

Call for Papers for the XIII. International Bonhoeffer Congress in Stellenbosch, South Africa, January, 19th -23rd 2020

The planning committee of the XIII. International Bonhoeffer Congress, to be held January, 19th – 23rd 2020 in Stellenbosch, South Africa, invites you to submit proposals for papers to be presented at the congress.

The theme of the conference is: **How is the coming generation to go on living? Bonhoeffer and the response to our crisis and hope**

In his well-known Christmas letter “After Ten Years,” sent in December 1942 to his closest friends in the resistance, Bonhoeffer writes:

The one who allows nothing that happens to deprive him of his co-responsibility for the course of history ... will find a fruitful relationship to the events of history, beyond fruitless criticism and equally fruitless opportunism ... The ultimately responsible is not how I extricate myself heroically from a situation but how a coming generation is to go on living.

Our conference will explore the questions and themes raised by this remark. How do we place ourselves in relation to the events of history? What does it mean to stand in solidarity with our times in its crisis and hope? What does it mean to take responsibility for the future? How do we engage with the question how the coming generation is to go on living? Is Bonhoeffer’s life and theology still helpful in exploring these and related questions? And how?

Subthemes that can be addressed in conversation with Bonhoeffer’s life, work and legacy:

- Bonhoeffer and a responsible engagement with the past. This might include grappling – in conversation with Bonhoeffer – with questions such as: What have we inherited from the past? How do we deal with guilt, shame, and trauma? And what are the implications thereof for a theological engagement with notions such as responsibility, freedom, reconciliation, justice, and redress?
- Bonhoeffer and the conversation on intergenerational trauma
- Bonhoeffer and the question of tradition. How are faith and religious traditions transmitted and/ or betrayed?
- Bonhoeffer and discerning the signs of the time. What are the current threats to the integrity of the gospel? How are we to respond to the rise of nationalism, neo-nationalism and populism? How are we to engage with the threats posed by racism, patriarchy, xenophobia and other harmful strategies of othering?
- Bonhoeffer and religious plurality and polarization.
- Bonhoeffer and political theology. Are there new ways to engage with the discourses on democracy, human rights and identity politics in our day? What does prophetic imagination and resistance entail today?
- Bonhoeffer, civil courage and civility.
- Bonhoeffer and responsibility for the Earth. Bonhoeffer and the Anthropocene.
- Bonhoeffer on the future and hope

- A church for the future?
- The future of Bonhoeffer studies in contexts not his own?
- Bonhoeffer on eschatology. Bonhoeffer and apocalypticism.

We invite proposals that address these or related themes. Proposals on aspects of Bonhoeffer's life, work and legacy not addressed above might also be considered.

The proposals should be between 450 and 500 words in length. Submissions in German is also welcome, and papers during the parallel sessions can be read in German (although translation services will not be available).

The proposals must be submitted before **March, 1st 2019** to rrvosloo@sun.ac.za
The outcome regarding the proposals will be communicated via e-mail before March, 31st 2019.

For further information, visit the congress website, or contact:

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or

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