

Call for Papers: Christian Education in a Secular Age

[Briercrest College and Seminary](#) (Caronport, Saskatchewan) invites proposals for a virtual conference titled “Christian Education in a Secular Age,” to be held October 28-29, 2021. This was initially advertised for the fall of 2020 and canceled due to COVID-19. If you previously submitted a proposal that was accepted, the organizers will be in touch with you shortly.

This conference will explore aspects of the theory and practice of Christian higher education with particular attention to the interdisciplinary impact of Charles Taylor’s *A Secular Age*. Dr. Jens Zimmermann will give the keynote address, “The Challenge and Promise of Christian Humanism.” Proposals are invited for individual papers, panels, and roundtable discussions. Papers examining theoretical issues or scholarship and teaching in any of the disciplines in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and Christian ministry are welcome. At the heart of this conference is a central question: How can Christian education contribute to human flourishing within our secular context?

Potential areas of exploration include:

- How does Charles Taylor’s diagnosis of our current secular age produce consequences and opportunities for Christian scholars and educators?
- How might Christian education foster attention to the metaphysical frameworks that promote human flourishing?
- What are the implications of *A Secular Age* for study in various disciplines (history, psychology, biblical studies, etc.)?
- How might Christian humanism provide ways for Christian educators to operate in a secular educational system?
- What are the advantages to educators of operating in a secular age rather than one where faith was the assumed fallback position?
- What new opportunities and/or challenges has the global pandemic created for Christians involved in higher education?

Proposals should include a one-page cv for each participant as well as a title and abstract of no more than 400 words, describing the paper, panel, or roundtable and its relation to the themes of the conference. An electronic copy of the proposal should be sent to Dr. Joy Demoskoff at jdemoskoff@briercrest.ca by June 15, 2021. Successful applicants will be contacted by June 30, 2021.

Conference Format

This digital conference will have synchronous and asynchronous elements. The participants will submit recorded papers to the conference organizers by Oct. 15, 2021. Starting on Monday, Oct. 25, participants will have access to all the papers and discussion boards. On Oct. 28 and 29, panels will meet virtually for live discussion, facilitated by a chair. On Thursday evening, all participants will have the opportunity to join Dr. Zimmermann for a conversation engaging his keynote address. Recordings and discussion boards will remain available to participants until Nov. 5, 2021.

The organizers intend to publish an edited volume after the conference proceedings; further details will be announced after the conference.