



## CALL FOR PAPERS

### **The Society of Race, Ethnicity, and Religion**

Fifth Biennial Meeting

April 1-3, 2022

Vanderbilt University Divinity School

Nashville, TN

### **What's The Big IDEA?**

#### **Religion and the Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Agenda**

The Society of Race, Ethnicity, and Religion (SRER) invites paper proposals for its upcoming 2022 biennial meeting that address the general theme of What's The Big Idea?: Religion and the Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Agenda as outlined below:

With regard to social justice, the initial decades of the 21st century have simultaneously witnessed significant progress and reversion, accompanied by a noteworthy decline in traditional modes and markers of religious identification and praxis. The question begs, therefore: What is the role and relevance of religion with respect to inclusion, diversity, and equity efforts and initiatives? In what ways does religion support or hinder the realization of impactful and enduring social justice? How do the intersection of race, ethnicity, sexuality, and gender alter or affect the ability of religion to serve as a partner in such concerns and endeavors? How and why do different generations think in manners both alike and dissimilar about these issues?

Preference will be given to papers that not only describe or reflect upon current socio-political, economic, and cultural circumstances, but also suggest approaches, methods, and tools that offer the possibility to realize progress and positive change with regard to inclusion, diversity, and equity agendas.

The 2022 SRER Biennial Conference consists of an **in-person** event at the Vanderbilt Divinity School at Nashville, TN during the weekend of **April 1-3, 2022**.

Nashville as the site of the 2022 in-person biennial conference, is the perfect setting for our conversation about crises and how we might overcome them together. Nestled in a Southern

city that has been a crossroads of many peoples and nations, Vanderbilt University currently occupies ancestral, traditional, and hunting lands of the Southeastern Nations including the Cherokee, Shawnee, and Creek peoples, who were forcibly removed west of the Mississippi River after the Indian Removal Act of 1830. Even now, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Nashville remains the “It city” as the one of the largest and fastest growing urban population in the United States which is becoming home to some of the largest immigrant—namely African, Latinx, Middle Eastern, Asian American, and Pacific Islander—communities in the country. In light of these demographic transformations, the city is wrestling with both a widening wealth gap as well as gentrification. Yet the city also has been the site of a dynamic social justice movement. While Nashville has always been a key site of Black activism, the city authorities also have worked to impede Black social, economic, and political progress, building the largest jail system in the United States. Local activists are now engaged in a vibrant and active prison abolition movement. As it has been for more than a century and a half since the end of the US Civil War, Nashville has represented both the American crisis and the site of unusual creativity for people trying to create a more just and equal society.

As in the past, the program will aim to reflect the full diversity of the SRER membership in the United States and elsewhere. We especially hope to include professors, public intellectuals, clergy, activists, and independent scholars as well as those teaching at universities, colleges, seminaries, community colleges, and secondary schools. Whenever possible, proposals should include presenters of different genders, different racial and ethnic backgrounds, and different levels of seniority within the profession. We welcome individual paper proposals but will consider proposals for complete sessions as well.

### **Proposal Submission Guidelines**

To submit a proposal for a regular paper presentation, submitters are required to provide basic information about their proposal, including title, a brief description of the presentation (up to 300 words), an abstract (up to 50 words to be included in the conference program if accepted), and information about the co-panelists and/or fellow presenter(s) as necessary. Please note: after a regular panel proposal has been submitted, all panelists (but not chairs or respondents) also will need to submit abstracts for their papers to confirm final acceptance of the panel.

The deadline for submissions is **February 21, 2022 at 11:59 PM (CST)** to the attention of SRER Program Committee via [thesrer@gmail.com](mailto:thesrer@gmail.com).

**We thank you for your interest in the SRER and look forward to your submission!**