

The 2021 Grawemeyer Award in Religion

Purpose

The Louisville Grawemeyer Award honors highly significant contributions to religious and spiritual understanding. By "religion" we mean, to paraphrase a classic definition by William James, the feelings, acts and experiences of humans insofar as they apprehend themselves to stand in relation to whatever they consider the divine. The purpose of the Award is to honor and publicize annually creative and constructive insights into the relationship between human beings and the divine, and ways in which this relationship may inspire or empower human beings to attain wholeness, integrity or meaning, either individually or in community.

Eligibility

Any work (book, address, essay, etc.) presented or published in 2014 or subsequently will be eligible for consideration. Nominations are invited from religious organizations, appropriate academic associations, religious leaders and scholars, presidents of universities or schools of religion, publishers and editors of scholarly journals. Self-nominations will not be accepted. There will be no discrimination based on religious affiliation or belief or lack thereof. The Award Committee encourages submissions from a wide variety of intellectual and/or religious perspectives. *Previous winners are not eligible for subsequent awards. The Award will not be awarded posthumously.*

Criteria for Judging Nominations

The Award competition, which is open to persons of **all** religious traditions and world views, will consider a wide variety of concerns and issues. Such issues may include but are not limited to:

- The experience of divine or ultimate reality,
- Meaning and purpose of human existence,
- Authority and freedom in religious understanding,
- Pluralism and religious truth,
- Evil, suffering, and death,
- Compassion, joy and hope,
- Religion and science,
- Divine involvement in human history.
- Practices of faith and spirituality.

Preference will be given to ideas:

- which by their clarity and power assist people better to understand the relationship between divine reality and human spiritual striving;
- which lead to a recognition and understanding of religious experience;
- which foster greater understanding and cooperation among adherents of diverse religious traditions and views;
- which stimulate new insights into the relationship between religious awareness and other forms of human knowledge;
- which reflect significant breakthroughs in our understanding of divine-human relationships, particularly in the context of the postmodern world.

Nomination Process

Each person or group nominating an idea for consideration must submit the following in typed or printed form:

- A completed Nomination form.
- A supporting statement of 500-750 words in English setting out the central idea of the work and **specifically relating the idea to the criteria** for the Award.
- The work as published or printed (in the case of a speech, the written text or transcript) including all standard bibliographic and copyright citations.
 - *Individuals* and groups (non-publishers) submitting nominations are requested to supply one (1) copy of the work.
 - *Publishers* submitting nominations are requested to supply the required total of six (6) copies of the work.

Deadline

Nominations must be received by **January 15, 2020**. All submissions become the property of the Louisville Grawemeyer Award Committee. In the event that no idea is considered adequately meritorious in a given year, no award will be made.

The Review Process

A joint Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and University of Louisville faculty review committee will consider all nominations and advance a select number for further consideration. Three judges of international reputation will select three finalists. Recommendation of a winner from among the finalists will be made by a winner selection committee consisting of laypersons and administrators. The recommended Grawemeyer Award winner is subject to approval by the Trustees of the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and the University of Louisville Board of Trustees.

For More Information

Nominations and requests for further information may be submitted electronically, by mail, or via facsimile, and should be sent to:

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