construction of nation, empire, race, caste, gender, and sexuality by presenting grounded historical analyses. This session will offer examples of how faith communities have been involved in peoples struggles and movements across the Pacific.



# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, January 11, 2025

**10** *In the Light of Disco Balls: Queer Joy as Justice* Wilson - Floor 3

Presenter: Geran James Lorraine, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary  
Convener: Kori Pacyniak, University of California, Riverside

On the surface Queer spaces might seem to offer just safety and escape. Yet, in the light of disco balls, there is more. Spaces like bars, clubs, ballrooms, house parties, and beach towns all function as enclaves of queer joy and freedom. Queer spaces create a sense of community and facilitate webs of relationality. These networks of Queer relations tell stories of joy that push against the ongoing oppression of LGBTQ+ folk. More, Queer joy builds futures of possibilities; futures that are slowly arcing toward justice.

**11**  
SSME

1:30 PM - 2:45 PM **Ethics of Care:** Kimball Room - Floor 3  
**“A Conversation about Sexual Violence in Muslim Communities”**

Organizer: Juliane Hammer, UNC Chapel Hill  
Convener: Sam Houston, Stetson University

“Aversion and Alignment” | Samah Choudhury, University of Chicago

“Sūrat Yusuf and the MeToo Movement” | Halla Attallah, Georgetown University

“Academics, Community Activists, Muslim Leadership, Limits, and Collaboration: A Case Study” | Nancy Khalil, University of Michigan

“When Sexual Abuse Intersects with Spiritual Violence” | Nadiah Mohajir, HEART to Grow

“Ethics of Care: A Muslim Feminist Reflection on Sexual Violence and on Palestine” | Juliane Hammer, UNC Chapel Hill

2:00 PM - 2:45 PM **Editors/Cabinet/Staff** Wabash - Floor 3

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM **SJE: Shabbat Lunch** Offsite  
*Pre-registration is required*

# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, January 11, 2025

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM | Interest & Working Groups # 2

**1** *Social Ethics and Organizing: Win, Lose, or Draw: Scholarship and Organizing in the Midst of a Long Moral Arc*

Salon 1 - Floor 3



Presenters: Gary Dorrien, Union Theological Seminary; Toni Bond, Methodist Theological School in Ohio; Nikia Robert, University of Kansas; Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary  
Convener: Aaron Stauffer, Vanderbilt University Divinity School

Organizing is slow and patient work; wins do not come easily, are seldom guaranteed, and often accompanied by losses and tradeoffs, negotiations, or compromises. What is more, organizing traditions aim to build political, economic, and social power in different ways, in different timeframes, and use scholarship differently. This panel presents reflections from various organizing traditions by scholars deeply invested in them and reflections on experimentation at the nexus of organizing and teaching social ethics, for example: abortion and reproductive justice organizing; community and interfaith organizing; abolitionist and prison reform organizing; ecological and climate justice; economic justice.

**2** *Fieldwork in Ethics: Ethnography and the Ephemeral: Reflections on the Dynamic Truths of Fieldwork*

Salon 4 & 5 - Floor 3


Presenters: Michael Grigoni, Wake Forest University; Joi Orr, Interdenominational Theological Center; Melissa Snarr, Vanderbilt University  
Conveners: Stephanie Thurston, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Ethnography has a peculiar relationship with time. While the researcher's participant-observation illuminates deep truths, it can only do so from a specific, ephemeral moment. Field sites and participants continue to "speak" long after fieldwork ends. The sociopolitical contexts of the ethnographer and participants are constantly in flux, as are the conclusions from fieldwork. This panel explores theoretical and methodological issues of capturing partial truths from fleeting fieldwork. Scholars who have completed fieldwork, are removed from their fieldwork, and/or are writing a manuscript on their fieldwork will reflect on "ethnography and the ephemeral" before opening the discussion.

**2025 ANNUAL MEETING**

Saturday, January 11, 2025

**3:00 PM - 4:00 PM | Interest & Working Groups # 2** (cont'd)**3**

***Neuroethics and Theology Interest Group: Losing Our Minds? Ethical, philosophical, and theological questions regarding artificial intelligence and neurotechnology*** Salon 2 -Floor 3 

Presenters: Pablo Rivas, Baylor University; Joseph M. Vukov, Loyola University Chicago; Paul Scherz, University of Notre Dame

Conveners: Neil Messer, Baylor University; Christopher Krall, Creighton University

The human trials of Elon Musks Neuralink brain-computer interface have raised the profile of emerging neurotechnologies, which combine neuroscience and AI with aims that include collecting and interpreting brain data, linking users brains to machines or other brains, and modifying brain functions. While these technologies promise many benefits, they raise a wide range of practical ethical questions about safety, privacy, security, and justice. They also raise deeper questions about matters such as identity, agency, and responsibility. We shall explore some of these practical and more fundamental questions with the help of an AI expert, a philosopher, and a theological ethicist.

