

Call for Submissions:

Accessing the Divine: Religious Sources of Resilience in an Age of Political Turmoil

Graduate Student Conference
April 5, 2025 | Boston College

Hosted by:

The Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life at Boston College
The Boston Theological Interreligious Consortium

The *Accessing the Divine* conference took shape in 2021 under the leadership of students in the Boston Theological Interreligious Consortium. The conference was initially conceived as a disability theology conference, and its first two iterations explored themes related to disability, building joyful futures, relationality, and interdependence. This year's conference, which will be co-sponsored by the Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life at Boston College and the Boston Theological Interreligious Consortium, hopes to expand the definition of its questions about access to include questions of resilience, sustainability, connection, and hope amidst political turmoil, activist and academic burnout, and social division. We hope to explore sources of resilience in religious and spiritual traditions (e.g. their rituals, practices, histories, major figures) in order to inform and energize exercises of resilience in our contemporary political era.

We invite proposals on questions/themes including, but not limited to:

- The nature and definition of resilience
- Intersectionality and resilience
- Religious exemplars of political resilience
- Comparative theologies of resilience
- Rituals of resilience
- Vocabulary expansion as a form of resilience
- Resilience across division
- Case studies on practices of resilience
- Disability theology and resilience
- Political organizing and resilience
- Resilience in the virtual age
- Black theology and resilience
- Resilience amidst the “loneliness epidemic”
- Post-traumatic growth
- Mental health and the nature of resilience
- Resilience amidst global conflicts
- Resilience in activism
- Resilience in an age of climate change

As an interdisciplinary conference, we welcome proposals from graduate and professional students in any discipline, including theology, ethics, philosophy, religious studies, disability studies, political science, law, technology studies, anthropology, sociology, the digital humanities, psychology, peace studies, nursing, social work, and related subject matters. The conference will be hybrid, with in-person and virtual options for attendance.

One paper will receive a cash prize, and one paper will be selected for publication in *America Magazine*.

Submission Guidelines

We welcome submissions in the following categories:

- *Paper Submissions:* Proposals for 15-minute papers should include a title and a 300-word maximum abstract.
- *Artistic Submissions:* We welcome artistic submissions of any kind. Please submit the title of the piece, dimensions, and a brief (300-word maximum) description of the art submission. We strongly encourage photographic/video submissions of the art piece itself, but will also accept proposals or preliminary descriptions.
- *Workshop Submissions:* Workshop submissions should include a brief (300-word maximum) description of the proposed idea. They should include a proposed time frame and materials needed for the workshop. Workshops may engage participants in a variety of work. If multiple presenters will be presiding, please indicate this in your proposal. In-person workshops preferred.

Please email submissions to boisi.center@bc.edu no later than **Monday, January 13th, 2025**. Please include your name, degree program, institution, discipline/area of study, and your contact information in the body of your email. The subject line of your email should include "Conference Proposal." Proposals should include a title and a 300-word abstract. To anonymize the submission, please remove your name from the proposal document and add the document as an attachment (.doc or .pdf) for the committee's consideration. For more information or questions, please email boisi.center@bc.edu.

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