

Call for Papers
Academy of Homiletics -- Annual Meeting 2023
Atlanta, Georgia
November 30 -- December 2, 2023

The Academy of Homiletics (AOH) is issuing a call for papers for its 2023 meeting, Nov. 30-Dec. 2, in Atlanta, Georgia. Our theme for the conference is “After the Sermon.”

Deliberative purpose statements, precise language translations, emphasis on exegetical integrity, proclaimer’s ethical identity, theological claims, interrogation of social issues, focused listener appeal, topic development, and contextualized delivery are a few of the standard homiletical methodologies. What happens after the preparation, delivery and expected reception of the sermon? What is the power and paucity of the preached word? How does the preacher know the effectiveness of the sermon? What is the life expectancy and applicability of the message in the lives of the listeners?

2023 WORKGROUPS OF THE ACADEMY OF HOMILETICS

(See below for full descriptions.)

Hermeneutics and Biblical Studies
History of Preaching
Identity and Imagination
Justice Ethics, and Preaching
Pedagogy
Performance Studies
Preaching and Culture

Preaching, Media, and Technology
Preaching, Environment, and Climate Crisis
Rhetoric
Theology of Preaching
(NEW THIS YEAR!) Special Session (for papers or presentations that may not fit into one of the groups listed above)

We will continue to use the traditional format in which we have two sessions for workgroups. The workgroups will meet on Friday, December 1. Half of the workgroups will meet in the morning (10:30am – 1:00 pm) and the other half in the afternoon (2:30pm – 5:00 pm). Each workgroup is allotted 2 ½ hours divided into four thirty-minute sessions with ten-minute breaks between papers. This allows for a maximum of four papers per group. Some workgroups, however, may have plans to fill some of those slots with book reviews, panel discussions, or sermons. Directions for specific workgroups can be found below.

PAPER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR ALL WORKGROUPS

Eligibility:

- Papers must be submitted by Academy members or by sponsored doctoral candidates (PhD, ThD, DMin) who have completed all coursework in a homiletics-related field.
- Papers by doctoral students are to be submitted only by a sponsoring member of the Academy on behalf of the candidate.
- Papers must meet standards for academic writing, including mechanics (spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, syntax, etc.), proper citations, and content standards as set by the workgroup convener(s). Conveners and First Vice President may return the paper to the author to fix any identified issues or may choose not to accept a paper if it does not meet these standards.

Copyright and Open Sourcing:

While in the past, Academy papers have been archived and made available to members only, at the 2015 meeting, the AOH membership voted to begin making papers accepted by the Academy and presented at the meeting available to the public through <http://commons.ptsem.edu>. If you do not wish for your paper to be

included in this open source format, simply note this at the time of your submission. Copyright for the paper is retained by the author.

Deadline Dates:

- This year, all abstracts and papers will be submitted to the 1st Vice President, Leah Schade, via an online form and she will distribute them to the conveners. *Do not send abstracts or papers to the workgroup conveners this year.*
- Students may submit their own abstracts, but papers must be submitted by the student's advisor.
- A 100-150 word abstract including keywords and identification of the workgroup for which the paper is intended to be submitted is **due by June 30**. Submit abstracts here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AOH2023-AbstractSubmission>.
- **Papers are due by September 1** and must follow the formatting instructions below to be accepted. Submit papers here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AOH2023-PaperSubmission>
- Papers will be vetted by workgroup conveners who will contact submitters about any issues regarding content, writing mechanics, or format. Final papers will be submitted to the First Vice President by **Friday, September 29**.
- The First Vice President will collect and publish the book of papers to the Academy website by the Web Editor no later than **November 3**.

Formatting:

Submit papers only in Word format, using Times New Romans, 12-point font, with Times New Roman 10-point font for footnotes. Maximum paper length is ten pages, single-spaced, including footnotes. Papers referencing historical documents can include longer excerpts of those documents in an appendix if needed that does not count as part of the ten-page limit. Follow the current Chicago Manual of Style (Turabian) for footnote citation. Do not insert page numbers.

