



Waterford Institute of Technology
INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA PHORT LÁIRGE



Spirituality in Society and the Professions

Annual European SPES Conference
May 16-18, 2019
Waterford Institute of Technology, Waterford, Ireland

The Waterford Institute of Technology Department of Applied Arts will be hosting the 2019 Annual European SPES Conference in May 16-18, 2019 in Waterford, Ireland. Collaborative partners are the European SPES Institute and the Spirituality Institute for Research and Education, Ireland.



Topic of the Conference

The topic of the conference is “Spirituality in Society and the Professions” which is related to the **Routledge International Handbook of Spirituality in Society and the Professions** edited by Laszlo Zsolnai and Bernadette Flanagan. This topic is very attractive to a multi-disciplinary campus such as Waterford Institute of Technology.

Increasingly it is being recognized that spirituality is an aspect in almost every sphere and aspect of social life, especially in the context of crises and vulnerabilities. It appears in humanity’s dealing with nature, home and community, healing, economics and business, knowledge, and education. The conference aims to discuss the most important issues, frameworks, and problems regarding spiritually-related activities in different fields of social life.

Spiritual-based new approaches and models for the professions should be explored in different societal fields, including religion, psychology, philosophy, theology, ecology, agriculture, water, landscape and urban planning, tourism, medicine, psychological counseling, sociological work, nursing, sport, health, economics and business, management, leadership, politics, law, policing, science, architecture, technology and design, fashion, literature, visual arts, music, theatre, film, dancing, martial arts, media, and education. The conference intends to show how professions have already, and can in the future, gain a good deal in insight and wisdom by embracing spirituality in their working models and functioning.

Issues to be Addressed

What is the understanding of spirituality in different professions?

How do materialistic worldviews dominate social practices and the professions?

How does spirituality influence social practices and the professions in a world detached from its religious and spiritual roots?

What is the role of non-materialistic (spiritual) models in social practices and the professions?

Which are promising spiritually-grounded working models and approaches in different professions?

How are professional associations making spirituality a vital perspective in their professions - medicine, law; psychotherapy, education, etc.

How can professional education be enriched by a spiritual perspective and orientation?

In which ways can “spiritualized” social practices contribute to personal and collective well-being, happiness, justice and peace?

What are the most promising interdisciplinary and cross-professional collaborations employing the spiritual perspective?

Place and Date

The Conference will be held at the venue of the Waterford Institute of Technology - Cork Road Campus in Waterford, Ireland. The conference will start on May 16, 2019 and will end on May 18, 2019 (from Thursday morning to Saturday early afternoon).

Scientific Committee

Luk Bouckaert, Professor Emeritus, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium

Paul Clogher, Department of Applied Arts, Waterford Institute of Technology, Waterford, Ireland

Bernadette Flanagan, Chair, Spirituality Institute for Research and Education (SpIRE), Dublin, Ireland

Michael O'Sullivan, Director, Spirituality Institute for Research and Education (SpIRE), Dublin, Ireland

Mike Thompson, Chairman, GoodBrand, London, UK and Adjunct Professor, Peter G. Gustavson School of Business, University of Victoria, Canada

Laszlo Zsolnai, Professor and Director, Business Ethics Center, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary and President, European SPES Institute, Leuven, Belgium

Participation Fee of the European SPES Annual Conference

200 Euros for regular participants

150 Euros for European SPES members

100 Euros for students and accompanying persons

The above fees include conference *dinner on Thursday* (60 Euros) and *Friday evening meal* (€30).

General enquires about the conference can be sent to

Laszlo Zsolnai
President,
European SPES Institute
email: zsolnai@uni-corvinus.hu

Submissions

Interested participants should send a *detailed abstract* of their planned presentation (about 300 words) accompanied by a *short biographical note* (100 words) electronically by January 15, 2019 to:

Bernadette Flanagan,
Spirituality Institute for Research and Education,
Dublin, Ireland
email: bflanagan@spiritualityinstitute.ie

Conference organizers are interested in receiving proposals for *academic papers* as well as *practice oriented* submissions including post-presentations and videos.

Accommodation

The Conference venue of Waterford Institute of Technology does not provide accommodation. There are, however, many opportunities to book lodging in Waterford City, for example via booking.com.

About Waterford



Waterford (Irish: Port Láirge) is a city in the south east of Ireland. It is situated at the head of Waterford Harbour. It is the oldest city in Ireland. Waterford is known for Waterford Crystal, a legacy of the city's former glass-making industry.

Waterford is 2 hours from Dublin Airport, 1.5 hours from Cork Airport, and 2.5 hours from Shannon Airport.