



# “Education in Crisis”



Call for Conference Papers from Emerging Scholars.

**The Annual McAuley Conference,  
Department of Theology & Religious Studies,  
Mary Immaculate College – University of Limerick -**

**May 21 – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015**

Bursaries for participation available and online registration now open.

See: <http://www.mic.ul.ie/mcauleyconference>

This year, the annual McAuley will explore “Education in Crisis”, examining resources both inside and outside the Christian tradition that can help in countering what are perceived as increasingly instrumentalist and politicised educational systems dominated by short-term thinking. In particular, we will explore the resources that exist within the Christian tradition to foster human growth and maturation, and to educate for the common good.

The event will mark the fiftieth anniversary of *Gravissimum Educationis*, and the twenty-fifth of *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*. It will take place on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015 and is for all who work at the coalface of education, whether in primary, secondary, tertiary, continuing professional development or further education contexts.

The conference organizing committee consists of Dr Rik Van Nieuwenhove, Dr Eugene Duffy, Dr Patrick Connolly, and Prof Eamonn Conway, Deirdre Franklin, Dr Jessica Kindler, and David Kennedy.

Confirmed speakers include:

- Prof **Frank Furedi** (School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, University of Kent, UK, author of *Wasted: Why Education is not Educating*);
- Prof **William Desmond** (School of Philosophy, *Katholieke Universiteit Leuven*, Belgium);
- Rev Dr **Ron Nuzzi** (Institute for Educational Initiatives, University of Notre Dame, USA);
- Prof **Lieven Boeve**, (Faculty of Theology, *Katholieke Universiteit Leuven*, and the Education Office of the Belgian Bishops’ Conference);
- Prof **Mary Gallagher** (School of Languages & Literature, UCD, author of *Academic Armageddon: an Irish Requiem for Higher Education*);
- Sr **Mary Jo Martin** RSHM, (Chief Inspector of Schools, Education Commission of the Archdiocese of Westminster, UK);
- Prof **Conleth Hussey** (Dept of Civil Engineering and Materials Science, UL);

and members of the Department of Theology & Religious Studies, Mary Immaculate College.

## Call for Papers

In association with the Irish Section of the European Society for Catholic Theology, the main conference event will be preceded by an **Emerging Scholars' Symposium**. The call for papers is now open in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. **Eligibility for participation:** currently registered postgraduate students and recent Master's and PhD graduates (up to five years). The conference welcomes participation by recent postgraduates currently teaching in primary and secondary schools.

2. **Themes:** papers from **various disciplinary perspectives** that broadly relate to the conference theme will be considered. The following is an indicative list of topics only:

- The distinctiveness of Christian education;
- Instrumentalisation and managerialism in educational institutions, the commodification of education; these developments as manifestations of secularism; sources within and outside the Christian tradition that resist these tendencies;
- The place and contribution of faith-based education in a pluralist cultural context;
- Research, case-studies and models of best practice in regard to the implementation of a faith-based ethos in educational contexts;
- Quality Assurance in regard to ethos in faith-based schools and colleges;
- The future of the faith-based school/university
- Contemporary issues in education in the ROI, e.g. the Forum on Patronage & Pluralism; implications of policies in regard to "divesting" and "stand-alone" schools, and the introduction of ERB & Ethics; DES and HEA educational policies in the light of the Christian vision of the human person; issues in regard to social inclusion and equality of access; curricular issues.
- The charisms of religious orders involved in education: history and legacy.
- Magisterial teaching on Catholic education in contemporary and historical contexts; in particular, *Gravissimum Educationis*, and *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*;
- The school, the parish and the family; the roles and responsibilities of parents, chaplains and pastors in Christian education;
- Education, the mission of the Church and the task of evangelisation;
- New developments in Religious Education;
- Christian education, adult education and life-long education;
- The continuing professional development of the Christian educator;
- Education, Spirituality and Psychology;
- Leading a faith-based educational institution: challenges and opportunities;
- New research on outstanding Christian and humanist educators.

*We know that when mere utility and pure pragmatism become the principal criteria, much is lost and the results can be tragic: from the abuses associated with a science which acknowledges no limits beyond itself, to the political totalitarianism which easily arises when one eliminates any higher reference than the mere calculus of power. The authentic idea of the University, on the other hand, is precisely what saves us from this reductionist and curtailed vision of humanity (Pope Benedict XVI to Young University Professors, World Youth Day, Madrid, 2011).*

3. **How to apply:** A proposal of max 250 words should be submitted on line before 17 April. Applicants must also register for the conference. A link to the application form and registration form is located on the conference webpage here: <http://www.mic.ul.ie/mcauleyconference> No registration fee will apply if your paper is accepted. The decision of this committee in regard to the acceptance of proposals and the award of bursaries is final.

4. **Acceptance and Presentation details:**

- It is **not** necessary to be a member of the European Society for Catholic Theology to participate, and those working in various disciplines are welcome to submit papers;
- Applicants will be notified promptly in regard to the acceptance of their papers;
- Presenters will be assigned a maximum 20 minutes for their presentation;
- Presenters must indicate when submitting their abstracts if they will have any technical needs (AV, data projector etc).
- A small number of papers may be considered for subsequent publication.

#### 5. Travel & Participation Bursaries:

**Anyone whose paper is accepted for presentation will be given a fee waiver.**

A limited number of bursaries, consisting of one night's B & B, and a contribution towards travel expenses of max €50 (national) and €100 (international) are also available. Preference will be given to full-time students and the unwaged. Apply at the time of submission of abstract. Accommodation will be booked directly by the conference organisers, and travel expenses will be refunded against receipts after the event. It is a condition of the bursary that recipients participate fully both in the Emerging Scholars' Symposium on Thursday May 21<sup>st</sup> and the main conference on Thursday May 21<sup>st</sup> and Friday May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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*Do not be disheartened in the face of the difficulties that the educational challenge presents! Educating is not a profession but an attitude, a way of being; in order to educate it is necessary to step out of ourselves and be among young people, to accompany them in the stages of their growth and to set ourselves beside them. Give them hope and optimism for their journey in the world. Teach them to see the beauty and goodness of creation and of man who always retains the Creator's hallmark. But above all with your life be witnesses of what you communicate (Pope Francis, June 7 2013).*

#### 6. Contact Information:

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