



**Call for Abstracts "Religious Experience and Description"
Third Regional Conference of the Society for Phenomenology of
Religious Experience**

**Valparaiso University, Indiana, USA
Departments of Psychology, Philosophy, and Theology
October 10- 12, 2019**

This conference examines the difficulties and possibilities, and theoretical problems and hands-on solutions arising in the description of religious experience. Does religious experience harbor concealed empirical and phenomenological complexity, and how do we address complexity in a focused description which aims at revealing the essence of experience? We invite an interplay between pragmatics of describing religious experience, philosophical and theological issues involved in creation of description, and theoretical models of how religious and spiritual experience may be described. The conference accepts papers dedicated to description of perception, imagination, body-awareness, recollection, social cognition, self-experience, temporality etc. in the context of religious experience. The papers should provide not just the description of experience *per se*, but an analysis of the process or outcome of description and reflection on what description of religious experience *per se* entails. Such reflections must employ phenomenological philosophy, such as e.g. in the work of Anthony Steinbock or Jean-Luc Marion, but can also draw on contemporary dialogues between phenomenological philosophy and other philosophical and theological traditions, such as we see in the work of researchers like Espen Dahl, Matthew Ratcliffe, Dan Zahavi, Stanley Cavell, or Evan Thompson, to name a few.

URL: <http://sophere.org/conferences/regional-conference-indiana-2019/>

Questions: conferencevalop@sophere.org

Scientific Committee

Jason Alvis (University of Vienna), **Michael Barber** (Saint Louis University), **Peter Costello** (Providence College), **Neal DeRoo** (The King's University, Canada), **Martin Nitsche** (Institute of Philosophy of the Prague Academy of Sciences), **Olga Louchakova-Schwartz** (Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University and UC Davis), **Kristof Oltvai** (The University of Chicago).

Conference Directors

Jim Nelson, Ph.D., Psychology (Jim.Nelson@valpo.edu)

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Submission: send two copies of abstract (.doc file with all info, and anonymized .pdf) of 300 words to conferencevalpo@sophere.org. You can also enclose a paper of 3000 words (i.e. 30 min). Session proposals welcome. Deadline July 1, 2019. Notifications of acceptance by August 1, 2019.

Selected papers from the conference will be invited for publication in the topical issue of Open Theology, De Gruyter, "Phenomenology of Religious Experience IV: The Description", planned for 2020.