

EDUCATION OR  
SOCIAL ENGINEERING?

INDOCTRINATION OR  
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION?



Thinking for Ourselves for God's Sake ...



SYDNEY COLLEGE OF DIVINITY  
Excellence in theological education

THE SIXTH SCD LEARNING & TEACHING THEOLOGY CONFERENCE

LIVE: Friday 14th + Saturday 15th April 2023

ONLINE + ON DEMAND: Friday 14th - Sunday 22nd April 2023

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: Dr Bella d'Abrera + Dr Kevin Wagner

AN ECUMENICAL MISSION TO AN UNBELIEVING WORLD: **THE FREEDOM TO PERSUADE**

TEACHING DISCERNMENT IN A **WHITWASHED WORLD**

*The novel as education or engineering*

THE MEDIA AS SOCIAL  
ENGINEERING, NOT  
REPORTING

**Trigger warnings  
and the softening of  
the university mind**

**BIG BUSINESS CROSS-BORDER ETHICS, AND  
INEVITABLE CONFLICT WITH THE RC CHURCH**

THE INTERNET  
AS THE NEW  
PAPACY

Education, Propaganda and  
the Embedding of *Unreality*

**CANCEL  
CULTURE  
ON CAMPUS**

**POLARIZED LEARNING:  
THE NEW SLAVERY**

JULY 2013 CHANGES TO ANTI DISCRIMINATION ACT  
AND HOW FEDERAL LAW WEAPONISES STATES

ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF THE HIDDEN  
CURRICULUM

**Book  
banning the  
new book  
burning**

**WHY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IS  
NOT CHILD ABUSE**

*Implications for higher education of the Australian  
curriculum in secondary and primary education*

**CURRICULUM AS IDEOLOGICAL COERCION  
OR OPPORTUNITY FOR FREE INQUIRY**

**PROPAGANDA  
V TRUTH;  
THE NEW  
TOTALITARIANISMS  
EATING OUR  
DEMOCRACIES**

**IS THE  
PEN STILL  
MIGHTIER  
THE SWORD?**

**Has political correctness gone too far?**

*The loss of an objective media.*

**Distorting Truth for Spin**

**WHY DO INCLUSIVE FRAMEWORKS AUTOMATICALLY EXCLUDE?**

WHERE HAS  
IDEOLOGICAL CRITICISM  
REALLY TAKEN US?

**THE SOCIAL  
COMPACT OF  
EDUCATION?**

**Manipulating  
the minds by modifying  
the paradigms**

**UNCONSCIOUS  
BIAS  
SURVEY AND  
FRAMEWORK.  
WHAT IS THE  
SCIENCE?**

INDIGENOUS PASTS AND  
INDIGENOUS FUTURES, INSIDERS'  
TRUTH, OR OUTSIDERS' PROPAGANDA?

**WHY REFUTE AN IDEA WHEN YOU CAN SILENCE?**

# Despite the ideological bloodshed of the 20th century, the first two decades of the 21st century have been marked by increasingly totalitarian ideologies polarizing society and stifling public discussion.

Traditionally committed to freedom of inquiry, educational institutions have become a major battleground in this latest version of ideological warfare. Situated in the midst of this arena of conflict, will theological education simply capitulate, or will it marshal its own resources to help society find freedom yet again?

How do educational institutions establish an ethos of freedom? How are students and faculty encouraged and enabled to be free to inquire, free to learn, free to speak, free to exchange and discuss all ideas, so that education

produces graduates free to be individuals freely learning for a lifetime of true freedom? How is this ethos of freedom reflected (or destroyed) in the classroom, the learning experiences and outcomes, the assessment regime, the explicit and implicit curriculum, student support services, faculty research expectations, faculty professional development, interaction with Government legislations and regulation, meeting community and stakeholder expectations?

Is education merely an instrument of ideology, or can it truly be a servant of humanity? Is theological education merely an instrument of indoctrination, or can it truly serve Christ and his mission to a lost world?

How do the answers to such questions make a difference in every domain, and to every aspect, of theological education in this current time of trouble — and beyond?

**Papers addressing any aspect of this theme are now called for.**

## Two Keynote Speakers will each deliver two addresses:

### Dr Bella d'Abrera



Director of the Foundations of Western Civilisation Program, Institute of Public Affairs, will address the topic: Education or Social Engineering?

### Dr Kevin Wagner



Lecturer in Theology at the School of Philosophy and Theology, University of Notre Dame, will explore: Indoctrination or Theological Education?

## Call for Papers

The Sydney College of Divinity invites scholars, doctoral candidates, and others working in the theological and wider academic community to propose a paper for the SCD 2023 Learning & Teaching Conference by **16 November, 2022**.

[www.scd.edu.au/events/thinking-for-ourselves-for-gods-sake/](https://scd.edu.au/events/thinking-for-ourselves-for-gods-sake/)

Acceptance of papers will be communicated as proposals are received.

Presentations will be 20 minutes, with an additional 5–10 minutes for questions & interaction. A selection of papers from the conference will be subsequently published as the next volume in the SCD Press Learning & Teaching Theology series.

<https://scd.edu.au/learning-teaching-theology/scd-conferences-publications/>

Presenters will need to register for the conference. Registration costs, including conference dinner, accommodation options, and transport details, are available through the SCD Events website:

<https://events.scd.edu.au/>

## Guidelines for Paper Proposals

- 1: The title of the proposed presentation, with an abstract of 250–300 words, should be sent to the SCD Academic Director, Assoc Prof Peter Bolt (PeterB@scd.edu.au), by 16 November, 2022. Submissions should be accompanied by contact details: name, institutional affiliation, postal address, phone number and email address.
- 2: The title of the paper and its abstract must articulate clearly the line of argument that the paper will take, indicating its contribution to research in the chosen area.
- 3: Subject to the papers offered, the Conference Program will assign papers to various streams, so that conferees may specialize in their interest area. These streams will be organized (approximately) along the lines of the domains of the Higher Education Standards. This opens out the possibility for papers from those involved in Theological Education other than teaching Faculty.

It would therefore be helpful if paper proposals nominate the area of focus:

### Student Participation & Attainment

(Domain 1)

### Learning Environment

(Domain 2)

### Teaching & Learning

(Domain 3)

### Research & Research Training

(Domain 4)

### Institutional Quality Assurance

(Domain 5)

### Governance & Accountability

(Domain 6)

### Representation, Information, & Information Management

(Domain 7)

- 4: Further enquiries should be directed to Assoc Prof Peter Bolt: PeterB@scd.edu.au or 02 9889 1969.