



Call for Papers

The 44th annual meeting of the Christian Sociological Association will be held at

Eastern University, St. Davids, PA

June 1 - 4, 2023

Abstracts of papers and presentations should be submitted by **May 15**

to

Timothy Epp, Program Chair

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Conference Theme:

“Prophetic Sociology and the Future of Christian Sociology”

Ten years ago, then president of the Christian Sociological Association Dennis Hiebert published an article in *Christian Scholar's Review* entitled “Problems and Possibilities of Sociology as Prophetic.” He argued that, while sociology is clearly not priestly in the sense of speaking *for* the Christian establishment from its center, it has potential to be prophetic in speaking *to* the Christian establishment from its margins.

[Problems and Possibilities of Sociology as Prophetic - Christian Scholar's Review \(christianscholars.com\)](http://christianscholars.com)

This year's CSA conference takes Hiebert's thesis as a common point of departure, and seeks to critique, update, expand, and apply it.



Our world is increasingly plagued by polarization, extremism, conflict, inequalities, injustices, exploitations, and selfishness, including within Christian communities themselves. Sociology has long sought to be a prophetic voice to both national societies and Christian communities, but like all prophets, it has not always been well-received. Disconcertingly, in the current cultural ethos when prophetic voices are most desperately needed in higher education, many college and university programs in sociology and anthropology* are quieting or being silenced, as institutions harken most to the revenue-generating pronouncements of (pre)professional programs, and tune out perspectives that call out hegemony. Accordingly, the Christian Sociological Association invites papers that address “the problems and possibilities of sociology as prophetic,” explore the future of sociology in institutions suspicious of and resistant to prophetic voices, and identify spaces where sociologists can and should speak and be heard.

Note: While “Prophetic Sociology and the Future of Christian Sociology” is the theme of this conference, we also welcome without reservation papers exploring other issues at the intersection of sociology and Christianity.

*A main item on the agenda of the business meeting will be a proposal to expand the Christian Sociological Association (CSA) to become the Christian Sociological and Anthropological Association (CSAA).