**4**

***Liturgy and Ethics: Liturgy and, as, or is Ethics?: Is "Liturgy and Ethics" Still Interesting?*** Salon 6 - Floor 3

Presenters: Brent Laytham, St. Mary's Seminary & University; Debra Dean Murphy, West Virginia Wesleyan College

Retrospectively, this panel led session takes stock of the liturgy and ethics conversation since its inception in the Society of Christian Ethics. Prospectively, the session will convene a conversation about whether Liturgy and Ethics remains interesting enough to continue as an interest group, and if so, who should lead (that is, convene), the conversation.

**5**

***Migration Ethics Interest Group: Evaluating the Churches' Teaching on Migration Ethics*** Salon 7 - Floor 3

Presenters: Noemi Vega Quiñones, Southern Methodist University; Antônio Lemos, University of Notre Dame; Justin Ashworth, Azusa Pacific University

Conveners: Dr. Robert W. Heimburger, Cardiff University, Wales, UK; Dr. Victor Carmona, University of San Diego, USA

What are the churches teaching about migration? Do their teachings represent an adequate response to contemporary challenges surrounding migration? Given issues surrounding borders, Brexit, nationalism, refugees, internally displaced persons, and changing demographics, what are churches saying, and are they saying it well? Following the pattern of panels in past years, panelists will speak about further churches and communions of which they are a part, evaluating those churches teaching.

**2025 ANNUAL MEETING**

Saturday, January 11, 2025

**3:00 PM - 4:00 PM | Interest & Working Groups # 2** (cont'd)

6

***Families and Social Responsibility Interest Group: LGBTQ+ Accompaniment on College Campuses: Moving Through Shame***

Salon 8 &amp; 9 - Floor 3

Presenters: Barb Kozee, Boston College; Brandy Daniels, University of Portland

Conveners: Marcus Mescher, Xavier University; Kari-Shane Davis Zimmerman, College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University

Kozee will address how LGBTQ students (especially those with religious affiliations) are subjected to harm from the cultures in which they exist, including on their college campus. She will discuss how moving through shame can be an empowering act of agency in which students are able to use spiritual tools of their own faith tradition to imagine a third way of being in the world. Daniels' response will be informed by her qualitative and theological research on the experiences of LGBTQI+ college students on Catholic colleges, including through the lens of accompaniment.

7

***Evangelical Ethics: Restlessness and Belonging: Autumn Ridenour on Augustinian Wisdom for the Digital Empire***

Salon 12 - Floor 3

Presenters: Autumn Alcott Ridenour, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; Toni Alimi, Cornell University; Conor M. Kelly, Marquette University

Conveners: Theo A. Boer, Protestant Theological University; Jonathan Cahill, Columbia University Irving Medical Center

This session addresses the ways that technologies, particularly social media and artificial intelligence, raise questions about moral wisdom and the goals of communication. Autumn Ridenour, author of *Restlessness and Belonging: Augustinian Wisdom for the Digital Empire* (2024), draws from themes in Augustine's theology, seeking intersection and relevance to the Digital empire that we perhaps willfully, unexpectedly, or reluctantly now inhabit. She addresses the challenge of the Digital empire by drawing on Augustine in conversation with a host of tech authors and theologians that offers hope found in wisdom, interdependence, imaging God, Sabbath, and the presence of the kingdom.

**2025 ANNUAL MEETING**

Saturday, January 11, 2025

**3:00 PM - 4:00 PM | Interest & Working Groups # 2** (cont'd)

8

***Pedagogy Interest Group: Chat-GPT and Computer AI in the Ethics Classroom: Strategies and Best Practices***

Salon 3 - Floor 3



Conveners: Vic McCracken, Abilene Christian University; Julie Mavity Maddalena, Lakeland University

The recent emergence of widely accessible computer AI technology poses significant challenges and raises numerous questions for ethics educators. With bot technologies like Chat-GPT now able to create well-structured essay responses to single sentence requests from users, how are educators to ensure that student submissions reflect the actual learning of students? What strategies might teachers employ to limit the adverse impact of AI technology on student learning? Are bot technologies necessarily obstacles to such learning, or are there constructive ways to employ tools like Chat-GPT in the ethics classroom? In this session a panel of ethics educators will discuss strategies and best practices for meeting the challenge raised by tools like Chat-GPT.

