CALL FOR PAPERS

Interfaith Research, Education, and Practice: Beyond the Divide

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This Call for Papers invites expressions of interest to contribute to the new book *Interfaith Research, Education, and Practice: Beyond the Divide*, to be published by Springer Nature, one of the global Top-Five academic publishers. As a fully peer-reviewed and indexed publication each book chapter will receive a unique DOI and thus be individually accessible online. This will facilitate widespread global accessibility of all accepted chapters and will be conducive to visibility and citations. Please note below how to submit your expression of interest to contribute to the new book, which will be edited by Dr Johannes M. Luetz, School of Law and Society, University of the Sunshine Coast; Rev Professor Denise A. Austin, Deputy Vice President Research and Standards, Alphacrucis College; and Dr Adis Duderija, Centre for Social and Cultural Research, Griffith University.

BACKGROUND

Human experience of past and present inter-religious discord reflects a long and harrowing list of disturbing consequences that reverberate across time and space. These include discrimination, bigotry, prejudice, persecution, injustice, hatred, and segregation, along with numberless open and concealed conflicts. Resultant isolationism, ignorance, extremism and entrenched religious divisiveness have long undermined both interpersonal relationships and international cooperations. Many consequences are beyond description, and the cumulative opportunity costs are beyond measure. It is against this background that this book aims to create space ‘beyond the divide’. It seeks to redress distortions of religious mis- and dis-information and aims to construct inter-religious common ground. Importantly, many global challenges facing humanity today can only be mastered if humans from diverse religious backgrounds and faith traditions can meaningfully collaborate in support of human rights, reconciliation, sustainability, justice, and peace. This entails the unequivocal duty to honour and respect indigenous spirituality en route to imagining and creating a world that may be equitably and enduringly shared. This context makes the purposive exploration of opportunities for interfaith research and practice in the 21st century a fertile and promising undertaking.
INVITATION TO CONTRIBUTE

Set against this background we invite suitably qualified experts and project teams to contribute to the edited volume *Interfaith Research, Education, and Practice: Beyond the Divide*.

This interdisciplinary book explores spirituality across faiths and cultures to better understand diverse religious backgrounds. It will foster inter-religious understanding and collaborative endeavours for peace, education, academic networking, and community development.

A unique feature of this book is its strong theory-practice focus. Apart from the results of research and field projects, it will contain a range of papers exemplifying the diversity of approaches to interfaith research and practice taking place all over the world. To this end the book invites the documentation of grassroots projects and innovative initiatives in Africa, Middle East, Europe, the Americas, and the wider Asia Pacific region, thus showcasing and promoting the diversity of works taking place today. The appraisal of present and future challenges and opportunities, framed within a context of public policy and praxis, makes this interdisciplinary publication a profitable tool for teaching, research, and policy analysis and development.

ENVISAGED CHAPTER TOPICS

Topics include (but are not limited to) the following big-picture themes, the scope of which may overlap:

- Philosophical, theological, hermeneutical, and dialogical engagements beyond and across religious divides and cultural institutions
- Exploratory discourses that chart challenges, opportunities, and future prospects for interfaith spirituality
- Integrated discourses that bridge the science-spirituality divide and create consilience by conjoining contributions from the sciences and humanities
- Conceptual frameworks such as tolerance or hospitality that accept difference (‘agreeing to disagree agreeably’) or aim to bestow blessing and generosity through relationship (‘loving and welcoming the stranger’)
- Engaging multipolarity via multinational, multicultural, multilingual and/or multiethnic organisations and communities
- Interfaith ideation and opportunities to promote human rights, reconciliation, sustainability, justice, and peace
- Leveraging inter- and multi-religious capacity to tackle global challenges (e.g., climate emergency, species extinction, ideological extremism, non-renewable resource depletion, and entrenched global poverty, among others)
- Analyses how positionality affects insider-outsider discourses or so-called ‘othering’
- Theoretical research on Scripture-shaped religious convictions on ecotheology, ‘creation care’ and ecological hermeneutics
- Empirical research, case studies and grassroots examples of innovative local and translocal inter-religious practices
- Integrated approaches to interfaith collaboration that are field-tested and practice-approved
- Replicable examples of good or best practice cases that may be scaled
• Interfaith research in different demographic and educational contexts (e.g., primary, secondary, tertiary education; rural, urban, peri-urban populations, etc.)
• Inter-religious collaboration in the context of human migration, displacement, and refugee contexts
• Holy Books and arising opportunities and challenges for inter-religious harmonious co-existence and practices
• Incentivising and implementing strategies to address or redress extremist ideation
• Disciplinary, inter-disciplinary, trans-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary approaches
• Disasters and divine attribution: Exploring epistemological and hermeneutical perspectives on ‘end time prophecy’ and eschatology
• Using technology to disseminate information, form coalitions and/or build social movements
• Capacity building: Multi-faith coalitions, alliances, and participatory approaches
• Employing inter-religious research, education and leadership for policy development and regulatory change
• Documented examples of new inter- and parareligious movements emerging from long established religious traditions
• Public policy at the intersection of secular democratic, sociocratic and/or theocratic worldview orientations
• Interfaith practice and Indigenous perspectives on place, culture, language, worldview, and identity
• Interfaith engagement in the context of missions, witnessing, and faith-based community development
• Nurturing and preserving Indigenous spiritual beliefs, even when these have acquiesced to introduced religious traditions
• Barriers and limits to interfaith research and practice
• Others (please consult the editors if you have additional ideas)

Comprising works by scholars, professionals, and practitioners from around the globe, *Interfaith Research, Education, and Practice: Beyond the Divide* will be a ground-breaking interdisciplinary publication on inter-religious thought and engagement. Published by Springer Nature, one of the global Top-Five academic publishers, it will draw from the experience and success of the books *Reimagining Christian Education* (Springer, 2018), *Innovating Christian Education Research* (Springer, 2021) and *Beyond Belief* (Springer, 2021), among others.

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

Expressions of interest to contribute to the book, initially consisting of a 200-word abstract, with the title of the work, qualifications, and the full contact details of the authors, should be sent to Dr Johannes M. Luetz at: jluetz@usc.edu.au. Details on the submission and the peer-review process will be shared with those authors whose abstracts are accepted. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is 11 February 2022. Full papers are due by 31 May 2022. The book is expected to be launched in late-2022/early 2023.

Editorial Team: Dr Johannes M. Luetz, School of Law and Society, University of the Sunshine Coast; Rev Professor Denise A. Austin, Deputy Vice President Research and Standards, Alphacrucis College; Dr Adis Duderija, Centre for Social and Cultural Research, Griffith University.