

Flourishing and Wellbeing

Measurement, Meaning and Mindfulness in Health, Education and Work

Elizabeth Anscombe's term 'human flourishing' describes the quest and desire for 'the good life'—wellbeing or life in its fullness and wholeness. It has a sense of humans operating on all cylinders, on good relational terms with God, humanity and the earth. This symposium seeks to facilitate that quest in an increasingly fragmented contemporary context. We will address the occasional blurriness of the concept with the best science (measurement), philosophy and theology (meaning), and spiritual and psychological habits (mindfulness).

The symposium aims to connect academics and reflective practitioners from the fields of health, education and workplace wellbeing. The balanced

program offers outstanding keynotes, panels and opportunities for academics and professionals to present papers.

It is intended that the symposium will give rise to an international, peer-reviewed publication. It is also suitable for those seeking professional-development credit. The full program will be released in mid-2020.

DATES

17 September – 19 September 2020

VENUES

ACU Melbourne and
Catholic Theological College

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/events/2020/september/flourishing-and-wellbeing

jonathan.zecher@acu.edu.au

03 9230 8373

CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite papers on any topic related to the symposium's themes, and especially those that engage multiple disciplines in the humanities and health sciences to explore human flourishing and wellbeing. Papers will be 20 minutes, with 10 minutes of discussion. Proposals should include a title and abstract (250–300 words).

The call for papers will close at 23:59pm on 15 March 2020. If successful, proposers will be notified by 27 March.



SPEAKERS



Tyler VanderWeele

*John L. Loeb and Frances Lehman Loeb
Professor of Epidemiology, Harvard University*

Professor VanderWeele holds degrees from the University of Oxford, University of Pennsylvania and Harvard University in mathematics, philosophy, theology, finance and applied economics, and biostatistics. His empirical research spans psychiatric, perinatal and social epidemiology; the science of happiness and flourishing; and the study of religion and health, including both religion and population health and the role of religion and spirituality in end-of-life care. He has published more than three hundred papers in peer-reviewed journals.



Jeff Hanson

*Research Associate in
Philosophy, Harvard University*

Dr Hanson's research focuses on issues in philosophy of religion, phenomenology, aesthetics and ethics. His writings on Kierkegaard, French phenomenology of religion, and the arts are motivated by an ongoing interest in the practical value of philosophy for human flourishing, and he draws on the whole history of philosophy and theology for both his scholarly work and popular publications on literature, music, film and popular culture.



Peggy Kern

*Associate Professor in Positive
Psychology, University of
Melbourne*

Dr Kern's research draws on multiple fields of inquiry, including health, positive, social, personality and developmental psychology, as well as public health, to address the question of thriving across the lifespan. She incorporates a lifespan perspective, innovative methodologies and interdisciplinary collaboration. Dr Kern has also published more than eighty articles and chapters, and two books.



Craig Hassed

*Associate Professor in General
Practice, Monash University*

Dr Hassed has been teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels in the Department of General Practice at Monash University since 1989. He is also coordinator of mindfulness programs at the university. He has been instrumental in introducing a variety of innovations into medical education and practice in Australia and overseas, with an emphasis on the application of holistic, integrative and mind-body medicine in medical practice.

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