

YOU'RE RICHER [ when ] YOU THINK

Economics and Christian Desire

JANUARY 18 19

# { Breakout Sessions

Interdisciplinary Studies Conference



SCOTT  
BADER-SAYE



## Wednesday ONLY N102

## BREAKOUT SESSION

**The Economy of Fear:** Greed, Accumulation, and the Idolatry of Security - In a culture saturated by fear, it is easy to justify greed and accumulation as necessary protections against an uncertain future. This session looks at how we might through faith overcome the fear that stifles our generosity. ✨

**Scott Bader-Saye** is Professor of Christian Ethics and Moral Theology at Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, TX. A graduate of Davidson College (A.B.), Yale Divinity School (M.Div.), and Duke University (Ph.D.), he teaches and writes in the areas of politics, economy, culture, and Jewish-Christian-Muslim dialogue. His publications include *Following Jesus in a Culture of Fear* and *Church and Israel After Christendom*. He also serves as Theologian in Residence at St. Julian of Norwich Episcopal Church, a mission in northwest Austin. ✨

## BREAKOUT SESSION

## Thursday ONLY N102

**Is the free market really free?** I will lead a discussion on the kinds of freedom and unfreedom produced by the prevailing market system, and talk about alternative ways to conceive of freedom. ✨

**William Cavanaugh** is Professor of Catholic Studies and Senior Research Fellow, CWCIT DePaul University. He received a B.A. in theology from Notre Dame in 1984, and an M.A. from Cambridge University in 1987. After working as a lay associate with the Holy Cross order in a poor area of Santiago, Chile, Cavanaugh worked at the Center for Civil and Human Rights at the Notre Dame Law School. He then studied at Duke University, where he received a Ph.D. in religion in 1996. Cavanaugh specializes in political theology, economic ethics, and ecclesiology. In addition to many journal articles, he has published the following books: *Torture and Eucharist* (Blackwell, 1998), *Theopolitical Imagination* (T. & T. Clark, 2002), *Being Consumed* (Eerdmans, 2008), and *The Myth of Religious Violence* (Oxford University Press, 2009). He is a popular speaker, having given invited talks at dozens of universities in the United States, as well as in Australia, Canada, England, Belgium, Spain, Italy, and Sweden. ✨



WILLIAM  
CAVANAUGH

## Wednesday & Thursday N108

## BREAKOUT SESSION

**Fair Trade Edmonton.** The United Nations has estimated that for every dollar of aid from the developed world to the developing world, seven dollars return in the reverse direction through unfair trade. Every time a consumer buys a product, the lives of many that were involved in the supply chain are touched, making purchasing always a moral act and not simply an economic act. The workshop will focus on Fair Trade Certification, a labelling system that guarantees that products were made with fair labour, fair wages and in an environmentally sustainable manner. There is a push throughout Edmonton to use Fair Trade Certified cocoa, coffee and tea whenever possible and many churches, schools and businesses have jumped on-board with the campaign. The workshop will be positive and focused on moving forward to creating positive change. Please attend if you are interested in learning about how the consumption practices of you, your family and your church can be more ethical with a few easy and affordable changes. ✨

VALANTINA  
AMALRAJ



**Valantina Amalraj** is a third year Law student at the University of Alberta. She has been leading Make Poverty History's effort to promote Fair Trade Certification in Edmonton since Fall 2009. The Make Poverty History student group strives to generate political will towards ending extreme poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2025. The group is focused on moving beyond charity based solutions to deep structural changes that promote social justice. ✨

## BREAKOUT SESSION

Wednesday  
N101

**Spirituality and Voluntary Simplicity.** The inner journey of spiritual growth invites us to ask difficult questions. Who am I becoming? How can I find the strength to resist consumer pressures? As we take time to reflect in silence, as we seek out friends or mentors who can reinforce an alternative path, we develop a new, deeper sense of self. ✨



AIDEN ENNS

**Practical Dimension of Voluntary Simplicity.** Religious “rules,” like the Rule of St. Benedict for example, have inspired noble souls for centuries. At best, they stabilize our traditions and guide us into a deep sustaining way of life. With the age of indulgence almost at its peak, disillusioned consumers need gentle instruction on embarking upon retreat, stepping back from the stress of acquisition and forward into the bliss of letting go. Here’s our suggestion for a new religious rule for today. ✨

**Aiden Enns** is the co-founder and editor of Geez magazine, a quarterly 80-page magazine based in Winnipeg which has won numerous awards. It strives for “holy mischief in an age of fast faith.” To challenge our consumer habits, every winter he volunteers with a little campaign called Buy Nothing Christmas. He has previously been on the “100-mile Diet” -- for 100 days you eat food grown within 100 miles -- and discovered it’s a lot easier with a strong supportive community. He holds graduate degrees in journalism (from UBC) and religion (from University of Manitoba), is a sessional instructor at Menno Simons College (affiliated with the University of Winnipeg), and is a former managing editor of Adbusters magazine and letters editor at the Vancouver Sun. ✨

## BREAKOUT SESSION

Thursday  
N101



ELDEN WIEBE

Wednesday & Thursday  
N119

## BREAKOUT SESSION

**Working in the Garden of the Gods.** This presentation will introduce the participant to several ‘gods’ in the business pantheon, gods which seek ultimate loyalty from us and control over us. It will also bring to awareness the cries to the ‘unknown God’ in business, and provide both a biblical story for rethinking what is important in business as well as a real-life example of a business attempting to serve God in business.