9

***Business Ethics: Christian Ethics and Business Ethics: The Good Life, Good Business, and the Common Good***

Salon 10 - Floor 3



Presenter: Andrew Gustafson, Creighton University

Conveners: Jason Stansbury, Calvin University; David Clairmont, University of Notre Dame

As Christians, we have much more to offer the field of business than a set of rules for behavior adjustment. Our business activities can bring some of the very most concrete and material activities of our lives (business) into communion with our spiritual endeavors and pursuits. Highlighting models from our Christian traditions, I will briefly highlight the Protestant traditions of Shalom, of Excellence in Business as Business, and BAM. From the Catholic Social Thought tradition: the Civil Economy Tradition, Mary Hirschfeld's recent work on Aquinas and the Market, and the Economy of Communion movement, providing some examples of transformational entrepreneurship.

10

***Economic Policy: Thomas Piketty and Christian Ethics: An Interdisciplinary Engagement for Ethical Economic Policies***

Wilson - Floor 3

Presenters: Daniel Finn, Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary; Andrew Blosser, Marquette University

Convener: Ilsup Ahn, North Park University

After his 2013 work *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, Thomas Piketty, in his 2019 book *Capital and Ideology*, advocates for a progressive tax system as a remedy for these inequalities. He emphasizes the danger that wealth concentration poses to meritocracy, social justice, democratic governance, and societal cohesion. Given these implications, the engagement of Christian ethics with Piketty's economic theories becomes nearly imperative. To this end, the Economic Policy Interest Group will convene a session in 2025, inviting Christian ethicists to address one of the era's paramount social justice challenges: escalating global economic inequality.

# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, January 11, 2025

4:15 PM - 5:30 PM | Concurrent Sessions #4

1

## ***“Entire People, Male and Female”: Alice Walker’s Womanism & The Ethical Claims of Transgender Sociopolitical Discourse***

Presenter: Jennifer Leath, Queen’s University

Salon 1 - Floor 3



Convener: Margaret Kamitsuka, Oberline College

Alice Walker’s womanist definitions – along with her other writings that have clarified these definitions – have been at the core of womanist theoethics in the United States academy. However, recent critical inquiry asks: who and what are womanists – and what do womanists do – when it comes to the distinctions of gender and sex and the calls for justice that proceed from these distinctions? Is womanism still relevant for Black theoethicists discerning just pathways and possibilities for people of African descent and beyond in the wake of gender and sexual revolutions? Focusing on these questions, this paper reimagines womanism.

2

## ***The Arc of Return: Afro-Pessimist Temporalities and Relational Justice***

Presenter: Andrew Stone Porter, Bellarmine University

Salon 3- Floor 3



Convener: Terrence Johnson, Harvard Divinity School

Afro-pessimism is often characterized as nihilistic, and some writers have embraced the label. But, Afro-pessimism also proffers an irreducibly relational theory of justice urging a (re)sensitization to human pain. Reading Afro-pessimist Cristina Sharpe alongside and against Enlightenment-optimist Steven Pinker, this paper argues that Afro-pessimism shares more in common with the Levinasian face summoning to responsibility than with the Rawlsian impartiality behind a veil of ignorance. In staying with the trouble, Afro-pessimists insist that a commitment to justice can only be enfolded in and as active and compassionate solidarity with people who are suffering.

3

## ***The Coloniality and Eschatological Poverty of Just Wars Pessimisms and Optimisms***

Salon 2 - Floor 3



Presenter: Nelly Wamaitha, Boston College

Convener: Lawrence Stratton, Waynesburg University

Thinking with the war in Ukraine, the Israel-Gaza situation, and Global South conflicts, I will argue that both the pessimisms and optimisms of just war thinking make sense within a colonial frame and both stem from colonized, and colonizing eschatological visions. In a colonial world that depends on violence and threats of violence for its continuation, Christian eschatological visions have been shrunk to accommodate the continuation of Western imperial violences. An ethics that works with this diminished eschatology becomes conscripted in projects of ensuring the survival of Western colonial projects of violence. It cannot disrupt a violent international status quo.

**2025 ANNUAL MEETING**

Saturday, January 11, 2025

**4:15 PM - 5:30 PM | Concurrent Sessions # 4** (cont'd)

4

***Holding The Remembrance: Cultivating Christian Enfleshed Counter-Memory***

Salon 4 &amp; 5 - Floor 3

Presenter: Stephanie C. Edwards, Boston Theological Interreligious Consortium

Convener: Karen Ross, Catholic Theological Union

Memory is the much-contested site of justice work, whether for negotiating lived painful pasts, or creating futures of flourishing only real (for now) in our imaginations. Reading Rivers Solomons short fiction *The Deep* with Emilie Townes and Miroslav Volf, this paper contends that riding the moral arc of history requires cultivation of right memory. As such, I construct an ethic of enfleshed counter-memory that struggles with three central facets of memory for justice exposed by Solomon, and their potential shape in Christian ethics: intergenerational storytelling, cultivation of life-giving imaginaries, and communal lament and responsibility.

