
***Common Places, Contested Spaces:
Religion and Theology in Canada and Beyond***

Competition Invitation

Graduate students, post-docs, independent scholars, and pre-tenured faculty are invited to enter the Annual CATA Paper Competition.

Special consideration will be given to papers that offer theological reflection on the theme “Common Places, Contested Spaces: Religion and Theology in Canada and Beyond.” We are interpreting “theological reflection” to include the following: biblical studies; theological readings of Scripture; historical, systematic, philosophical, moral, and pastoral theology; and theology that engages culture, the church, or other academic disciplines.

Eligible related themes might include theological reflection on:

- Reading Scripture in Canada and/or the United States
- Place and space
- Questions of church and culture; and church and state
- The future of theological discourse in Canada and/or the United States
- Faith in the public square
- The state of theological education in Canada and/or the United States
- Missional possibilities for the church within a secular age
- Engagement with Indigenous voices and communities
- The place of the land in the Scriptural imagination

Submission Instructions:

All competition submissions must be submitted simultaneously as paper proposals for the 2026 CATA Annual Conference (Word or PDF format). Paper competition proposals are due by **February 27, 2026**, the finalized, full text of papers for the competition are due by **April 24, 2026**. Please email your submission proposal and draft to Dr. Robert Dean at robert.dean@prov.ca by the dates indicated. Please indicate “CATA 2026 Paper Competition” in the subject line of your email.

Evaluation Criteria for Excellence:

- The essay should be well written and have a clear, coherently argued point of view (thesis)
- The essay should be academically rigorous, with evidence of significant research and nuanced understanding of the relevant issues
- The essay should engage Scripture in a significant way, bringing informed analysis of the Bible into conversation with other theological disciplines and/or the theological topic at hand
- Special consideration will be given to essays that have relevance to life outside the academy
- Formatting of citations should conform to the SBL Handbook of Style or the Chicago Manual of Style
- The essay must be of publishable quality
- The award will be granted only when there is an essay of sufficient excellence