

Annual CATA Conference PAPER Competition (2025)

Divine Justice in Response to Evil & Tyranny

Competition Invitation

Graduate students, post-docs, independent scholars, and pre-tenured faculty are invited to enter the Annual CATA Paper Competition.

Special consideration will be given to papers that offer theological reflection on the theme “Divine Justice in Response to Evil and Tyranny.” We are interpreting “theological reflection” to include the following: biblical studies; theological readings of Scripture; historical, systematic, philosophical, moral, and pastoral theology; and theology that engages culture, the church, or other academic disciplines.

Eligible related themes might include theological reflection on:

- The nature of evil and/or how it manifests
- Divine justice or judgment in relation to tyranny and/or coercive power
- Imprecation and Christian prayer
- God’s sovereignty and providence in relation to human affairs and governance
- Christian thought in relation to the monstrous (and/or horror)
- Violence in the Bible (apparently with divine sanction)
- Theodicy and contemporary contexts and challenges

Submission Instructions:

All competition submissions must be submitted simultaneously as paper proposals for the 2025 CATA Annual Conference (Word or PDF format). Paper competition proposals are due by March 1, 2025, and the full draft for the paper competition is due by May 1, 2025. Please email your submission proposal and draft to Dr. Patrick Franklin at pfranklin@tyndale.ca by the dates indicated. Please indicate “CATA 2025 Paper Competition” in the subject line of your email.

Evaluation Criteria for Excellence:

- The essay should be well written and have a clear, coherently argued point of view (thesis)
- The essay should be academically rigorous, with evidence of significant research and nuanced understanding of the relevant issues
- The essay should engage Scripture in a significant way, bringing informed analysis of the Bible into conversation with other theological disciplines and/or the theological topic at hand
- Special consideration will be given to essays that have relevance to life outside the academy
- Formatting of citations should conform to the SBL Handbook of Style or the Chicago Manual of Style
- The essay must be of publishable quality
- The award will be granted only when there is an essay of sufficient excellence