The paper's heading should be centered, in bold font, and include the following information:

TITLE OF PAPER

Author's Name, Academic Rank, and Title (or Ph.D./Th.D./D.Min. Candidate and Program)

Sponsor: Name of Sponsor with Academic Rank and Title (for doctoral candidates only)

Name of Institution, City, School Web Address

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100-150 word abstract with keywords

PAPER SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL WORKGROUPS

HERMENEUTICS AND BIBLICAL STUDIES

The Hermeneutics and Biblical Studies workgroup welcomes papers on the interpretation of biblical texts for preaching and the exploration of hermeneutical approaches as relevant for homiletical theory. Submissions are encouraged in the following areas: hermeneutically engaged approaches to preaching on Hebrew Scripture narratives, biblical poetry, prophetic texts, wisdom traditions, the Gospels, the New Testament epistles, or biblical apocalyptic traditions; analysis of theological or ethical dimensions of the text-to-sermon move; investigation of interpretive precedents, pressures, and possibilities in the reception history of a biblical text, motif, or figure; feminist, womanist, queer, or other emancipatory hermeneutics for the transformation of contemporary preaching praxis; hermeneutical challenges and benefits of expository preaching; or another focus positioned at the nexus of text(s) and interpretation. Submissions addressing this year's conference theme are encouraged; other foci are welcome as well. This group supports the participation of emerging scholars, including students in doctoral programs. I would be glad to brainstorm topics with potential participants over

email or Zoom. Mentoring is available on the writing process and presentation format to those who request it.

Paper Submission Guidelines and Procedures:

If a paper is accepted, the presenter will have up to 20 minutes for their distilled presentation, with 10 minutes allotted for discussion. All Academy of Homiletics members are welcome to attend our sessions.

Convener:

Carolyn J. Sharp
Professor of Homiletics
Yale Divinity School
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HISTORY OF PREACHING: Preaching and the Social Sciences

This workgroup welcomes papers that explore preaching and worship in critical conversation with social sciences, especially history, sociology, ethnography, and anthropology. Potential submissions may fit broadly into categories that examine 1) sermons, worship, and homiletical themes in historical contexts, 2) sociological studies about preaching and worship in contemporary communities or traditions, and/or 3) interdisciplinary work that draws upon critical methods from social sciences to develop deep descriptions about a homiletical theme, particular preacher(s), collection of sermons, or worshipping communities.

The co-conveners are enthusiastic supporters of research from newer voices at the Academy, including submissions from candidates in graduate programs. The theme of each Academy meeting will guide conversations about potential panel discussions and partnerships with other workgroups. At the same time, the co-conveners welcome submissions of thoughtful research that may fall outside the year's theme.

Paper Submission Guidelines and Procedures:

- Papers submitted to the group will be evaluated by a small “jury” of the co-conveners. If a paper concerns an area, figure, era, or style that is not familiar to the co-conveners, they will ask someone with relevant competence to evaluate it. The standards will be the standards for things like evidence, sources, and claims that are appropriate for the particular descriptive discipline involved. We will also look for clarity of thought, significant arguments, and, of course, a clear focus on preaching.
- Submissions can be accepted in the form in which they are submitted, accepted on the condition of some revisions, or simply refused. All papers will receive comments designed to help the author take the paper to the next level.
- Multi-media submissions are welcome, especially when the media contribute to the work of rich description. For instance, archival recordings that could be played in a workgroup session might significantly enhance the quality of a paper.

