

‘MAKING THE CASE ON CHAPLAINCY & SPIRITUAL CARE’

Three Day Modular Conference with George Fitchett in the Netherlands

‘What case can be made for the efficacy of chaplaincy in the care sector?’ It is a question of increasing urgency. It is also the central question of a three day conference that the Academic Committee of the Dutch Association of Spiritual Caregivers in Care Settings is organizing from **March 23 – 25, 2015** with **Professor George Fitchett** (USA). Professor Fitchett is research director of the Department of Religion, Health and Human Values, Rush University Medical Center, Chicago (USA). Fitchett is a leading figure in research on chaplaincy worldwide. Along with numerous publications on spiritual assessment and screening, he has recently advocated the development of case studies in the field of chaplaincy.

The conference is being organized in modules so that attendance on one day or on multiple days is possible. Monday, March 23, is devoted to case studies as a means of bringing into view what chaplains in fact do and should be doing (best practices). On Tuesday, March 24, various contributions will be presented on models of spiritual assessment and screening and on discussions of method in chaplaincy care. Wednesday, March 25, is reserved for researchers and scholars in the field of chaplaincy and related fields. The morning will focus on questions of a research agenda. The afternoon will take the form of a master class with various respondents. Each day will begin with an introduction by George Fitchett, followed by responses and independent contributions of researchers and expert chaplains. The program is included below.

The conference language is English. As preparation for the conference articles by Fitchett will be made available. Fitchett’s argument for the development of case studies can be found at: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/08854726.2011.559829#.VJgYrK4BAw>

The conference will be held in the center of the city of Utrecht, Netherlands, at the Tilburg School of Catholic Theology (TST). The conference center is located at Nieuwegracht 61, 3512 LG Utrecht. Utrecht is centrally located in the Netherlands, only a half hour by train from Amsterdam Schiphol Airport.

Online registration is available on the website of Tilburg University: <https://tiu.nu/chaplaincy>. Costs for the conference are € 100 for either Monday or Tuesday, € 200 for both days. Researchers are welcome to attend the Wednesday sessions at no extra costs. If you would like to attend on Wednesday, we ask you to not only register online but also to send an e-mail to Martin Walton at mwalton@pthu.nl. We are not able to provide overnight accommodations but the city of Utrecht has innumerable possibilities. Any other questions on the conference can likewise be addressed to Martin Walton.

Organizing body: Academic Committee of the Dutch Association of Spiritual Caregivers in the Care Sector (VGVZ www.vgvz.nl)

Host Institution: Tilburg School of Catholic Theology (TST), Utrecht, Netherlands

Organizers / Contact persons: Dr. Sjaak Körver (TST), e-mail: j.w.g.korver@uvt.nl
Prof. Martin Walton (Protestant Theological University, Groningen, Netherlands)
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PROGRAM

DAY 1 'DESCRIBING WHAT CHAPLAINS DO: CASE STUDIES IN CHAPLAINCY' Monday, March 23, 2015

Early 2015 publication is expected of *Spiritual Care in Practice: Case Studies in Healthcare Chaplaincy* of which George Fitchett and Steve Nolan are editors. Nine case studies are presented with commentary by other experts in the field. The book is part of a program to produce case studies that George Fitchett has advocated. See:

G. Fitchett (2011). Making our case(s). *Journal of Health Care Chaplaincy* 17(1-2): 3-18. Before reliable empirical research on the quality and efficacy of chaplaincy can be carried out on a broad scale, agreement is needed on what makes good chaplaincy. Case studies provide insight into the way chaplains work and form a basis for the description of best practices. Day 1 will be devoted to the development of case studies.

- 10.00 Opening by Martin Walton (Protestant Theological University), chairperson for day 1
- 10.15 Lecture by George Fitchett 'Why case studies?'
 - How do case studies fit into research on chaplaincy?
 - What should a case study in chaplaincy look like?
- 11.00 Break
- 11.15 An example of a case study from the forthcoming book.
- 12.00 Response by Stefan Gärtner (Tilburg School of Theology) followed by discussion
- 12.45 Lunch
- 14.00 Presentation of a Dutch case study by Willem Blokland (University Medical Center, Utrecht)
Comments by Hanneke Muthert (University of Groningen) and George Fitchett
Plenary discussion
- 15.00 Break
- 15.15 Lecture by Sjaak Körver (Tilburg School of Theology)
'Looking at the case for case studies'
 - What do case studies tell us and what do they not tell us?
 - How do case studies relate to other types of research on chaplaincy?
- 15.45 Response by George Fitchett
- 16.00 Discussion: Developing case studies in chaplaincy in the Netherlands
- 16.30 Closing and reception