5

***How Does That Moral Arc Bend? Toward a Constructive Christian Ethic of Social Transformation***

Salon 6 - Floor 3

Presenter: Joshua David Beckett, Independent Scholar

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s conviction about the universes moral arc bending toward justice is rooted in a Christian eschatology of divine agency, companionship, and victory. For him, the human corollary to this promise, is neither apathy nor triumphalism, but deliberate action marked by serpentine shrewdness and dovelike innocence. In this presentation, I elucidate Kings salient accounts of the posture (a tough mind and a tender heart), theory (revolution of values), and praxis (constructive alliances and community organizing) suitable for changing society, before conducting a comparative analysis with Antonio Gramsci, toward the construction of a contemporary Christian ethic of social transformation.

6

***Digital Capitalism, Data Colonialism, and Economic Justice***

Salon 7 - Floor 3

Presenter: Hesron Hanshen Sihombing, University of Denver/Illiff School of Theology

Convener: Wonchul Shin, Villanova University

This paper examines Dan Schiller's "digital capitalism" and Nick Couldry and Ulises Ali Mejias' "data colonialism" within the ethical analysis of the commons of Ambrose of Milan and Andreas Wittel. This paper argues that Christian ethics needs to pay serious attention to digital capitalism as the evolving economic model that has created injustice. By evoking "digital commons" to contest digital capitalism marked by privatization, commodification, and surveillance, this paper situates digital networks as socio-economic realities imbued by power. I will use three aspects of Nancy Fraser's feminist justice—redistribution, recognition, and representation—to advocate for a more just digital economy.





# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, January 11, 2025

4:15 PM - 5:30 PM | Concurrent Sessions # 4 (cont'd)

7

### ***The Ethics of Liturgy: Racially Segregated Churches and the Religion of Jesus***

Salon 8 & 9 - Floor 3

Presenter: Byron DeAndre Wratee, Loyola University Maryland

Convener: Kamarr A. W.-Richée, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Using Ernst Troeltsch's typology and Derrick Bell's interests-convergence theory to investigate the persistence of anti-Black liturgical racism and racial segregation in the U.S., the paper propounds Howard Thurman's "religion of Jesus" as realized in his Fellowship Church. Whereas historical narratives within the Black Catholic Liturgical Renewal, African Methodism, and classical Pentecostalism underscore how white supremacist ideology has perpetuated an accommodating liturgical ethic of sacrifice in response to white supremacist liturgical ideology, impeding moral progress, Thurman's vision shows a path to racial integration, where a theology informed by mysticism within a sect-like organizational structure can achieve broader church-type influence.

8

### ***Crippling the Moral Arc: Disability and Moral Progress***

Salon 10 - Floor 3



Presenter: Lisa Powell, St. Ambrose University

Convener: Ryan Cumming

In line with this year's theme, this panel interrogates notions of moral, spiritual, and social progress from disability perspectives. Panelists approach the concept of progress by investigating a range of historical and contemporary contexts: accounts of academic ableism in a post-ADA society, first-person experiences of crip time in the midst of cultural drives towards speed and productivity, and architectural images of the spiritual journey within the Christian tradition. By reading these contexts through the lens of disability, this panel aims to generate conversation around justice, hope, and progress with and for disabled persons and communities.

9

### ***Queerness, Nomadism, and the Asian American Church***

Salon 12 - Floor 3

Presenter: Ilsup Ahn, North Park University

A novel perspective in migration theology offers the Asian American church a groundbreaking theological insight: a profound theological connection exists between the nomadic identity and the queer identity of LGBTQ+ individuals. As a community of migrants and their descendants, the Asian American church can only become genuinely authentic by dismantling its ecclesiastical barriers to queerness and by embracing LGBTQ+ individuals. This paper aims to equip the Asian American church with an innovative theological approach to addressing this issue without resorting to dogmatic, defensive, or confrontational tactics. Furthermore, it presents a new theological-ethical vision that marries migration theology with queer theology, proposing a path toward a more inclusive and authentic community identity.

**2025 ANNUAL MEETING**

Saturday, January 11, 2025

**4:15 PM - 5:30 PM | Concurrent Sessions # 4** (cont'd)**10*****Is the arc of the moral universe bent towards justice?  
Queer ethical considerations***

Wilson - Floor 3

Presenters: Jennifer Leath, Queens University; Barnabas Lin, Fuller Theological Seminary; Jeremy Posadas, Stetson University; Ish Ruiz, Pacific School of Religion  
 Convener: Shatavia L. Wynn, Rhodes College, Brandy Daniels, University of Portland

**11  
SJE****Technology, Aesthetics, and the Limits of Creation**

Adams Room - Floor 6

Convener: Elias Sacks

David Zvi Kalman - *Speaking with the Dead: The Ethics of Body Duplicates*Daniel Mackler - *Ethics and Aesthetics in the Theology of Micha Yosef Berdichevsky*Sara Wolkenfeld - *Stealing Consciousness: Geneivat Da'at in a World of Algorithms*