Co-Conveners:

Hyemin Na
Assistant Professor of Worship, Media and Culture Wesley Theological Seminary
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Andrew T. Scales
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Kimberly R. Wagner
Assistant Professor of Homiletics Princeton Theological Seminary
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IDENTITY AND IMAGINATION

The Identity and Imagination group considers the theological implications and horizons of identity and imagination for homiletics. “Identity” indicates how self-examination and embodiment in all of their array empower preaching. “Imagination” articulates how freedom of thought emboldens homiletic inquiries that may not easily fit within other Academy workgroups. For example, papers that situate proclamation as more than an ecclesial practice and exclusively Christian -- that explore religious pluralism and interreligious dialogue -- fit within the auspices of the group. In general, papers, panel proposals, and sermon colloquia that explore embodied, adventurous, and multidisciplinary approaches to homiletics are all warmly welcomed.

Paper Submission Guidelines and Procedures:

Members are encouraged to submit academic papers or sermons related to the description of the Workgroup or the conference theme. In order to ensure ample time for discussion, sermons should not exceed 15 minutes. We also welcome graduate student contributions that are appropriately scholarly and have garnered appropriate home institution and advisor support.

Conveners:

Gerald Liu

geraldcliu@gmail.com

Jake Myers, Wade P. Huie, Jr. Associate Professor of Homiletics, Director of MATS Program at Columbia Theological Seminary

Myersj@ctsnet.edu

JUSTICE, ETHICS, AND PREACHING

This workgroup welcomes papers that advocate for preaching about societal issues and concerns related to justice and ethics. Topics may include (but are not limited to) issues such as immigration policy, racism, white supremacy, sexism, classism, sex trafficking, domestic violence, etc.

Topics related to the conference theme are welcome and must be related to the focus of the workgroup. Papers should provide suggestions about how to preach effectively on these topics. Other topics may be considered.

Paper Submission Guidelines and Procedures:

No more than four papers will be accepted for any given annual meeting to allow for meaningful discussions. At least one slot each year will be reserved for a graduate student paper. Though papers are generally accepted on a first come, first serve basis, papers may be denied for poor academic quality.

Convener:

Debra J. Mumford

Frank H. Caldwell Professor of Homiletics Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary dmumford@lpts.edu

PEDAGOGY

The Pedagogy Work group explores and demonstrates theory and method on matters pertaining directly to the teaching of preaching. The convener and assisting members will attempt to provide balance between papers discussing theories of teaching and papers that demonstrate specific teaching practices for homileticians to consider. We prefer but are not limited to pedagogical philosophies and/or practices that have been tested in homiletics classrooms or field experiences.

Participation:

Participants are invited to stay with the workgroup for its full session and to consider making a long-term commitment. Neither is required as guests are always welcome.

Paper Submission Guidelines and Procedures:

- The Convener and another group member will read all papers submitted to this workgroup. If more papers are submitted than can be accommodated the Convener will ask members of the group to help decide which papers are most deserving.
- Earlier submissions will receive earlier approvals.
- The group wants to supply a safe space for the exploration of new ideas, so its goal is not to exclude papers. The convener may, however, refuse papers lacking in correct style or academic quality.
- Papers addressing the theme of the 2023 meeting will be given preference so far as they are related to homiletical pedagogy.
- 30 minutes will be allotted per paper. Presenters are encouraged to limit summaries of their paper to 10 minutes to allow ample time for discussion of the work by the group.

Convener:

TBA

PERFORMANCE STUDIES

The Performance Studies group explores preaching as performance: an embodied, dramatic event involving the preacher, texts, community, and Spirit, an interplay of performers and participative audience. Recent papers have focused on the theological and performative implications of call and response traditions in the African American church, the performance of scriptural texts as a way to name and engage trauma, and the role of digitally-archived sermon performances in homiletic pedagogy. Growing out of the pandemic, our conversations around online performance (and teaching online performance) have been particularly generative. While the breadth of our conversations as a workgroup is broad, preference is given to papers that engage the theme of the Annual Meeting. This year's theme is: "After the Sermon." What is the relationship between performance and the listeners' experience of that performance that they carry with them?

