

DRIVEN BY HOPE: ECONOMICS AND THEOLOGY IN DIALOGUE



Call for Papers

Call for Papers

DRIVEN BY HOPE: ECONOMICS AND THEOLOGY IN DIALOGUE

The Institute for Leadership and Social Ethics (ILSE) and the Erasmus Happiness Economics Research Organisation (EHERO) will organize a conference entitled 'Driven by Hope: Economics and Theology in Dialogue', from February 24–25, 2017, in Leuven (Belgium). We invite academic submissions from different disciplines regarding this topic. The deadline for submission of proposals is December 15th, 2016 (see below).

INTRODUCTION

Hope is a driving force for transformation, innovation, economic growth and wellbeing. Hope, often articulated as “an endorsed desire for an uncertain future event”, has a clear economic significance as do the unfortunate opposites have such as anxiety and inertness. Hope contributes to happiness, coping, trusting and perseverance. Hope is a strong emotion (feeling), a way of perceiving reality (cognitive) as well as a virtue (praxis). Hence, hope is more than just an emotion or an optimistic attitude. It is related to reason and prudence in the sense of one’s rational assessment of a difficult situation, possible solutions and the prediction of changes. Hope is as complex and ambiguous as the human person itself. For many centuries philosophers, theologians and others have reflected on the meaning of hope. More recently hope has drawn attention from the young discipline of positive psychology. Also in economics, attempts are made to define the concept and measure its effects, opening up the way for policy interventions. The study of the effects of hope in our economy challenges the dogmatic distinction between fact and value. It supplements the economic concept of the rational, selfish homo economicus with more social, emotional and ethical aspects of human behaviour. Hope therefore plays a role in behavioral economics, development economics and markets.

Considering its enigmatic nature, the concept of hope requires an interdisciplinary investigation. The academic conference “Driven by Hope” contributes – its aim is to form an initial step to have a better understanding of the field of research as well as an incentive to encourage dialogue, primarily between economics and theology, but also including other disciplines such as philosophy and psychology.

The keynote speakers for this conference are Prof. Dr. Luigino Bruni, Prof. Dr. Patrick Nullens, and Dr. Martijn Burger.



ABSTRACTS AND DEADLINE

Abstracts should be maximum 500 words, and should fall within the theme of the conference, described above. Each abstract will be assessed blindly by at least two experts. Abstracts can be submitted by email to Dr. Steven van den Heuvel, at steven.vandenheuvel@etf.edu.

Please attach two separate Word documents to your email:

- *Document 1:* Your paper proposal, include key bibliographic sources consulted (max. 5). In this document, all identifying references to the author should be removed.
- *Document 2:* Your name, first name, email address, institutional address, the title of your abstract, the topic under which your paper proposal falls, as well as a short CV (1 page max.).

Deadline: December 15th, 2016.

You will receive a response on December 31st, 2016 at the latest.



POTENTIAL TOPICS

Scholars are invited to submit an abstract on the significance of hope in general and the interplay in theology, philosophy, psychology and economics in particular.

Papers may for example address certain specific domains or issues like:

Theology

- Conversation theology and economics (methodological challenges)
- Hope in biblical studies and theology
- Hope and theological/philosophical anthropology
- Hope and the common good in theological ethics

Ethics

- Justice and hope
- The role of 'hope' in the capabilities approach
- Reciprocity and hope
- Hope as a secular virtue

Happiness economics

- Hope and happiness
- Hope as incentive in the economy
- Hope in development economics
- Hope in organisations

Psychology & Methodology

- Managing expectations and hope
- Hope and positive psychology (in organizations, business...)
- Measuring hope: challenges and options
- Hope, needs and desire.

CONFERENCE

Publication

A volume of the academic peer-reviewed series Christian Perspectives on Leadership and Social Ethics (Peeters Publications) will be dedicated for the publication of selected papers.

Date & Location

The conference will be hosted from February 24–25, 2017, in the Leuven Center of Christian Studies, part of the Evangelische Theologische Faculteit. The address is: Sint Jansbergsesteenweg 95, 3001 Leuven, Belgium. Registration information will be available soon on the website etf-ilse.org.

Call for Papers



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE PARTNERS

The Erasmus Happiness Economics Research Organisation (EHERO) is a multidisciplinary thinktank and research institute in the field of happiness research and part of the Erasmus School of Economics, which in turn is part of the Erasmus University Rotterdam. The mission of EHERO is to contribute to greater happiness for a greater number of people, through conducting original research and by disseminating the results of this research. More information can be found on <http://eur.nl/ehero>.

The Institute for Leadership and Social Ethics (ILSE) is a research institute connected to the Evangelische Theologische Faculteit, Leuven (Belgium) The institute aims at developing a Christian perspective on aspects of leadership and social ethics, specifically as they contribute to a just and sustainable society. For more information, see: <http://etf-ile.org>.

The conference is funded by The Goldschmeding Foundation. See <https://goldschmedingfoundation.org/>

QUOTES

"Dum spiro, spero. While I breathe, I hope." (Cicero)

"Hope is definitely not the same thing as optimism. It is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out." (Václav Havel)

SOME (RECENT) LITERATURE FOR INITIAL ORIENTATION

- Nullens, P., M. Burger, S. van den Heuvel & E. Pleeging (2016). Hoop als drijfveer. Management & Organisatie 3(4), 79-91.
- Scioli, Anthony; Michael Ricci; than Nyugen and Erica R. Scioli (2011). Hope: its Nature and Measurement. Psychology of Religion and Spirituality 3(2): 78-97.
- Lybbert, Travis J. and Bruce Wydick (2015). Poverty, Aspirations, and the Economics of Hope.
- Snyder, C.R. (2000). The past and possible futures of hope. Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology 19(1): 11-28.
- McCloskey, D. N. (2006). Bourgeois Virtue. John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

