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Seeking the Sacred in the Digital Age

Gonzaga University February 16-17, 2019

(all sessions will be held in the basement Hemmingson Auditorium)

Saturday, February 16:

9:00-10:30 Virtual Technologies and ethical/religious implications

- Mel Rayappa SJ (MS in Computer Engineering, Carnegie-Mellon): *“Identifying Stakeholders for Ethical Deliberations over Programing for AI Personal Assistants Such as Siri and Alexa”*
- Chris Birmingham (PhD Student in Robotics at USC) : *“Socially Assistive Robotics: Teaching, Care, and Support of Vulnerable Populations”*
- Aaron Brown (Senior Security Analyst at Amazon): *“The Hacker Manifesto as Gnostic Lament”*

10:45-12:15 Online Evangelism

- Karol Wilczynski and Karol Kleczka (over Zoom from Poland, they are journalists at DEON.pl the largest Catholic website in Poland run by Jesuits) *“Why Digital Evangelization is not Working and How Can We Change it”*
- Jonathan Armstrong (Moody Bible Institute): *Ministry in VR: Prospects and Challenges*

LUNCH

1:30-3:00: Reflections Over the Use of Big Data Algorithms

- Brendan Kennedy (PhD student in Computer Science at USC) *Humanist perspectives on personal data collection and use.*
- Nathan Huff (applying for doctoral studies in psychology): *The use of big data algorithms in sentencing criminals*
- Adam Nekimken (doctoral studies in Bio-Engineering at Stanford) *“How Big Data Monopolizes Your Attention”*

3:15-4:45: Christian appropriation of Virtual Science and Technology

- Mark Fusco SJ (asst professor of Theology, Santa Clara U): *“What does Quantum Mechanics, Black Hole Entropy and Information Have to do with Transubstantiation?”*
- Levi Checketts (recent PhD at GTU on Transhumanism and Christian Ethics): *“Transhumanism and The Need for a New Christian Ethic”*
- Tim Clancy (teaches philosophy of religion and philosophy of technology at Gonzaga) *“Juxtaposing Teilhard and Transhumanism”*
- Cameron Healy *“Virtual Icons”*.

5:00 ***Reception and Dinner at Dela Strada***

Sunday, February 17

9:00-10:30 *The Networked Self and Social Media*

- Patrick Aroikaraj SJ (over Zoom from Pune, India). *A Psychoanalytic Study of Smartphones as Transitional Objects for Young Jesuit Priests in India*
- Frank Jaynath SJ (over Zoom from Chennai, India) *The Liberatory Potential of Social Media for India's Dalits (Untouchables)*.
- Lawrence Fernandes SJ (Chennai, where he teaches the philosophy of religion and popular religiosity in India)

10:45-12:15 Promises and Threats to a Flourishing Life of Meaning and Purpose in the High Tech Sector: a panel of computer people working in the industry

- Ruth Manthey (over Zoom from Boise)
- Corwin Bryan
- Peter Hengler

Brunch

1:30-3:00 Ministering to Digital Natives

- High School: Christian Astran (campus minister at Loyola High, LA)
- College: Ally Clapp (campus minister at Gonzaga)
- Young adults: Teresa Nygard: (youth minister at Boise State)
- Everyone (toddlers on up!): Kieren Halloran SJ: adapting the examen to monitor social media usage

3:30-4:15 where to go from here?

- Explore monthly webinar with circulating facilitators presenting on various issues of interest (e.g. Chinese CRISPR baby brouhaha)

4:30 Mass in Dela Strada chapel.

5:30 Reception

6:30 Dinner