Paper Submission Guidelines and Procedures:

Since the fruitful teaching exchange led by Michael Brothers in 2019, this workgroup has also welcomed members to share speech/performance practices that have been most beneficial in the preaching classroom. Brief presentations and demonstrations may employ volunteers from the workgroup as participants. To propose a performance practice, please submit a title along with a one-paragraph description and explanation of the purpose of the practice. Using or adapting exercises from other texts or workshops is encouraged with proper crediting of sources. Papers should follow the stated guidelines and deadlines for the Academy.

Convener:

Samantha Gilmore

Assistant Professor of Homiletics, Wartburg Theological Seminary

sgilmore@wartburgseminary.edu

PREACHING AND CULTURE

The Preaching and Culture Workgroup is concerned with cultural approaches to homiletics. Our globalized, multicultural world drives us to take the relationship between preaching and culture seriously by critically analyzing current practices of Christian preaching grounded in traditional Western rhetoric and hermeneutics. It

also challenges us to reconstruct homiletical theories more relevant to our changing cultural context for preaching. Papers providing insights into postmodern, postcolonial, intercultural, or intergenerational preaching are welcome. Those dealing with preaching on social and ethical issues emerging from local and global cultural contexts, such as race, gender, sexuality, immigration, climate change, economic and power disparity, abortion, disability, religious pluralism, etc., are also welcome. Moreover, we encourage you to submit your work on Asian and Asian American preaching, African American preaching, Native American preaching, Hispanic preaching, or other racially and ethnically distinctive preaching. The workgroup will help you strengthen the scope of your research through constructive conversation.

Paper Submission Guidelines and Procedures:

- Both conveners review all submissions. While we hope to accept each proposal in its submitted form, the workgroup conveners may ask for additional revisions, recommend another group for the proposal, or decline the submission.
- We encourage graduate students to submit their papers sponsored by a member of the Academy.
- In addition to essay submissions, we welcome the submission of guild-appropriate sermon manuscripts with analyses and proposals for panel discussions and book reviews. Please consult the workgroup conveners via email before proposal submission.
- A maximum of four sessions, including paper presentations and panel discussions, will be offered, thirty minutes per each. Presenters are encouraged to limit summaries of their papers to ten minutes to allow sufficient time for the discussion of the work by the group.
- Multi-media presentations are encouraged.
- We encourage all participants to read contributions in advance for full and lively participation.
- Visitors are welcome.

Co-conveners:

Eunjoo Mary Kim

Charles G. Finney Professor in Homiletics, Vanderbilt University Divinity School

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Sunggu A. Yang

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PREACHING, MEDIA, AND TECHNOLOGY

The Preaching and Media Workgroup will engage the potential intersections between Preaching and Social Media and Technology, especially considering this year's theme and the experiences of preachers today. Technology is playing a larger and more integrative part of 21st century culture. How can preaching, media, and technology aid in creating a preaching renaissance? This work group will look at the ways preaching using media and technology intersect, how and why media and technology can be used in worship, why it might not be useful in some situations and contexts, and the theological and practical implications for their possible utilization in our preaching, especially regarding the theme of a preaching renaissance.

Paper Submission Guidelines and Procedures:

Since this workgroup is a relatively new addition to the Academy of Homiletics, the members are encouraged to submit any academic papers related to the description of the Workgroup. In addition, sermons and book reviews are welcome. If you want to preach a sermon and discuss it, your preaching should be no longer than 10 minutes. Please feel free to contact the convener if you have any questions.

Convener:

Karyn L. Wiseman

Herman G. Stuempfle Professor of Homiletics

PREACHING, ENVIRONMENT, AND CLIMATE CRISIS

Formed in 2022, this workgroup intends to meet for three years in order to foster a sustained and focused conversation about intersections between homiletics and environmental issues, especially the climate crisis. This workgroup provides a forum for raising awareness about and equipping homiletics professors for instructing their students on preaching about topics such as anthropocentrism, colonialism, food and faith, environmental racism, and ecological justice.

