



9th International Conference on Ageing and Spirituality

***A Virtual Conference
In June 2021***

Vital Connections:

Claiming voice and learning to listen

Call for Abstracts & Submission Information

Deadline: March 15, 2021

Conference Theme

The topic of spirituality and aging is of vital importance to our communities, especially as the population of older adults rapidly increases. The theme chosen for the 9th International Conference on Ageing and Spirituality¹ is ***Vital Connections: Claiming voice and learning to listen***, an invitation to explore issues of **connection** within the context of aging and spirituality. The COVID-19 **pandemic** has provided new concerns, opportunities and urgency in this field.

Our conversation will focus on **communication** (finding language for spirituality, communicating beyond words and across cultures, story-telling and listening), **communion** (growing in healing relationship with one another, the natural world, and the divine), and **community** (the role of elders in society, intergenerational relationships, growing old together, dignity and ethics, cultivating hospitable communities for aging). What role is there for **the arts**, and **technology**? Finally, what is the **state of the field** of spirituality and aging? Where have we been and where are we going?

We invite proposals for posters, short pre-recorded videos or papers to be delivered live that engage with any of these topics.

Conference sessions will occur on seven occasions (90 minutes each) between June 8th and June 22/23, 2021.

¹ As the first 'International Conference on Ageing & Spirituality' was hosted in a country where 'ageing' is spelled with an 'e,' this spelling is retained for the conference title. Both spellings are considered correct, and we anticipate both will be used throughout the conference.

About the Event

This conference attracts international researchers and scholars with expertise in aging, religion, and spirituality, as well as practitioners, policy-makers, faith communities, and care partners. All are welcome to come together for stimulating discussions, learning opportunities, and meaningful connections with others who care about the role of spirituality in aging persons' lives.

Platform and timing

In order to accommodate multiple time zones, conference sessions will be brief and spread out over a 3 week period. Participants will connect through a Zoom link.

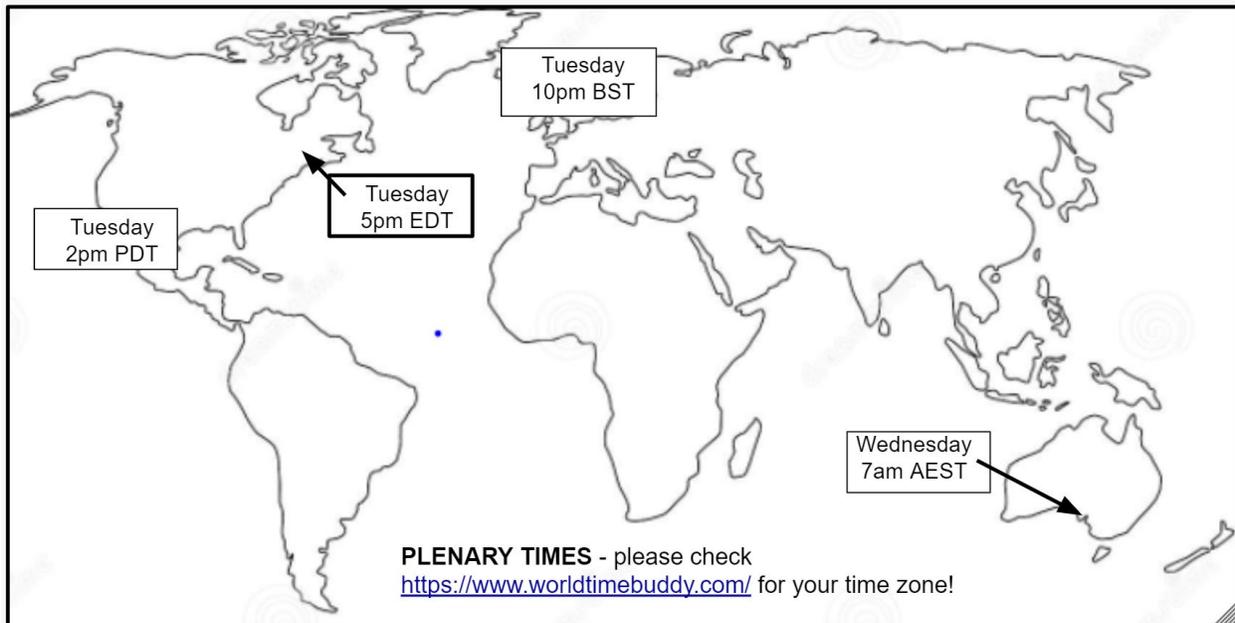
Plenary sessions (90 minutes) will be on Tuesdays (Wednesday morning in Australia).

Paper sessions (90 minutes) will be on Thursdays (Friday morning in Australia).