**Elden Wiebe** (PhD, University of Alberta) is Associate Professor of Management at The King’s University College, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. His primary research interests include time in relation to organizations, organizational change, and strategic management; and secondly, spirituality in the workplace. He has published in Perspectives in Process Organization Studies, Journal of Business Ethics, Journal of Management Inquiry, Management and Organizational History, Journal of Religion and Business Ethics, and Healthcare Quarterly. He is co-editor (with Albert J. Mills and Gabrielle Durepos) of the Sage Encyclopedia of Case Study Research. ✨

## BREAKOUT SESSION

Wednesday & Thursday  
L116

**“Wisdom is a shelter, as money is a shelter”** Ecclesiastes 7:12. We’ll talk about some practical approaches to money and personal finance. Should be enlightening and helpful in real life. ✨

**Dwayne O’Coin** is a Chartered Accountant with a B.Comm. from the U of Alberta, as well as post-graduate work in doctoral programs at the Wharton School in Philadelphia and at the University of Calgary. He has worked in public practice, in academic service, three stints in industry, most recently with a local software firm, and is now teaching at The King’s University College in Edmonton. He studied at the Universities of Manitoba, Alberta, Calgary, Lethbridge and Pennsylvania. His assigned courses have been, for the most part, audit, consolidations and foreign currency, financial accounting theory and a little corporate finance thrown in for flavor. He has also taught intro and intermediate financial accounting, so he has introduced many students to the vagaries of accounting and finance over the years. ✨



DWAYNE O’COIN

TYLER WILLIAMS



Wednesday & Thursday  
N110

BREAKOUT  
SESSION

"Polishing Brass on the Titanic"? Following Jesus in a Consumer Culture. Many religious criticisms of consumer culture focus on its implicit values and ideologies. While the shallow excesses of contemporary consumerism warrant critique, the problem we face not only lies in these values, but also in the very economic structures of our society. In this break out session, with the help of Tyler Durden, I will examine the economics of popular culture and the dynamics of commodification, and suggest some ways that we can follow Jesus in our culture of consumption. ✨

Tyler Williams teaches theology and biblical studies at The King's University College when he is not coaching minor hockey or watching "Fight Club". He has been interested in the economics of popular culture ever since donning his first Star Trek uniform as a young lad (naturally, it was a gold uniform) and has spent most of his adult life seeking out "versatile solutions for modern living." He has the privilege of teaching a course on religion and popular culture every couple years where he reflects on the economics of popular culture and an appropriate Christian response. ✨

BREAKOUT  
SESSION

Wednesday & Thursday  
N109

GREATER EDMONTON ALLIANCE AND FRIENDS OF FARMERS

Voting with Our Money. Every day each of us votes with our money in terms of the food we buy and where we buy it. Over a three year period, the Greater Edmonton Alliance (GEA) organized thousands of citizens to participate in dialogue with industry and elected leaders about the Municipal Development Plan (MDP), a statutory land use plan with a 30-year horizon. Passed in 2010, Edmonton's MDP presents a unique opportunity for environmental stewardship by requiring the consideration of agricultural potential of land in the City's development decisions. Edmonton is now developing a Citywide Food and Agriculture Strategy. Landowners in the Southwest and Northeast are developing Area Structure Plans, or general planning frameworks, for these remaining agricultural areas. These Area Structure Plans must align with the Citywide Food and Agriculture Strategy. For these progressive policies to be implemented, and the opportunity for stewardship and resilience, actualized, citizens must become engaged and hold our elected leaders accountable to our vision. This is a crucial time to engage citizen and industry leaders in visioning that advances stewardship and resilience. GEA's core business is to train leaders for effective engagement in public decision-making processes. This session will provide you with an opportunity to hear more about what is going on with GEA's current local food action, and listen to each others' hopes and fears about the future of local food and how each of us can contribute to the development of a local food system. ✨

MASS Film Festival  
INSIDE JOB (2011)

From Academy Award® nominated filmmaker, Charles Ferguson ("No End In Sight"), comes INSIDE JOB, the first film to expose the shocking truth behind the economic crisis of 2008. The global financial meltdown, at a cost of over \$20 trillion, resulted in millions of people losing their homes and jobs. Through extensive research and interviews with major financial insiders, politicians and journalists, INSIDE JOB traces the rise of a rogue industry and unveils the corrosive relationships which have corrupted politics, regulation and academia. ✨

L116  
WEDNESDAY  
3-5 PM