\*havdalah will take place after this session

**12  
SSME****Modern Islamic Ethics**

Kimball Room - Floor 3

"The Ethics of Procedure: Traffic Laws, Modern Technology and the Reconfiguration of Privacy in the Arab Gulf" | Alexandre Caeiro, Hamad Bin Khalifa University

"Will Abū Ḥanīfa Have a Beer and Smoke Ḥashīsh with Me in Jannah?" Changing Perceptions of Khamr, Ijmā', Bid'ah, and Sunnīte Islamic Law" | Scott Bursey, Florida State University

"Speaking Truth in Challenging Times: Lessons from the Ulama's Arab Spring Politics" | Muhammad Amasha, Yale University



THE SOCIETY OF  
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# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, January 11, 2025

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM	<b>SSME Executive Meetings</b>	Marshfield - Floor 3
5:45 PM - 7:00 PM	<b>Catholic Eucharist</b>	Crystal Room - Floor 3
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>New SCE Presidential Cabinet Meeting</b>	Wabash - Floor 3
7:00 PM - 8:15 PM	<b>SJE: Thinking with and Responding to Medical Need</b>	Adams Room - Floor 6
<p>Convener: Marjorie Lehman</p> <p>Zachary Berger - <i>The War in Gaza, the Silence of Medicine in the US, and Interreligious Ethics as Foundation for Action-Oriented Strategizing: Observations from a Jewish and a Muslim Physician</i></p> <p>Laynie Solomon - <i>Trans Identity, Autonomy, and Self-Determination: Locating Halakhic Language &amp; Limits</i></p> <p>Martin Kavka - <i>Jewish Ethics in Recent Florida Legal Battles over Abortion</i></p>		
7:00 PM	<b>SSME Dinner</b>	Offsite

# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, January 11, 2025

8:00 PM - 9:15 PM | Interest & Working Groups # 3

1

**Reformed Theology & Ethics Interest Group: *Reformed Theologies of Political Agency***

Salon 3 - Floor 3



Convener: Franklin Tanner Capps, Davis & Elkins College

Presenters: John Burgess, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; Jermaine Ross-Allam, Union Theological Seminary, NYC | Center for the Repair of Historic Harms, Presbyterian Mission; Aaron Stauffer, Vanderbilt Divinity School; David True, Pfeiffer University

This panel engages a new work in Reformed political theology, *The Transcendence of Desire: A Theology of Political Agency* (Palgrave, 2023). Contributors will critically engage themes and arguments in this new work, using the book as a starting point for deeper theological reflection on the nature of political agency, the failures and promises of modernity's vision of emancipated human futures, and Reformed thought's entanglements with the "neoliberalizing" of institutions and the Western/N. Atlantic political imaginary.

2

**Christian Ethics and Moral Theory Interest Group: *Conversion, nonlinear change, and moral theory***

Salon 4 & 5 - Floor 3

Conveners: Christina McRorie, Boston College; Matthew Puffer, Valparaiso University  
Presenter: Luke Bretherton, Duke University

This session draws on the category of "conversion" to articulate a Christian moral theory of individual, social, and structural change. Taking its cue from Cornel West's call for a "politics of conversion," Desmond Tutu's "politics of transfiguration," and Pope Francis's advocacy of "ecological conversion," it examines how struggles for justice "as a form of socio-political and moral conversion" involve both recovery and revolution and can be conservative and progressive simultaneously. Addressing the paradoxical dynamics of change, the paper proposes a nonlinear theory of moral and political transformation. In the view this perspective affords, the arc of the universe is indeed bent toward justice, but in nonlinear terms.



# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, January 11, 2025

8:00 PM - 9:15 PM | Interest & Working Groups # 3 (cont'd)

4

## Animal Ethics and Environmental Ethics: *Dominion, Animals, and the Earth*

Salon 7 - Floor 3

Conveners: Laura Hartman, Roanoke College; Trevor Bechtel, University of Michigan

Presenters: Allison Covey, Villanova University; Jason Roberts, University of Georgia; Tallessyn Grenfell-Lee, Climate Resilience Leadership

This notion of dominion has haunted both environmental and animal ethics for a long time. Relatively recent treatments of dominion, from Lynn White’s “The Historical Roots of our Ecological Crisis” through Matthew Scully’s *Dominion*, have sought to question, interpret, and reinterpret this concept. Dominion is one of many words that can describe an ethical human relationship to the non-human. As ethicists reconsider environmental and animal ethics in the light of the climate crisis, the meanings of dominion are continuing to shift. In this session, we explore those shifts and seek clarity about humanity’s place in the web of life.