There is an urgent need for homileticians to address preaching and the environment given the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2021 showing that the next decade is a critical window of opportunity for limiting the worst effects of global warming and preparing communities for impacts of the climate crisis. Research conducted by Leah Schade surveying congregations has shown a rising interest in having their clergy address climate change and other environmental issues from the pulpit. As well, her surveys of clergy indicate that there is a growing number of preachers who are in need of homiletical support for crafting sermons that provide biblical and theological framing for the climate crisis and other environmental issues.

Paper Submission Guidelines and Procedures:

- This workgroup builds on previous AOH themes on preaching and creation (2018), unmasking whiteness (2019), trauma (2020), and decentering (2022) as its approach is interdisciplinary and intersectional. For example, scholars may consider preaching and the environment from biblical, pedagogical, performative, rhetorical, or liturgical perspectives.
- The conveners invite papers, sermons, and proposals for panel discussions that will address the climate crisis and other environmental issues and speak to the core of our homiletical discipline.
- A goal for this workgroup is to curate submissions for an edited anthology on preaching, environment, and the climate crisis.

Co-Conveners:

HyeRan Kim-Cragg

Timothy Eaton Memorial Church Associate Professor of Preaching, Emmanuel College

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Leah Schade

Associate Professor of Preaching and Worship, Lexington Theological Seminary

lschade@lextheo.edu

RHETORIC

The Rhetoric Workgroup provides a forum for exploring questions related to the human dimension of preaching's craft traditionally identified with both the classical and contemporary traditions of rhetoric. From antiquity rhetoric has been taught as the art of reasoning in matters of contingent discourse trading in probable judgments rather than certain knowledge, in communicating contextually applied truths rather than communicating universal truths. Rhetoric then provides homiletics with resources to examine aspects of the craft of preaching, focused on how potentially diverse listeners may be influenced to become receptive to sermonic appeals, whether explicitly or implicitly embedded in this reasoning. It also focuses on developing increasing awareness of what counts as contextually meaningful sermonic reasoning resources. This includes context and meaningful sermonic language use (including figures of thought and speech), contextually meaningful sermonic designs, and contextually meaningful forms of sermon delivery. In general, contributors are encouraged to either address the theme for the Academy meeting that year or contribute to disciplinary knowledge out of their own scholarly project(s). Occasional forums on selected subjects may be held.

Convener:

Joseph Evans

Associate Professor of Homiletics

Dean of the Morehouse School of Religion, Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA j.e3@aol.com

THEOLOGY OF PREACHING

As teachers of preaching, we are tasked with helping our students develop a theology of preaching that will deepen and develop through a lifetime of breaking open God's Word. We explore our theological vision as we consider questions such as:

- Who is the God whom I preach? What is the action of God in preaching?
- How do we understand and articulate the act of preaching and the role of the preacher within the community and in the mission of the church?
- How is our theology of preaching formed and articulated, consciously or unconsciously by our social location, ethnicity and culture?

Our responses to these and other similar questions constitute our theology of preaching.

Paper Submission Guidelines and Procedures:

We recognize that while some Academy members have a long-standing relationship with a particular working group, others prefer to hear a variety of papers. We welcome all who wish to attend, whether that attendance is for the entire session or one particular paper. We strongly encourage participants to read and reflect on the papers they will hear, so that they may participate fully and fruitfully in the discussions.

For 2023, the Theology of Preaching Workgroup will accept up to 4 papers for presentation. Doctoral students who have completed all of their course work are invited to submit a paper **via their advisor**, who should be a full member of the academy. Preference will be given to submissions related to the conference theme, "After the Sermon." If more than four papers are submitted, the conveners will select those to be presented. No papers in need of significant editing for content, length, or language will be considered.

Convener:

Susan McGurgan

Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology

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