DAY 2 'SPIRITUAL ASSESSMENT'

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Fitchett is an advocate of a holistic, functional approach to spiritual assessment. His 7X7 model is known by many in the Netherlands. See:

G. Fitchett (1993). *Assessing Spiritual Need: A Guide for Caregivers*. Minneapolis: Augsburg. (Reprint edition Lima, Ohio: Academic Renewal Press, 2002)

G. Fitchett (2012). Next Steps for spiritual assessment in health care. In M. Cobb, C. Puchalski & B. Rumbold (eds.), *Oxford Textbook of Spirituality in Healthcare* (pp. 299-305). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

In addition Fitchett has published a number of articles on spiritual assessment and screening for spiritual distress, specifically for chaplaincy as well as for interdisciplinary settings. On day two the morning will focus on interdisciplinary aspects of spiritual screening and will be open to various care disciplines. The afternoon will focus on spiritual assessment by chaplains.

Morning 'Spiritual screening: interdisciplinary approaches'

- 10.00 Opening by Monique van Dijk (Tilburg School of Theology), chairperson for day 2
- 10.15 Lecture by George Fitchett
'Screening for spiritual need: interdisciplinary approaches and perspectives'
- 10.45 Discussion
- 11.00 Break
- 11.15 Presentation of Dutch models for screening of spiritual needs.
Focus, structure & issues.
 - Carlo Leget (University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht): palliative care
 - Wim Smeets (Radboud University Hospital, Nijmegen): oncology
 - Arie Kooijman (Diaconessenhuis, Leiden): geriatrics
- 12.15 Response by George Fitchett
- 12.30 Discussion
- 12.45 Lunch

Afternoon 'Spiritual Assessment in chaplaincy'

- 14.00 Introduction by George Fitchett 'The case for spiritual assessment'.
 - The choice of a method and the 7X7 model as example.
 - Next steps to spiritual assessment in chaplaincy care.
- 14.45 Reflection by Martin Walton (Protestant Theological University)
'The pastoral diagnostics discussion in the Netherlands'
 - Reception of the 7X7 model in the Netherlands
 - Dutch proposals
 - Where has the discussion brought us? Where should it be going?
- 15.15 Response by Job Smit (Viaticence)
- 15.30 Break
- 15.45 Discussion: Models & methods for chaplaincy
- 17.00 Closing and reception

DAY 3 RESEARCH PERFORMANCE

Wednesday March 25

Besides being director of research at a university medical center, George Fitchett is involved in many research projects, both as practicing researcher and consultant. He serves on various advisory and editorial boards. Following the specific focuses of day 1 (case studies) and day 2 (on spiritual assessment), day 3 will turn our attention to a research agenda for chaplaincy in the Netherlands (morning) and in a masterclass (afternoon) to the actual execution of research. The day is open to (junior and senior) researchers in the field of chaplaincy and tangent areas.

- 9.15 Opening by Carlo Leget, chairperson for day 3
- 9.30 Lecture by George Fitchett
'Setting the agenda for chaplaincy research: directions, methods and training'
- 10.00 Responses by Dutch researchers and scholars
Junior researchers
Jan Willem Uringa (Medical Center Leeuwarden)
Vicky Hölsgens (University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht)
Senior researchers
Christa Anbeek (University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht)
Hans Schilderman (Radboud University Nijmegen)
Hetty Zock (University of Groningen)
- 11.00 Break
- 11.15 Discussion
- 11.45 Round table discussion 'A research agenda for chaplaincy in the Netherlands'
- 12.45 Lunch
- 14.00 Master Class with junior and senior researchers
Two junior researchers will be selected on the basis of open applications to present their research design, a major research question and, if applicable, preliminary results. George Fitchett will be asked to comment on design and other issues and to relate the presented research to broader research concerns.
- 16.00 Rounding up. Reflections by two senior researchers
Anne Vandenhoeck (Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium)
Monique van Dijk (Tilburg School of Theology)
Response by George Fitchett
- 17.00 Closing and reception

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