

The Second 'The Early Christian Centuries' Conference in Brisbane

The second triennial international conference 'The Early Christian Centuries' (formerly 'Prayer and Spirituality in the Early Church') will be held at Australian Catholic University's Leadership Centre, an ACU venue in the CBD of Brisbane (Level 3, Cathedral House, 229 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane, QLD, Australia) from Friday, 22 September to Sunday 24 September, 2017. This conference will also be the eleventh conference of the Asia-Pacific Early Christian Studies Society.



The theme for the 2017 conference is 'Responses to Conflict in Early Christianity.' Conflict was the norm in early Christianity, from its beginnings as a Jewish sect to its establishment as the only state-sanctioned Roman religion. Some scholars have suggested that disunity was so deeply rooted that it is more correct to speak of Christianities rather than Christianity. This conference focuses on responses to conflict in the early Christian centuries. These responses could be theological, involving the weeding out of heterodoxy or heresy by orthodox authorities, often self-

acclaimed; material, as in the cases of the destruction of Arian churches and Jewish synagogues, and the use of churches as sanctuaries; or even spiritual, as the contest for authority between ecclesiastical and ascetic leaders demonstrates. One could argue that both asceticism and violence were different types of responses to conflict, as was negotiation. Conflict could be productive or divisive, depending on the parties involved and the issues at stake.

Invited speakers will include:

Prof. Boris Repschinski, SJ, New Testament Studies, University of Innsbruck, author of *The Controversy Stories in the Gospel of Matthew: Their Redaction, Form and Relevance for the Relationship between the Matthean community and Formative Judaism* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2000).

Assoc. Prof. Jonathan P. Conant, History, Brown University, author of *Staying Roman: Conquest and Identity in Africa and the Mediterranean, 439-700* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012).

We welcome 20-minute papers that discuss any aspect of responses to conflict in early Christianity, from the first to the seventh centuries. Please send a title and abstract of 200-300 words to the programme director, Assoc. Prof. Bronwen Neil, at <mailto:abstractsecc@acu.edu.au>. Selected papers in English will be published in the Early Christian Centuries monograph series. A deadline in early 2017 will be announced later. It is our practice at this conference, in view of the various language backgrounds of speakers coming from the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, for all presenters to bring sufficient copies of their paper in English (minus notes) for distribution to conference attendees to facilitate understanding, even if speakers wish to deliver their paper in a language other than English.