



## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

**Seventh International Conference of the  
International Network for the Study of Spirituality**

***Spirituality, Critical Reflection  
and Professional Practice  
in an Uncertain World***

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**South East Technological University, Waterford, Ireland**



**Further information: Dr Michael O'Sullivan**

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## ***Spirituality, Critical Reflection and Professional Practice in an Uncertain World***

**(<https://spiritualitystudiesnetwork.org>)**

### **What's special about an INSS conference?**

INSS came into being in 2010 in order to provide a forum where diverse studies of spirituality shaped by the approaches and priorities of different cultures, perspectives and professional obligations might be brought together in the context of what its then Chair, John Swinton, referred to as 'hospitable conversation' in both 'physical and conceptual' spaces. The expressed intention of INSS continues to be to contribute to the development, understanding and critique of the emerging field of spirituality studies by 'bringing the study of spirituality to life through research, scholarship, education and practice'. In 2023, INSS will be hosting its Seventh Biennial International Conference.

### **What's special about the conference theme?**

Over the past three years, the number of email, text and other messages sent around the world that have included a sentence such as '*I hope you are well in these uncertain times*' has been quite remarkable. Underpinned by the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, humanitarian crises caused by war and natural disasters, concerns about climate change, and the consequences of increasingly polarised and divisive politics, 'uncertainty' seems to be a key characteristic of our times. This conference will provide a space in which to consider the place of spirituality in such circumstances, together with the methodologies and methods best suited to its study, and the implications that spirituality studies may have for professional practices and personal development in uncertain times.

### **What's special about the conference venue?**

This will be the first INSS conference to be held outside the UK. The South East Technological University (SETU) in Waterford is an ideal setting for it. Waterford is Ireland's oldest city. It is a beautiful seaport city located in the sunny south east. It has a vibrant local food culture and is located within Ireland's Ancient East landscape. SETU is the newest Irish university, bringing together two previous Institutes of Technology, Waterford and Carlow. SETU is the first university for the south-east region of Ireland. It is the only third level institution in Ireland to have designated postgraduate studies in spirituality and a spirituality research unit (SpirSoP). The conference will take place at SETU Waterford, Cork Road, Waterford (Eircode: X91 KOEK). <https://www.setu.ie/>

## A special Invitation

You are warmly invited to contribute a presentation on a study of spirituality which may be drawn from any 'conceptual space'. These might include: academic disciplines; the arts; education and development; health and wellbeing; leadership and management; nature and ecology; religions, wisdom traditions and indigenous worldviews; and transpersonal studies. Studies drawing on perspectives from within specific professions and communities are also welcome.

If you would like to contribute, please follow the instructions below. We very much look forward to joining in hospitable conversation with you.

## ABSTRACTS are invited for:

- Individual oral paper presentations
- 'Dialogue pairs' (*two people* jointly presenting a topic *in dialogue with one another*)
- Symposia (these consist of more than one paper on a related theme. There is no limit to the number of papers in a symposium, but they are restricted by time, see below.)
- Workshops
- Posters

These may present accounts and findings from theoretical research and reflection, studies in professional settings and/or in contexts involving learning, teaching or facilitation in the field of spirituality. They may be from any academic, professional or community setting in which the study and practice of spirituality plays a part.

Doctoral students and new researchers in the field are warmly invited to participate and will have an opportunity to join the *INSS Spirituality Scholars Network*.

## Process

Each accepted **oral presentation** and **dialogue pair** will be allocated a **total of 30 minutes (20 minutes for presentation + 10 minutes for discussion)** in one of the six parallel sessions taking place at different times during the conference.

Two or three consecutive presentations will be scheduled in each of the seminar rooms used for the parallel sessions. They will be matched as far as possible in terms of theme or approach.

*There is a limit of one oral presentation per presenter.*

A **symposium** will be allocated a **total of 90 minutes**. It will consist of a minimum of three papers on a related theme. There is no limit to the number of papers in a symposium but it will be restricted by time.

