

CURRENT RESEARCH SEMINARS: NAPCE, 2003

Saturday, October 25th

No.	Theme	Name	Title/Abstract
3	Faith Development	Timothy P Jones, First Baptist Church of Rolling Hills (Email: timothywashere@juno.com)	<p>Analyzing the Relationship between Fowlerian Stage Development and Self-assessed Maturity in Christian Faithfulness among Evangelical Christians</p> <p>The purpose of this study was to analyze the relationship between individuals' development according to Fowler's stages and their self-assessed faith-maturity. The researcher created the Fowlerian Stage-Development Survey (FSDS) to assess Fowlerian stage-development in the sample of 348 evangelical Christians. The alpha reliability coefficients for the FSDS ranged from 0.69 to 0.74. The Shepherd Scale—a standardized instrument with two sub-scales, the Christian Belief sub-scale and the Christian Walk sub-scale—was utilized to assess individuals' maturity in Christian faithfulness.</p> <p>ANOVA indicated that no significant relationship existed between Fowlerian stage-development and maturity in Christian faithfulness as assessed by the Shepherd Scale. Qualitative and quantitative analysis suggested that Christian spiritual formation comprises three separate "tracks"—Ego-development, Self-actualization, and Christian faith-development. In light of his research findings, the researcher has constructed an integrative model of spiritual development that incorporates Ego-development, Self-actualization, and Christian faith-development into a single model while recognizing that Christian faith-development and Fowlerian stage-development operate on separate structural-developmental tracks.</p>
		Christie Morr, Biola University (Email: Christy.Morr@biola.edu)	<p>The Role of Adult Attachment in Relationship with God among Evangelical Christians in Southern California</p> <p>The relational style developed in close human relationships provides insight into one's relational experience with God. A sample of 420 evangelical Christians completed the <i>Attachment Style Questionnaire</i> and the <i>Spiritual Assessment Inventory</i>. Five of the six hypotheses received weak to moderate support. Secure Attachment Style was positively related to Realistic Acceptance, Awareness of God and inversely related to Instability. Each Insecure Style related moderately to Instability with God. These findings support the notion that adult attachment style and relationship with God are significantly related, in some cases moderately and in other cases only weakly. It raises the possibility that people relate to God in similar ways as they relate to others. Implications are presented in areas interpersonal relationships, small groups and congregational settings.</p>
	Youth Ministry	Jim Dekker, North Park University and Seminary (Email: jdekker@northpark.edu)	<p>The Operational Definition of Respect among Adolescents and Their Teachers</p> <p>Moral philosophy, sociology and theology all support the notion that respect is a fundamental element for the health of a community. Unfortunately adults are gaining a greater awareness that their children live in a world very different from the one they experienced as children. When those in their middle years casually converse they often question the function respect has among the youth of today. Is there a lack of respect among youth or is there a generational misunderstanding of a changed social convention concerning respect? If people, living in community, are unaware of how respect is operationalized among its different people groups, there remains a critical, sociological blind spot that has very significant implications.</p> <p>This presentation will show how Christian students and teachers operationally define respect and draw out implications for ministry in the church. We will also address how the church is situated to understand and nurture respect across generations and within generations.</p>

		<p>Terence D. Linhart, Bethel College (Email: linhart@bethelcollege.edu)</p>	<p>Living Outside the Comfort Zone: The Curricular Nature of Short-term Mission Trips for North American High School Students</p> <p>Short-term mission trips have become a prominent part of the yearly schedule for many youth ministry programs. The phenomenal growth of these initiatives over the past 18 years has prompted a wide range of responses about their value. Leaders facilitate the trips with ever-increasing frequency to prompt growth in the lives of participants, critics question the effectiveness of the trips, and adolescent participants say they are among the most important experiences of their lives though they have difficulty reporting how it was significant. Despite the diversity of perspectives and opinions, we still know very little about these programs through the limited research that exists. Out of this fog emerges this qualitative study using grounded theory methodology, an attempt to discover how short-term cross-cultural trips function as curriculum for North American high school students and how students interact with the experiences. The theories that this study generates will aid our understanding about the nature of these experiences and the paradoxes it proposes will encourage us to consider how short-term mission trips function as an educational experience for participants. This presentation will be the first report of the results of this unique study.</p>
4	Theology & Philosophy of C.E.	<p>Hank Voss, Talbot School of Theology (Email: Hank.Voss@biola.edu)</p>	<p>A Survey of the Doctrine of the Priesthood of All Believers with Implications for the Direction of Christian Educators in the 21st Century</p> <p>“The doctrine of the priesthood of all believers can be called the Magna Carta of Christian education.” These words begin Dr. Jim Wilhoit’s chapter on “biblical foundations” in his book, <i>Christian Education and the Search for Meaning</i> (2nd ed.). If this emphasis on the doctrine of the priesthood of all believers is correct, then the doctrine is one which deserves further study. Although Wilhoit spends eight pages discussing the importance and implications of this doctrine for today’s Christian educator, more dialogue on this vital topic is needed.</p> <p>This paper will draw attention to the biblical doctrine of the priesthood of all believers as well as its significance for contemporary Christian educators. It will do so by: reviewing the contemporary treatment of the doctrine by both Christian educators and systematic theologians; surveying the biblical evidence for the doctrine; and summarizing the historical suppression of the doctrine during the patristic period together with the circumstances surrounding the doctrine’s rebirth during the Reformation. A final portion of the paper will articulate WHY this doctrine is important for the field of Christian education and WHERE Christian educators can strategically apply this doctrine to the mission of the 21st century church.</p>

		<p>Mark Hanson-Kahn, Trinity International University (Email: hanson-kahn@msn.com)</p>	<p>A New Beginning With instant global communication, a world economy, an emerging world culture, the purported breakdown of family values, and the threat of seemingly indiscriminate terrorism, it is tempting to believe that the world we face is catastrophically different from that of our forebears. The speed of change may be bewildering, but the issues are not new. Rome was terrorized by Hannibal, Confucius was disgusted by the barbarity of his peers, the Phoenicians and Arabs conducted global trade, Greek culture was ascendant worldwide, and the Romans were famed for rapid travel and communication. The pervasive emergence of Postmodernity appears to be novel, but that is only because we have settled into a neo-Aristotelian mindset. A multitude of voices clamor for a new beginning to our culture. They search in vain, because few know where to begin. The pre-Socratic Greeks knew that the strength of society lay in its democratic organization, that the earth was somehow suspended in space, and that matter consists of atoms and emptiness. We can learn from the pre-Socratics concerning what constitutes the ultimate metaphysical category, how religion can become the enemy of truth, and what it takes to found a way of thinking that can revolutionize the world. If we desire a new beginning we must first look back and see where the train left the tracks.</p>
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