

Health and Human Flourishing: Multidisciplinary Perspectives

CALL FOR PAPERS

DATE: MARCH 23-25, 2017

Organized by LCC International University (Lithuania)
and the Samford University College of Health Sciences (U.S.A.)

Hosted at the campus of LCC International University, Klaipeda, Lithuania

Deadline for Abstract Submission: Sept. 1, 2016

This conference brings together scholars from Lithuania, North America, across Europe and beyond, to present research, promote conversation, generate new questions, and rigorously reflect on the complex issues surrounding health and human flourishing. We invite papers from multiple disciplines: perspectives that define/explore, measure/assess, and address/treat issues of health and human flourishing. We also welcome interdisciplinary and interprofessional scholarship.

- How do you know if you are flourishing or just getting by?
- How do we determine the standards for happiness, welfare, health, and well-being across the different strata of modern life?
- Who decides what constitutes human flourishing, and in what contexts?
- Is health simply equivalent to the absence of disease or decay? Or, is health more closely linked to greater goals of happiness, welfare, and well-being?
- How do health and human flourishing relate in our lives, activities, choices and beliefs?
- How can various disciplines and professions work together to promote health and human flourishing in an increasingly complex world?

For this conference we wish to broadly define HEALTH — in its senses as: physical; mental; environmental; aesthetic; linguistic; economic, spiritual; religious; social; and political.

Eudaimonia—human flourishing—was the concept that Aristotle understood to be the highest good; it was essentially his answer to the question: what is the meaning of life? Surely most everyone lives with and within some understanding of human flourishing, whether carefully and deliberately cultivating values to live by or unwittingly inhabiting, confirming, or challenging the symbolic order that frames the meaning (or lack thereof) in their lives. How we codify and interpret human flourishing, and whether and how we prioritize it frames how we justify our own actions and existence as well as how we judge the lives and choices of others. It guides moral perceptions, intellectual assumptions, choices about physical, mental, and social well-being, and political views. This is manifest through assessments of normative categories such as “healthy,” “common sense,” “legal,” “profitable,” “true,” “just,” “good,” and “beautiful.” Acknowledging and reflecting upon the values from which our particular chosen objectives arise is a charge for all, and not merely a task for openly values-based, Christian institutions such as LCC International University and Samford University — and it is certainly not merely the purview of Aristotle and the philosophers. Regardless of which of the ‘two cultures’ (C.P. Snow) one’s work occupies—science or the humanities—the question of what counts for human happiness and welfare strikes to the heart of intellectual inquiry.

The import of discussing health and human flourishing from all of the disciplinary angles implicates how we locate our differences—as a first step towards productive dialogue within academic fields and across academic disciplines and cultures; but, perhaps even more importantly, between individuals, among families, in and among biological bodies, through social groups and political bodies, and reflected in the stories we tell and the ways in which we communicate them. And the various forms and understandings of health form and inform one another. For instance, some studies suggest that religious faith—spiritual health—is related to improved physical and mental health (Harold Koenig).

In addition to discussions of health and human flourishing that emanate from a specific discipline or profession, we also intend the conference to be a forum for interdisciplinary and interprofessional dialogue and scholarship. Given the increasingly complex and interconnected nature of the world, we suspect that many future advances in human flourishing will be the result of collaborative efforts that involve a wide variety of disciplines and professions.

We interpret the term health in the broadest possible manner: e.g. physical; mental; environmental; aesthetic; linguistic; economic, spiritual and religious; social; and political. Thus, the conference organizers welcome and encourage papers from across the academic disciplines. We will organize sections and panels that focus discussions on health and human flourishing in all of these various disciplinary areas; we will also organize panels, seminars, and roundtable discussions that encourage discussion across these disciplinary boundaries. Along with their abstract submission, participants should indicate in what general field their work fits, and whether they would like to participate in a field-focused panel, a multi-disciplinary conversation, or both. Participants are welcome to propose panel topics. They may also indicate the participants of that panel, if it is proposed as fully formed.

The conference program will consist of typical presentation panels and several plenary lectures; the program will also feature open roundtable discussions, reading-and-discussion seminars, and poster sessions. The language of the conference is English. Panel presentations will be 20 minutes in length, with an additional 10-15 minutes allocated for questions and discussion. Plenary sessions will be 30-45 minutes, followed by discussion, with 60-75 minutes allotted for the entire session.

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Conference fee: €50

For details about abstract submission and registration:

<https://www.lcc.lt/academic-conference/>

Please direct questions to lccaac@lcc.lt, or to the conference committee chair Dr. J.D. Mininger, at jdminger@lcc.lt