5

## *Disrupting White Privilege Interest Group: White Christian Nationalism and the Moral Arc of Anti-Racism*

Salon 12 - Floor 3

Presenter: D. Stephen Long, Southern Methodist University

Conveners: Julie Mavity Maddalena, Lakeland University, Steve Long, Southern Methodist University, Shandon Klein, Southern Methodist University

The recent rise of white Christian nationalism reflects historical patterns of backlash and can be linked to the Presidency of Barack Obama and the Black Lives Matter movement, including the surge of anti-racism after the murder of George Floyd. Panelists will explore insights from previous backlash movements and strategies particular to this moment. Panelists will also wrestle with the question of whether these backlash movements challenge Kings confidence in the long moral arc or indicate that efforts like those of white Christian nationalists will ultimately fail to resist ongoing disruption of white supremacy. D. Stephen Long will respond to panelists.

9:00 PM - 10:30 PM **LGBTQI+ Working Group Reception**

Offsite at 2Twenty2 Tavern  
222 S Wabash Ave, Chicago, IL



THE SOCIETY OF  
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# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 12, 2025

6:30 AM - 8:45 AM	<b>SCE Board Meeting</b>	Wabash - Floor 3
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM	<b>Registration</b>	Bays 1 - 4
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	<b>SJE Business Meeting</b>	Adams Room - Floor 6
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	<b>Exhibit Hall Open</b>	Exhibit Hall - Floor 4
8:00 AM - 8:45 AM	<b>Ecumenical Worship Service</b>	Crystal Ballroom
8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	<b>Professional Conduct and the SCE</b>	Marshfield - Floor 3

**2025 ANNUAL MEETING**

Sunday, January 12, 2025

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Concurrent Sessions # 5

1

***The Precarity of Progress: Finding Healing When Things Fall Apart in a Nairobi Clinic***

Presenter: Emma M. Corey, Hendrix College

Salon 1 - Floor 3



Convener: Wonchul Shin, Villanova University

Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork from Mwana Mwema, a U.S. funded network of clinics in Nairobi, Kenya, that provide care and treatment for children and adolescents living with HIV, I examine the ways the community affirms and forsakes narratives of moral progress that promise positive outcomes for those on medication. Rather than positing a fixed belief in ultimate healing, the Mwana Mwema community draws upon theologically dynamic notions of healing. They cling to a telos of improvement on some days and abandon it on others. Ultimately, they illustrate an ethic that emphasizes pragmatic engagement with unpredictable realities rather than theological continuity.

2

***Christian Pessimism and the Arc of the Moral Universe: A Catholic-Protestant Dialogue***

Salon 2 - Floor 3



Presenters: Jesse Couenhoven, Villanova University; Stephen J. Pope, Boston College

Convener: Rebekah Miles, Southern Methodist University

Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous claim about the arc of the universe is widely interpreted in ways distorted by liberal and conservative American optimism. This panel offers Catholic and Protestant perspectives on the possibility of Christian pessimism about human moral agency. Our main dialogue partner is recent Afropessimists whose rejection of optimism has much in common with theological accounts of sin and the need for grace. Retrieving hope as a distinctively theological virtue permits a defense of Kings theologically founded view as compatible with the need to hold evildoers accountable and to resist false hopes.

3

***Reproductive Justice-making and the Appeal to Human Rights***

Salon 4 &amp; 5 - Floor 3

Presenter: Margaret D. Kamitsuka, Oberlin College

Respondent: Toni Bond, Methodist Theological School, Ohio

Bodily rights language dominates prochoice feminism. In recent decades, women of color in the US began advocating for reproductive justice based on human rights (RJ). There are promises and limitations to this approach. Appealing to human rights holds promise for addressing injustices faced by pregnant persons of color. However, call for justice does not deliver a definitive answer regarding the moral obligations of pregnancy. Rights language may inadvertently reenforce the perception of a conflict between fetal rights and the rights of the gestating person. I argue that pregnancy is better understood the voluntary beneficent act of a moral agent.

**2025 ANNUAL MEETING**

Sunday, January 12, 2025

**9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Concurrent Sessions # 5** (cont'd)***Representation and Its Failures: Thinking with and Beyond***

Salon 7 - Floor 3

**5** ***Womanist Thought***

Presenters: Michelle Bostic, University of Virginia; Shatavia L. Wynn, Rhodes College

Convener: Sunder John Boopalan, Canadian Mennonite University

Katie Cannons 1984 address to the Society of Christian Ethics indicted dominant modes of ethical inquiry for centering white, male experience and deeming black ethics immoral/amoral. Over 40 years later, questions of the importance of identity in ethics as opposed to other framings, such as tradition, still bring division in the field. Considerations of identity often rely on the narrow lens of representation. This panel names problems with representation as a hegemonic understanding of concerns related to identity and presents alternative ethical modalities. Such trajectories find both resonance and dissonance with womanists ethics.

