



Second Regional Conference of the Society for the Phenomenology of Religious Experience

October 10-12, 2019
Valparaiso University, Indiana, USA

Keynote Speakers

Bruce Ellis Benson (Logos Institute, University of St. Andrews)

Peter Costello (Providence College)

<http://sophere.org/conferences/regional-conference-indiana-2019/>

The purpose of this conference is to examine the philosophical problems and hands-on solutions arising in the description of religious experience. Does religious experience harbor concealed empirical and phenomenological complexity, and how do we address complexity in a focused phenomenological description which aims at revealing the essence of experience? The conference accepts papers dedicated to description of perception, imagination, body-awareness, recollection, social cognition, self-experience, temporality etc. The papers should provide not just the description of experience *per se*, but an analysis of the process or outcome of description and reflection on what description of religious experience *per se* entails. Such reflections must employ phenomenological philosophy, such as e.g. in the work of Anthony Steinbock or Jean-Luc Marion, but can also draw on contemporary dialogues between phenomenological philosophy and other traditions, such as we see in the work of researchers like Espen Dahl, Matthew Ratcliffe, Dan Zahavi, Stanley Cavell, or Evan Thompson, to name a few. Paper proposals can be related to but not necessarily bound by these initial themes:

I. Creating Descriptions of Religious Experience

II. Models for Descriptions of Religious and Spiritual Experience

III. Description of religious experience, and ecology, environmental studies, health sciences, natural sciences, history, business studies, etc.

Conference Directors: Jim Nelson, Ph.D., Psychology (Jim.Nelson@valpo.edu), Aaron Preston, Ph.D., Philosophy (Aaron.Preston@valpo.edu)

Submission: abstract of approximately 300 words to conferencevalpo@sophere.org. You can also enclose a paper of 3000 words (i.e. 30 min reading time). Submissions with ready papers will be given a priority. Session proposals with at least three presentations are also welcome, and must include abstracts of at least three presentations, a clear title of the session, a name of its chair, and a short description of the session. Abstracts have to be written in English. Submission should have two copies of the abstract: a .doc file which includes your name, paper title, affiliation, up to five key words, and full contact information, and a .pdf file formatted for anonymous review. Submission deadline July 1, 2019. Notifications of acceptance will be issued by August 1, 2019.



Selected conference papers will be published in the topical issue of Open Theology "Phenomenology of Religious Experience IV: The Description", planned for 2020. With questions, email: olouchakova@gmail.com