

To ISERT Members and colleagues registered to the Assisi Conference

Dear Colleagues,

These are uncertain and difficult times. We have almost left behind a devastating pandemic, but we have entered a war in Europe, with unpredictable consequences for all of us, and painful damage for Ukraine people.

In the past we have already postponed twice our biannual Conference, foreseen now for 19-22 June 2022 in Assisi. We, the organizers, are decided to continue with our program and so we encourage all our colleagues to submit your current research in the field of empirical approaches to religion and theology, and to attend in person the Conference. We hope and pray that things will not worsen during the next months.

We had invited in our website to submit the abstracts before 15 March 2022, but given the circumstances, we have decided to extend the deadline until next 15 April 2022. In any case, those who have already submitted will be contacted soon to let them know about the acceptance of their proposal.

It may be important for you to know that arrangements have been made to publish high quality papers presented at the Conference in a special issue of the *Journal of Empirical Theology*.

The bank account to make the payments will be open in few weeks.

Assisi is “the city of peace”, and so we expect that meeting there will renew our commitment to peace, tolerance and fraternity. Times such as these require indeed extensive and innovative empirical research on how religious faith assists people struggling and encourages communities to help and to show solidarity with those who suffer at home or far from their habitat. More than theories, we need data to show how religious faith makes a difference in these stories of endurance, coping and resilience.

Francis-Vincent Anthony

Lluís Oviedo