CENTRE FOR RESEARCH TRAINING AND PUBLICATIONS

29 June 2024

CALL FOR PAPERS

Third Annual Research Week

Conference Theme: Technology, Theology and Peace

Date: 22-24 October 2024

Location: Hekima University College

Deadline for abstract submission: 30 July, 2024

Concept Note

Hekima University College (HUC) invites abstracts for its Third Research Week's academic conference scheduled for 22-24 October 2024. The theme of the conference is **Technology, Theology and Peace.** In an era of technological advancements rapidly transforming societies, the interplay between technology, theology, and peace presents a unique opportunity to foster global harmony. This conference aims to explore the multifaceted relationship between these domains, examining how technological innovations can be aligned with theological principles to promote peace and resolve conflicts. Technology has the potential to both alleviate and exacerbate social tensions. While digital platforms and artificial intelligence offer unprecedented communication, education, and conflict resolution tools, they also pose risks such as misinformation, cyber warfare, and digital divides. Understanding the ethical implications of technology and harnessing its power responsibly is crucial for achieving sustainable peace.

Theology is a sacred discipline rooted in "faith-seeking understanding." With its deep-rooted search for truth and transcendence, studying biblical scripture, pastoral response, ethical frameworks, and moral teachings provides a valuable perspective on human dignity, justice, and reconciliation. Religious traditions worldwide have historically played significant roles in peacebuilding efforts, advocating compassion, forgiveness, and coexistence. By integrating theological insights and perspectives in peace studies and international relations with technological strategies, we can develop comprehensive approaches to address contemporary challenges.

Through panel discussions, keynote speeches, and interactive workshops, participants will engage in critical discourse and collaborative problem-solving. The goal is to create a platform for dialogue that bridges the gap between technological innovation, peace studies and theological wisdom, ultimately contributing to a more peaceful and just world. By fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, this conference seeks to inspire innovative solutions that leverage technology for the common good, guided by ethical and theological principles. Together, we can explore new pathways to peace that honor human dignity and promote global harmony.

This conference will bring together students, lecturers, scholars, practitioners, technologists, and theologians to discuss interdisciplinary approaches to theology and peacebuilding. We encourage students and faculty members to submit their papers.

Structure of the Conference

Day One 22 October 2024

Student-led Conference: Day One will be a student-led conference organized by Hekima University College students and will include presentations from students from other universities.

Day Two & Three 23-24 October 2024

Day Two and Three will focus on presentations from faculty, practitioners and faculty-student collaboration.

Book Launches: The afternoon of the Third Day will be dedicated to book launches.

Send your abstract:

We invite 250-word abstracts from students and faculty from different universities on the themes below. **Please submit your abstracts to the HUC Centre for Research Training and Publications (CRTP): programs.hipsir@hekima.ac.ke.** The deadline for abstract submission is **30 July, 2024**. Abstracts can be submitted along the following general themes:

1. **Ethical AI and Peace**: Exploring how artificial intelligence can be designed and deployed ethically to support peace initiatives.
2. **Digital Platforms for Interfaith Dialogue**: Assessing the role of social media and digital communication in fostering interfaith understanding and cooperation.
3. **Technological Solutions for Humanitarian Aid**: Evaluating the impact of technology in delivering humanitarian assistance and supporting vulnerable populations in conflict zones.
4. **Pastoral Application of Technology for Evangelization**: Exploring how technology can be used for pastoral agency in ministry.
5. **Scripture, Technology and Pedagogical Innovations**: Reviewing how scriptures are taught today, and implications on technological innovations.
6. **Digital preaching**: Exploring diverse ways of evangelization through digital spaces
7. **Technology and peacebuilding**: Ethical appraisal of technological advancement in peace and war
8. **Theological Perspectives on Technology**: Reflecting on religious teachings that can guide the ethical use of technology in modern society.
9. **Cybersecurity and Global Peace**: Addressing the threats posed by cyber warfare and developing strategies to protect critical infrastructure and maintain peace.
10. **Technology, Gender, Theology & Peace**: Cross-cutting issues on gender perspectives on technology, theology and peace
11. **Youth & Technology**: Exploring the points of convergence and divergence in youth perception on technology, theology and peace
12. **Technology, Poverty and Marginalization**: Social justice issues on technology and marginalization