***A Christian, Ethical Response to Brain Computer Interfaces like  
Elon Musk's Neuralink***

Salon 3 - Floor 3

**6**

Presenter: Myriam Renaud, DePaul University

Convener: E. Harold Breitenberg, Jr., Randolph-Macon College

This paper focuses on Brain Computer Interface (BCI) neurotechnologies and the ethical issue of personhood, an issue inextricably tied to the Christian concept of Imago Dei. Given the speed of BCI advances, the paper does not address whether research on neurotechnologies should proceed. Rather, it offers ethical guidance to Christians who will eventually be given access to increasingly powerful and safe BCI implants. It does so by advancing an Imago Dei theology capable of serving as helpful ethical scaffolding when Christians face the decision of whether to opt for these neurotechnological innovations and their enhancements.

***The Ethics of Eating and Imprisonment: Food Justice, Forgiveness, and the Moral Horror of  
Mass Incarceration***

Presenter: Howard Pickett, Washington and Lee University

Salon 8 &amp; 9 - Floor 3

**7**

Convener: David Lilley, United Methodist Church/ Belmont University

Food justice is a small, but growing field with the potential to contribute to ethical and theological reflection on the moral horror of mass incarceration. By alerting us to the food-related threats surrounding us and the harms unjust food systems often inflict on those they employ, a food justice perspective asks: What do we owe incarcerated individuals and also the correctional officers who oversee their incarceration? Poor prison conditions, I contend, not only harm and humiliate incarcerated individuals but also create moral pitfalls for prison staff who, serving as our surrogates, must choose between maintaining integrity and an income.



# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 12, 2025

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Concurrent Sessions # 5 (cont'd)

8

***Beyond Therapy: Mental Health Problems as Political Problems*** Salon 10 - Floor 3 

Presenters: Brett McCarty, Duke University; Warren Kinghorn, Duke University

Recent first-person memoirs of Christians living with mental health challenges helpfully confront stigma and encourage care-seeking, while also reinforcing the individualistic and technical logics of modern medicine. This clinical framework, however, is inadequate to the realities of rising rates of depression, anxiety, substance use issues, and deaths from overdose and suicide. Because mental health challenges are bound up with political realities, a political theology is necessary. Three biblical scenes (Mark 5:1-20, Mark 5:21-43, and Luke 24:13-35) highlight the interconnected personal, communal, and cosmic dimensions of illness and healing and gesture toward a politically-attuned framework for Christian engagement with mental health.

9

***Defending the Defenders: Environmental Virtue and Climate Justice*** Wilson - Floor 3  
***Among Human Rights Activists in the Amazon***

Presenter: Ryan Juskus, University of Notre Dame  
Convener: Nancy Rourke, St. John Fisher University

Given the ecological significance of the Amazon rainforest as one of the planets largest carbon sinks, this paper examines the lived theology and ethics of environmental defenders who stand between a forested and a deforested Amazon. Analyzing fieldwork with Christian human rights activists in the Peruvian Amazon, it shows how they integrate virtue, rights, and ecology to support environmental defenders, thus holding together approaches that Christian ethicists sometimes set in opposition to one another. The paper develops one implication of this study by theorizing an approach to climate ethics that weds environmental virtue, environmental justice, and consociational climate politics.

10  
SJE

**Jewish Political Thought and Ethics**

Adams Room Room - Floor 3

Convener: Emily Filler

Respondent: Jennifer Greenberg

Aryeh Cohen - *Should we have a Police Force?*

Nathaniel Berman - *The Critiques of Secularism and The Ethical Obligation to Separate Church and State*

11  
SSME

**Virtual Panel** (held via Zoom)

Kimball Room - Floor 3

“Navigating the Changing Culinary Landscape of the Dard Tribe in the Border Spaces of the Kashmir Himalayas, India” | Suheel Mir, independent scholar

“Islamic Food Ethics: between Scriptural Law and Mysticism” | Naeema Halim, independent scholar

“Tawakkul and Rizk: Reading the Islamic Philosophy of Procreation in Contemporary India” | Basima Shahna Muhammed, Queen Mary's College

# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 12, 2025

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM SCE | SJE | SSME Leadership with Talley Marshfield - Floor 3

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM The Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics Editorial Board Lunch Wabash - Floor 3

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## 2024 GLOBAL SCHOLAR - LUCA VALERA

Friday, January 10, 2025; 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Concurrent Sessions # 2, Session 7 | Salon 12 - Floor 3  
*Ecological Authoritarianism and Environmental Justice: Moral Progress and the Diversity of Cultures*

Friday, January 10, 2025; 8:00 PM - 9:15 PM | Interest & Working Groups # 1, Session 3 | Salon 2 - Floor 3  
*Health Care Ethics: A Conversation with Luca Valera on NeuroRights*



**Luca Valera** studied Philosophy (B.A. and M.A.) at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano (Italy). He holds a PhD in Bioethics and Philosophy from the Università Campus Bio-Medico di Roma (Italy). His thesis was on the topic of human ecology, in the field of environmental ethics. He has been Associate Professor at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile since 2015, where he has been appointed as the Director of the Bioethics Centre from 2018 to 2021. He is now Associate Professor at the Universidad de Valladolid (Spain), Department of Philosophy, Associate Researcher at the Cape Horn International Center (CHIC, Chile), and Adjunct Professor at the Bioethics Centre, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (Chile). His main research areas are: bioethics, environmental philosophy, and philosophy of emerging technologies.

# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

## 2025 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - ROBIN W. LOVIN



The Lifetime Achievement Award of the Society of Christian Ethics recognizes one of our members for outstanding, sustained, and substantive contributions in advancing the field of Christian ethics. Taken into consideration are the recipient's publications, scholarship that defines the issues Christian ethicists must address, and their influence within the field. The latter is found in the work of the recipient's students, and the influence of the recipient's scholarship in promoting the importance and relevance of Christian ethics for audiences beyond the discipline itself and beyond the academy. This year's awardee is Robin W. Lovin.

Lovin is Cary M. Maguire University Professor of Ethics *emeritus* at Southern Methodist University and Visiting Scholar in Theology at Loyola University Chicago. He joined the Southern Methodist University faculty in 1994 and served as Dean of Perkins School of Theology from 1994-2002. Prior to that he served as Dean and Professor of Ethics and Society at the Theological School, Drew University (1991-1994), Assistant and Associate Professor of Ethics and Society at The Divinity School, The University of Chicago (1978-1991) and Instructor in Ethics, Candler School of Theology (1977-1978)

Professor Lovin received his B.A. in Philosophy from Northwestern University (1968), his B.D. from Harvard Divinity School (1971) and his Ph.D. in Religious Ethics from Harvard University (1978) where he was mentored by Preston Williams, the 2024 SCE Lifetime Achievement awardee. His many contributions to Christian Ethics began shortly after his graduation with his 1984 publication *Christian Faith and Public Choices: The Social Ethics of Barth, Brunner, and Bonhoeffer* (Fortress Press). He has been at the forefront of interpreting the legacy and ongoing reception of Reinhold Niebuhr's realism as is well-documented in his influential 1995 and 2008 publications *Reinhold Niebuhr and Christian Realism* and *Christian Realism and the New Realities* (Cambridge University Press) and the 2021 co-edited volume with his former student Joshua Mauldin *The Oxford Handbook of Reinhold Niebuhr*. His work in this area led to the 2023 festschrift honoring his work also edited by three of his students, Dallas Gingles, Joshua Mauldin, and Rebekah Miles, *The Future of Christian Realism: International Conflict, Political Decay, and the Crisis of Democracy*. It gives testimony to his influence among his students and others who follow Lovin in bringing Christian Realism into conversation with "new realities" while maintaining the priority of Christian ethics over those realities. As Gary Dorrien notes in that work: "The Christian community rejects the demand for apology, speaking in its own way for its own reasons. . . . I am convinced that Robin Lovin has been unflinching true to it" (7). Likewise Gerry McKenney describes well Lovin's contribution to

# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

## 2025 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - ROBIN W. LOVIN (cont'd)

Christian Ethics when he states, “Politics for Lovin is not confined to government but is the search for the human good in all these contexts” – the political, moral, and theological (33). This search has led Lovin to engage in examinations of comparative ethics as his 1985 *Cosmogony and Ethical Order* co-edited with Frank E. Reynolds and the 2017 *Theology as Interdisciplinary Inquiry: Learning with and from the Natural and Human Sciences*, co-edited with Joshua Mauldin. He continues to make important contributions attending to our new realities evidenced in his 2022 *What Do We Do When Nobody Is Listening?*

In addition to his many contributions in his publications, and his influence on generations of scholars, he received a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship for his outstanding scholarship. From 2012-17 he was a Senior Research Fellow at the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton, New Jersey and in 2013, he held the Maguire Chair in Ethics and American History at the Library of Congress. He is a contributing editor to *The Christian Century* and an ordained minister of The United Methodist Church.

Professor Lovin’s service to the SCE has been unparalleled. Not only did he serve as president, but he also chaired two SCE presidential committees that oversaw restructuring of the SCE administration generating what are known as the Lovin I and Lovin II reports. The influence he has had on his own students as well as those of us who are students at a distance are too numerous to mention. Given the substance and breadth of his scholarship, influence, and commitment to the discipline of Christian Ethics, Robin Lovin is the well-deserved 2025 Lifetime Achievement Awardee.

## RECIPIENTS OF THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

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# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

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2024-2025

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# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

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