

Submitting Papers for the 2024 Annual ACPA National Meeting

“Male and Female He Created Them”  
2024 Annual ACPA Meeting

Deadline for Submission: **30 April 2024.**

Send all submissions to: **acpa@acpaweb.org**

1) Here is President Mary Catherine Sommers’s description of the theme and call for papers:

The theme I propose for our 2024 Annual Meeting is:

*Male and Female He Created Them*

If Thomas Aquinas has a ‘gender theory’, and I think he does, it has two controlling biblical principles: “male and female He created them” and “there is no male and female in Christ. A Thomistic history of gender, from creation to resurrection, would run something like this: Male and female are created, one out of the other, equally bearing the *imago Dei*, differentiated beautifully but unequally in body, joined in a project, the education of children, neither can complete without the other, intended and redeemed for a single end in which their differentiation, still beautiful, will be irrelevant, and the only remaining hierarchy will be structured on what they have in common. The underlying principle of this history is, as John Paul II framed it, “the original unity of man and woman”, or as Antonio Malo puts it: “without woman there would be no man-person, but only the human person, even if he had a male body...”

Prudence Allen argues that the history of philosophizing about gender has led to the throwing off of “the albatross” of Aristotle’s “erroneous view” of women, which burdened Aquinas as well, and the triumph of integral gender complementarity: a hylomorphic theory, where women and men are equal but significantly different, which, in turn, produces the synergy and fruitfulness of their relations. Antonio Malo describes the *status quaestionis* rather differently. He commends gender theory [as developed by Foucault, de Beauvoir, J. Butler et al.] because “it corrects a naturalistic concept of human sexuality [such as Aquinas’s], showing that there are other aspects such as the social and cultural dimensions...” The downside, of course, is that “it blurs crucial realities such as the sexed body, sexual difference, etc...”.

In whatever way we describe the state of the philosophical conversation on gender, entangled as it is in the research and/or rhetoric of other disciplines, I invite this Association to take it up. These are some of the topics and questions which could be addressed: varieties of hylomorphism; the sex/gender distinction; gender theory/ideology; interdisciplinary issues; the function of gender in personal identity; whether the differences linked to being female or being male are necessary, absolute, relational, conditioned by culture or education, etc.; how the understanding of gender roles impacts relations between the sexes, marriage and family, political and social issues, and theories of education.

2) Papers must be received no later than 30 April 2024. The authors of the papers must be members of ACPA at the moment of submission.

- 3) Submissions must be received through email. Please save your paper in Microsoft Word (.docx preferred) or PDF. (Other formats are not acceptable.) The text of your paper should not exceed 15 typed, double-spaced pages, 12 point (30 minutes reading time). The paper *must* begin with a short abstract (150 words), suitable for inclusion in the conference program. (The abstract will not be counted against the overall length of your paper.)
- 4) The format of the paper should be appropriate for *blind* reviewing; that is, nothing in the paper itself should reveal the author's identity. (We will take care that your paper is not identifiable in the way it is saved by us, as blind review is one of the strengths of our conference papers and our proceedings.)
- 5) *In the body of your email*, please include:
  - Author's name,
  - University affiliation,
  - Postal address,
  - Phone number,
  - E-mail address (correct from 30 April 2024 through 1 December 2024).
- 6) It is understood that, by submitting material for possible presentation at the 2021 Annual Meeting, authors agree that, should the paper be accepted for presentation at the Annual Meeting and publication in the annual Proceedings, they will deliver the paper in person at the 2024 ACPA Conference, and they agree to allow the ACPA to hold the copyright to their paper published in the *Proceedings*. If the paper is accepted, you will be asked to sign a publication agreement with us.
- 7) Those authors who wish to have their papers considered for the ACPA Karen Chan Young Scholar's Award (scholars 35 years of age or younger, regardless of academic position, are eligible) should *indicate as much in the body of their email*.
- 8) We will acknowledge receipt of your paper by email, shortly after it is submitted. If you do not hear from us within one week of submitting your paper, please contact us by email. Then by 31 July 2024, we will inform you if your paper has been accepted for the conference and publication in the *ACPA Proceedings*.
- 9) If you would like to comment on a paper or to chair a session, please let the ACPA Secretary know by sending a *separate* e-mail. Be sure to provide your e-mail address, as well as your telephone numbers, and your area of philosophical expertise.