

**“Do Not Be Silent at My Tears”: Theological Perspectives on Suffering
2014 Duke Graduate Conference in Theology Call For Papers
October 3-4, 2014**

The 2014 Duke Graduate Conference in Theology (DGCT) seeks papers from graduate students related to the conference theme “Do Not Be Silent at My Tears”: Theological Perspectives on Suffering. Suffering, variously understood, has occupied theologians, philosophers, and practitioners for millennia, yet new historical situations, emerging technologies, increased globalization, and a variety of other factors necessitate ever new reflection and response. The organizers of the second annual DGCT hope to provide a forum to explore and reflect on the experience of suffering and its relationship to theological scholarship. We are pleased to announce that M. Shawn Copeland, Professor of Theology at Boston College, will be the keynote speaker for the conference.

Students from the fields of theology, historical theology, biblical studies, practical theology, and theological ethics are invited to submit proposals. Relevant proposals from other fields, including philosophy and religious studies, are also welcome. Proposals may consider a variety of questions as the basis for an approach to the topic, including but not limited to: What resources reside in Christian theological traditions for addressing the problem of suffering in its contemporary manifestations? In what ways might practical theology identify the implicit and explicit mechanisms of both destructive and redemptive responses to suffering made by faith communities? How should an account of the cause of suffering address sin and evil? How does the experience of suffering shape a person’s engagement with Christian traditions and practices? How does one’s conception of God shape the way that the divine response to suffering and the church’s mission are construed? What kinds of Christian formation contribute to appropriate theological identification of and response to suffering? How might diverse scriptural voices with regard to the topic of suffering come into conversation with one another and with human experience?

These questions are meant to be indicative, and not exhaustive of potential approaches. Proposals of no more than 350 words are due **August 1, 2014** and may be submitted to dukegct@gmail.com. In your email please include your degree program, field of study, and school affiliation. In lieu of a proposal, masters’ degree students must submit their final papers, no longer than 2500 words. Notifications of acceptance will be sent by **August 15, 2014**. Final papers of no more than 2500 words are due **September 5, 2014**. Papers will be presented at Duke University on **October 3-4, 2014** during sessions moderated by Duke faculty from relevant fields. For more information, visit the conference website at sites.duke.edu/DGCT.