DMin Research Day

Presentations and Abstracts

ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE

Date: November 14, 2026
Time: 9am–Noon (Alberta Time, UTC-6:00)
Location: Online (via Zoom)
Zoom: https://ualberta-ca.zoom.us/j/91356523776?pwd=xsDYRU4X31M8dELWNxDLxA6eaPJIsc.1#success

Meeting ID: 9135 6523 776
Passcode: 513113

Presentation Schedule

Presentation will be approx. 40 minutes, followed by 20 minutes for questions and discussion

Welcome and Introduction
Rev. Dr. Sheryl Johnson

9:00 **A Constructivist Grounded Theory of Canadian Participants' Experience in Scriptural Reasoning: Enacting Faith-Committed, Structural, Intentional, and Relational Practice as a Pathway Toward Mutual Understanding and Communal Justice**
Dr. Inas Al Ashqar

10:00 **Camping Outside the Tent: An Exploration of Third Spaces**
Dr. Susie Kasawal

11:00 **Florilegium Logos, Spiritual life in Second Language as a Path of Transformation**
Dr. Sylvie Vidaillac

We extend our appreciation to the diverse group of academics and professionals who contributed to the success of our graduates. Each has given selflessly of their time, talents, and wisdom to serve as either Supervisors or Examiners.

- Dr. Gail Allan
- Dr. Fred Tappenden
- Dr. Mahjabeen Dhala
- Dr. Leslie Gardner
- Dr. Mona-Lee Feehan
- Dr. Geoffrey Wilfong-Pritchard
- Dr. Margaret Clark
- David Goa
- Dr. Karen Hamilton
- Dr. Veronica Dunne
- Dr. Ana Siljak

Abstracts

A Constructivist Grounded Theory of Canadian Participants' Experience in Scriptural Reasoning: Enacting Faith-Committed, Structural, Intentional, and Relational Practice as a Pathway Toward Mutual Understanding and Communal Justice
Dr. Inas Al Ashqar

This study explores participants' understandings and their lived experiences of Scriptural Reasoning (SR) and its relationship to justice and peacebuilding within the Canadian context. Although SR remains underexamined in Canadian interfaith scholarship and institutional practice, this research argues that SR offers a distinctive and powerful model of interfaith engagement grounded in faith-commitment, dialogical reciprocity, and relational openness. Using Constructivist Grounded Theory, the study investigates how SR participants interpret and embody practices that foster mutual understanding, trust, shared responsibility, and transformative learning.

The research generates a grounded theory articulated as: Enacting faith-committed, structural, intentional, and relational Scriptural Reasoning practice as a pathway toward mutual understanding and communal justice. The findings demonstrate that when appropriate structural and ethical safeguards are in place, SR sustains principled openness, encourages mutual understanding, and cultivates capacities for communal justice. Participants deeply engage with their own traditions while encountering differences without compromising faith commitments.

Camping Outside the Tent: An Exploration of Third Spaces
Dr. Susie Kasawal

This paper answers the following central question: What has been my experience ministering to people on the margins in the third space between the Catholic Church and secular society? Three subsidiary questions came from this central question: What themes emerge from this research? Who is Church? Where is Church? Using autoethnography, I have drawn upon my experience ministering to marginalized people in a Catholic social services agency and applied it to the greater culture. I found that there is indeed a third space between the Catholic Church and secular society where I could freely minister and be ministered to. The themes I discovered were joy, spiritual friendship, compassion, generosity, forgiveness, worthiness, and Truth and Reconciliation. Church was discovered to be everywhere and include everyone. I discuss how readers can find inspiration to discover their own third space and find new and innovative ways to minister.

Florilegium Logos, Spiritual life in Second Language as a Path of Transformation
Dr. Sylvie Vidaillac

This phenomenological study explored the experience of living one's spiritual life in a second language. It addressed a gap in the current knowledge at the intersection of spirituality, bilingualism, and psycho-spiritual integration/transformation. The research followed the method of heuristic self-inquiry and established a conceptual and interpretive framework within the Eastern Orthodox tradition. Seven themes captured the lived experience (letting go, ascetic discipline, contemplation,

revelation, healing, creation and pilgrimage) and were put in parallel with the threefold path of spiritual life outlined in that tradition. Findings revealed the influence of a second language in spiritual formation and integration. Translation was seen as a metaphorical act, a poetic expression related to healing and apophatic knowing. The study highlighted the intrinsic relational quality of language as a gift of communion by which we can move toward wholeness, manifesting our personhood in relation, and suggested that living the spiritual life in a second language can be a path of transformation. Pointing toward a theology of translation, this research offers both empirical and conceptual contributions to ministry work in bilingual contexts and beyond. Its theoretical and practical implications are relevant to the fields of pastoral and therapeutic service, as well as educational, interfaith and intercultural dialogue contexts. Besides ministry work, the study holds significance for all spiritual seekers in search of meaning, and as such, can help in the overcoming of personal and communal spiritual crises.