RELGIOUS PERSPECTIVES AND ALTERNATIVE FUTURES IN AN AGE OF HUMANS
MAY 17-20 2018
INDIANA UNIVERSITY
BLOOMINGTON, IN.

CONFERENCE CALL FOR PAPER PROPOSALS
Deadline for submission: January 15, 2018

Conference Theme:
The Anthropocene, a proposed term for a geological epoch characterized by unprecedented human transformation of the planet, originated in earth systems science and has since captured the imagination of many humanists. Discourse on the Anthropocene, which probes the meaning of humanity's role and agency within deep time and planetary evolution, raises religious and ethical questions about how to understand humanity's place within planetary evolution, and how to envison the future trajectory of humans and human societies.

This conference is part of a multi-year, multi-university project, “Being Human in the Age of Humans: Perspectives from Religion and Ethics,” funded by Humanities Without Walls and led by Lisa Sideris (Indiana University), Celia Deane-Drummond (Notre Dame), Sarah Fredericks (University of Chicago) and Kyle Powys Whyte (Michigan State University). More information on the project is available here.

We, the conveners of the conference, do not assume that the Anthropocene is a given. Instead, we welcome critical engagement with the language, concepts, and social imaginaries of the Anthropocene. To foster such research and dialogue, we especially seek proposals that do the following:

- Critically analyze religious presuppositions of Anthropocene concepts and narratives (how, for example, are these narratives functioning like religion?)
- Challenge the presumed neutrality of Anthropocene narratives and futures (for example, analyses of how science is deployed or even distorted in Anthropocene discourse)
- Propose alternative approaches to understanding agency in the Anthropocene (e.g. alternatives to the anthropos of the Anthropocene as an undifferentiated human “species” or aggregate entity)
- Actively engage with indigenous perspectives, including alternative cosmological, narrative, and ethical frameworks for action.
- Develop feminist approaches to conceiving temporal aspects of environmental change, technology and religion.
Create intellectual space for conceiving of environmental change in different ways, temporally, experientially, or otherwise (e.g. critical animal studies, multispecies approaches, extinction studies, evolutionary anthropology)

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION
Important Dates:

Deadline for abstract submissions: January 15, 2018
Notification emailed by: Feb 10, 2018
Registration deadline: All presenters are expected to register for the conference by April 1, 2018
Conference dates: Thursday May 17-20 2018

Submission Guidelines
Individual paper proposals
All individual paper proposals must include:
• Presenting author information including
  - First and last name
  - Affiliation
  - Email address
  All communication about the proposal will be with the presenting author. It will be the responsibility of the presenting author to communicate with secondary authors.
• Secondary author(s), if any
  - First and last name(s)
  - Affiliation(s)
• Title of the abstract
• Abstract highlighting the main concepts of the presentation – up to 300 words
• Detailed description of the paper’s main arguments, methods, and sources – not to exceed 800 words

Session (Panel) proposals
All Panel proposals must include:
• Panel chair information including
  - First and last name of the panel chair (panel chair may or may not be one of the panel presenters)
  - Affiliation of the Panel Chair
  - Email address of the Panel Chair
  (All communication about the panel will be with the panel chair. It will be the responsibility of the panel chair to communicate with all other presenters.)
• Title of the panel
• Abstract highlighting the overall theme of the panel – up to 300 words
- Name of the respondent, if any
- Order in which the individual papers will be presented

- Individual proposals from each of the panel participants. Each must include
  - Submitter’s first and last name
  - Submitter’s affiliation
  - Names of individual authors and their affiliations, if any
  - Title of their individual abstract
  - Detailed description of the paper's main arguments, methods, and sources – not to exceed 800 words

**How to submit:**
All submission must be emailed as an attachment in a Word document to:
lsideris@indiana.edu AND jaboss@indiana.edu

Subject line: Individual paper submission (if appropriate) or Panel submission

**Logistics:**
Lodging and Travel information can be found on the “Being Human” project website.

**Questions:**
If you have questions about the conference or your submission, contact:
Lisa Sideris: lsideris@indiana.edu