

SEBTS Intersect Project Ph.D. Student Challenge Symposium

Overview:

The Intersect Project Ph.D. Student Challenge Symposium is designed to engage future teachers, pastors, and church leaders in pursuit of a better understanding of the theology of faith, work, and economics and to facilitate broader discussion in both the church and the academy on the intersection of these key issues. The Symposium will be a one-day event hosted on the campus of Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, NC on **Friday, June 3, 2016**. Ten doctoral students will be selected from among the applicants to compete for three cash prizes. The winning paper will be published in the *Southeastern Theological Review* and all other finalists' papers will be published online via the SEBTS Intersect Project website.

Eligibility:

1. Eligible students must be enrolled as degree-seeking students in a doctoral program at an accredited institution.
2. No more than two students from any one school will be selected to participate.

Student Challenge Application Process:

1. Interested students must submit the following items to the Symposium Coordinator, Andrew Koetsier (akoetsier@sebts.edu) by **Tuesday, March 1**.
 - a. A 300-350 word abstract (including a clear thesis) of their paper. The thesis presented must make a contribution to scholarly discussion of at least one of the four main themes of the Economic Wisdom Project (Oikonomia Project). Full delineation of these four themes and their twelve elements is included on the following page.
 - b. The name and contact (email) of a recommending professor. This professor will receive an email form to complete on behalf of the applicant. It is preferable that this be the applicant's major professor, but other professors that the student has completed coursework with will be accepted if the student is in the early stages of his/her Ph.D. coursework. Please advise the recommending professor to be looking for an email from the Symposium Coordinator soon after submission of an abstract is received.
2. Finalists will be notified of their selection for participation in the symposium by **Monday, March 16** and must confirm their participation by **Monday, March 23**.
3. Finalists must then submit a completed paper (5,000-8,000 words) establishing their thesis by **Monday, May 16**.
4. This paper must be formatted in accordance with the *SBL Handbook of Style*. Further instructions on formatting will be given to the selected finalists.

Paper Topics:

All paper topics must relate broadly to the intersection of faith, work, and economics. Specifically, papers must engage a topic that relates to at least one of the four central themes of the Oikonomia Network's Economic Wisdom Project as detailed below:

- I. **Stewardship and Flourishing:** We were given stewardship over the world so our work would make it flourish for God's glory.
 1. We have a stewardship responsibility to flourish in our own lives, to help neighbors flourish as fellow stewards, and to pass on a flourishing economy to future generations.
 2. Economies flourish when people have integrity and trust each other.
 3. In general, people flourish when they take responsibility for their own economic success by doing work that serves others and makes the world better.

- II. **Value Creation:** Through economic exchange, we work together and create value for one another.
 4. Real economic success is about how much value you create, not how much money you make.
 5. A productive economy comes from the value-creating work of free and virtuous people.
 6. Economies generally flourish when policies and practices reward value creation.

- III. **Productivity and Opportunity:** Economic systems should be grounded in human dignity and moral character.
 7. Households, businesses, communities, and nations should support themselves by producing more than they consume.
 8. A productive economy lifts people out of poverty and generally helps people flourish.
 9. The most effective way to turn around poverty, economic distress, and injustice is by expanding opportunity for people to develop and deploy their God-given productive potential in communities of exchange, especially through entrepreneurship.

- IV. **Responsible Action:** Economic systems should practice and encourage a hopeful realism.
 10. Programs aimed at economic problems need a fully rounded understanding of how people flourish.
 11. Economic thinking must account for long-term effects and unintended consequences.
 12. In general, economies flourish when goodwill is universal and global, but control is local, and personal knowledge guides decisions.

See <http://oikonomianetwork.org/economic-wisdom-project/> for a specific articulation of these 4 central themes along with their 12 elements.

NOTE: Please feel free to contact the Symposium Coordinator to discuss whether a particular topic would be acceptable. After applications are submitted, they cannot be altered and no feedback will be provided with regard to invitations to participate.

Finalist Evaluation and Prizes:

1. At the symposium, each finalist will have 20-30 minutes to present their paper followed by a 10 minute Q&A. Participants are encouraged to use creativity in their presentation and utilize appropriate multimedia (i.e. Powerpoint, Prezi, etc). A projector will be provided, but participants are required to bring their own device to run the presentation.
2. The score for each presenter will be based upon the following formula:
 - a. Academic Paper 75%
 - b. Presentation of Paper 25%
3. Only the rankings of the top three participants will be posted. Cash prizes will be awarded to the presenters with the highest overall scores in the following amounts:
 - a. First Place: \$2000
 - b. Second Place: \$1500
 - c. Third Place: \$1000
4. Cash prizes will be mailed within two weeks of the competition. Winners must submit a W-9 in order for SEBTS to process the award check.
5. The winning paper will be published in the *Southeastern Theological Review*.
6. All finalists' papers will be published on the SEBTS Intersect Project website (<http://intersectproject.org/>).

Finalist Travel, Lodging, and Meals:

1. All accepted participants will be awarded a travel stipend for transportation to and from the event. This can be used for fuel reimbursement or for airfare, but not for lodging to or from the event.
2. Participants planning to fly should plan to fly to the Raleigh-Durham Airport (RDU) and submit receipts and their itinerary two weeks prior to the competition in order to receive a reimbursement check at the competition.
3. Participants planning to drive should submit the address from which he or she is traveling two weeks prior to the competition. Mileage will be reimbursed at the rate of \$0.57.5/mile.
4. All participants will be provided double-occupancy housing and all meals during the competition.
5. Participants should plan to arrive in Wake Forest no later than 3:00pm on Thursday, June 2 to attend dinner with the group.

All questions should be directed to the Symposium Coordinator (akoetsier@sebts.edu)

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