Both plenary and paper sessions will allow for engagement with fellow participants from around the world through small groups and question/response opportunities.

Posters and pre-recorded videos will be available for online viewing, with contact information provided for those who would like to pursue conversation.

PLENARY SESSION MAP (3 consecutive Tuesdays, **starting June 8th, 2021**, for 90 minutes, beginning at 5pm Waterloo, Canada (EDT) = 10 pm London, UK (BST) = 7 am Wednesdays Melbourne/Sydney, AU (AEST)



PAPER SESSION SCHEDULE (for the two Thursdays (Friday in Australia) between the plenary days, at 12 noon and 7pm Waterloo time (EDT)

12 noon Waterloo (EDT)	7pm Waterloo (EDT)
= 9 am Los Angeles (PDT)	= 4pm Los Angeles (PDT)

= 5 pm London UK (BST)	= 9 am (Friday) Melbourne (AEST)
------------------------	----------------------------------

Again, please use worldtimebuddy.com to find the correct time for your exact location. These times were chosen to suit as many time zones as possible for live participation. Paper presentation times will be chosen to be as convenient as possible for the time zone of the presenter. Recordings will be available later for those unable to participate live.

Sessions

You'll be prompted to choose between a paper, video recording and poster when completing the submission form.

1. **Paper** (20 minute presentation): Paper topics should relate directly to some aspect of aging and spirituality and address one or more of the themes of the conference. Papers are allowed a 20-minute presentation time. There are three papers in a 90-minute session, with time allotted for discussion. These sessions will be held as a Zoom meeting, with the ability to share your screen in order to share slides or other content.

2. **Poster**: Posters will be submitted as a pdf file and posted on the conference website. You may send a short video (up to 5 minutes) to support/explain your poster if you like. We ask that contact information be provided to enable questions and conversation (You may also choose to provide a Zoom link for a specific 'question and response' time).

3. **Short videos**: 5 minute videos (maximum ___ MB) are invited to share a creative project or care practice, or to briefly share research with PowerPoint slides. One simple way to create a video is to record a Zoom call with oneself. We ask that contact information be provided to enable questions and conversation (You may also choose to provide a Zoom link for a specific 'question and response' time).

Submission Information

Requirements: Complete the submission form online. Submissions must include the following information:

- Contact information for the primary presenter
- Names and summary of credentials and relevant experience for each presenter
- Abstract / summary of the proposal

In addition, for papers:

- Session title (no more than 12 words)
- Session description and session objectives (no more than 150 words each)

The maximum number of proposal submissions for an individual is **two**. The maximum number of proposals from the same organization is **five**.

All submissions must be transmitted online using the form at <https://uwaterloo.ca/ageing-spirituality/> and will be peer reviewed.

Deadline: The deadline for submission is **March 15, 2021**. Eligible proposals must include all requested information.

Assessment Criteria

The Conference Planning Committee is seeking proposals that are informative, relevant, and encourage opportunities to engage audience members. We are seeking a diverse cadre of presenters whose presentations:

- Demonstrate a connection to the conference theme and sub-themes
- Demonstrate positive impact on older adults, families, the community and/or organizations
- Share innovative ideas and replicable information
- Are based on or supported by research, theory, experience and/or practice, with evidence of evaluation
- Address different levels of experience with work related to spirituality and aging
- Stimulate and encourage discussion

Status Notification

All submitted proposals will be reviewed by at least two persons on the planning committee. A notification of the status of your proposal will be sent by **early April, 2021**.

Please hold the dates and times in the paper presentation schedule above until you are notified of your proposal status.

Registration Fees

Presenters are required to register for the Conference and to pay the \$65 CAD (Canadian) registration fee by **May 1st, 2021** to confirm their session. A reduced fee of \$55 CAD for students/low income will be available.

Any questions should be directed to Jane Kuepfer at icas@uwaterloo.ca

****Publication opportunity****

The open access journal **Religions** (ISSN 2077-1444, indexed in A&HCI and SCOPUS) has launched a new Special Issue entitled **“Spirituality and Aging: Finding Meaning in the Context of Personal and Societal Change”**.

Though this journal is not connected to this conference, we recognize that material presented at the conference may also be appropriate to publish in this journal special issue. For more information on the issue, please visit the Special Issue website:

https://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions/special_issues/Spiritual_Aging

Papers may be submitted from now until **March 31, 2022**, as papers will be published on an ongoing basis. Submitted papers should not be under consideration for publication elsewhere. ACP fees for accepted papers will be very reasonable for an open access journal (100 Swiss Francs). If you would like to contribute, please email Jane Kuepfer (guest editor) by **March 31, 2021 (tentative abstract deadline)** with a title and abstract (email: jane.kuepfer@uwaterloo.ca).