

Sydney College of Divinity Conference

Teaching Theology in a Technological Age

Friday 19 - Saturday 20
September, 2014



Plenary Speakers

- Professor James Dalziel, Macquarie University
- Dr Jan-Albert van den Berg, University of the Free State
- Dr Michael Jensen (formerly Moore College) Rector of St Mark's Anglican Church, Darling Point

Context

The iGeneration and theology in a digital world.

With the opening of each new digital frontier, the iGeneration learned to adapt rapidly to technological change. Students multi-task with consummate ease, accessing email on smart-phones, researching assignments on tablets, reading a book on Kindle, while drinking a flat white and listening to iTunes in the background. Educational curriculum and delivery, whether face-to-face or online, had to change to meet the learning needs of students whose attention transitions rapidly between mediums and messages.

The complexity and pace of technological change has left the theological educational sector gasping, as it struggles to devise pedagogically engaging online distance materials, or considers the possibility of using videogame mechanics and design in the classroom for teaching Greek. The technological benefits are enormous, the instant availability of information unprecedented, and the opportunities to provide theological education to groups marginalized by the tyranny of distance and time enormous. How should the theological sector address these challenges and opportunities?

Although the technological benefits are enormous, our media is replete with stories of the casualties of this change: a sedentary lifestyle and its health effects, cyber-bullying, internet predators, the psychic damage from trolls, addiction to gaming, internet predators, issues of body image, and so on. How should the theological sector, drawing upon its scriptural and teaching heritage, come to grips with the deficits that are being spawned by the technological revolution? What is our theological, pastoral, social and pedagogic responsibility in nurturing this new generation?

Streams

There will be two streams of papers during the conference, those discussing pedagogical issues relating to technology, and those discussing the theological and social implications of technology, as well as two workshops. Papers presented at this cutting edge conference will be considered for publication in another Mosaic Resources volume.

EXTENDED

Call for Papers

Papers of 30 minutes' length are invited on the opportunities and challenges facing theological education in our technological age, with particular focus on technological, theological and social implications

The title of the paper, an abstract of 300 words, and your contact and institutional details should be sent to Professor James Harrison (jimh@scd.edu.au) by 31st July 2014. Responses to proposals will be finalised by 9th August 2014.

Further Information

For further details and to register please visit our website: scd.edu.au

Location

SCD, Unit 6B, 5 Talavera Road,
North Ryde, NSW 2113