*Depending on numbers, **workshops** may be allocated **up to 60 minutes each**. *Workshop proposals must indicate clearly the nature and extent of the activities in which participants will be involved.**

Poster presentations will be on display during Day 2 of the conference and there will be a 'live' poster session scheduled during the afternoon when participants will be able to discuss the content with poster presenters.

All presenters will have the opportunity to submit a paper based on their presentation for consideration for inclusion in the *Journal for the Study of Spirituality*. *ALL submissions are subject to a process of peer review* - see: <https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/yjss20>).

## Preparing your Abstract for Submission

Your Abstract will serve two purposes:

1. It will be reviewed anonymously by the conference committee to select presentations for inclusion in the conference.
2. If your presentation is accepted, your Abstract will be published in the conference booklet.\* This will help to inform conference participants' choices of which sessions to attend.

*\*Please note that Abstracts will only be published after the conference fee has been paid.*

**Your Abstract should be of no more than 300 words. It should be anonymous throughout.** Abstracts should be presented in English, formatted in Microsoft Word, using size 12 font

The Abstract should be *preceded* (on the same page) by:

- (i) Detail of the **nature** of your presentation (*i.e.* Oral, Dialogue Pair, Symposium, Workshop, Poster)
- (ii) The **title** of your presentation (see note on titles, below)
- (iii) Its relevance to the conference theme

***In addition to your Abstract, please supply the following information, on a separate sheet.***

### **1. Author information (primary presenter\*)**

- ✓ First Name
- ✓ Middle Initial (if appropriate)
- ✓ Last Name/Surname
- ✓ Email address
- ✓ Postal address
- ✓ Contact telephone number(s)
- ✓ Affiliation (institution/company *etc*)
- ✓ Names and affiliations of any additional authors\*

**\* One author must be designated as the primary presenter.** Correspondence will be by email and will be sent to the primary presenter only.

### **2. Presentation title**

Capitalize *only* the first letter of the first word and any proper nouns. The title is strictly limited to no more than 30 words. Registered names and trademarks are not permitted in the title.

### **3. Technical requirements**

Powerpoint will be available in some rooms. Please indicate whether or not you will wish to use this to assist your presentation.

## Submitting your Abstract

Please check that you have completed your Abstract and additional information *in the format outlined above*.

The Abstract and all additional information should be contained in a single Word document.

The document should be sent in a virus-free email attachment to Prof. Melanie Rogers:

**[m.rogers@hud.ac.uk](mailto:m.rogers@hud.ac.uk)**

***Please write 'INSS Conference Abstract' in the email header line.***

## DEADLINE

**The Deadline for receipt of Abstracts is**

**17:00 BST on 30 NOVEMBER 2022**

Notification of acceptance will be sent as soon as possible and in time to enable presenters to take advantage of the reduced 'early bird' booking fee.

**Early booking for the conference AND overnight accommodation is highly recommended.**

Ireland is a popular visitor destination and many hotels and bed & breakfast accommodations become fully booked well in advance. **The Tower Hotel** is the conference hotel and venue for the optional conference dinner. It will have a *limited number of rooms at a special rate for conference delegates from October* (Email: [events@thw.ie](mailto:events@thw.ie), mentioning INSS 2023). **The Viking Hotel** is offering a *special rate to conference delegates for single room occupancy* because of its association with SETU, but *bookings must be made by 30 December 2022* (Email: [lprendergast@vikinghotel.ie](mailto:lprendergast@vikinghotel.ie), mentioning INSS 2023). Other venues include **The Granville Hotel** and **Travelodge**.

We will have a bus to bring people between The Tower Hotel and the Cork Road Campus on Wednesday and Thursday and after the public lecture on Tuesday evening.

**Further details will be included as they become available, at:**

**<https://spiritualitystudiesnetwork.org/CONFERENCE-2023>**