



Announcing the Kirby Laing Centre's Economics Research Hub

The [Kirby Laing Centre for Public Theology in Cambridge](#)'s Economics Research Hub seeks to generate rigorous scholarship at the intersection of economics and theology with both contemporary application and Christian perspective. Hub members are expected to be committed to actively generating such scholarship, though the amount and types of contributions will certainly vary based on personal and professional constraints. To facilitate this scholarship, the Hub will provide opportunities for community, collaboration, and support among its members.

As currently envisioned, the Economics Research Hub would meet about six times a year, five of which would be via Zoom. The sixth meeting would be in person and coincide with the annual meeting of the [Association for Christian Economics UK](#) (ACE UK), often in Cambridge in early July. The meetings would not only provide opportunities for members to share research with each other to gather feedback, but also provide opportunities to read and discuss works relevant to the members' scholarship. With administrative support from the Kirby Laing Centre (KLC), joint projects are also possible through the Hub and can be a primary focus of members' efforts together. Additionally, KLC welcomes article submissions by Hub members for its new magazine, [The Big Picture](#), and KLC can facilitate other-disciplinary input on scholarship generated by Hub members as needed.

Call for Expressions of Interest in Membership

KLC will be launching its Economics Research Hub, in partnership with ACE UK, in September 2021.

Emphasizing quality over quantity, membership in the Economics Research Hub will be limited. New members are asked to make an initial one-year commitment. Members should propose an active economics / theology research agenda to be a part of the Hub, share progress on that work at least once per year, and commit to providing substantive feedback on the work of others in the Hub. Members will be encouraged to submit for presentation at the ACE UK annual

meeting. Members may also organize sessions together at additional conferences when and where they find it beneficial to do so.

Always cognizant of its goal to further theological economics scholarship, the Hub's chair - in consultation with the KLC Director, ACE UK leadership, and Hub members - will assess its efforts at least once a year.

Dr. Robert Tatum will be chairing the Economics Research Hub. Dr. Tatum resides in Asheville, North Carolina, where he is the Cary Caperton Owen Distinguished Professor in Economics at the University of North Carolina Asheville, a public liberal arts university. He received his PhD in Economics in 2005 from Indiana University. He is fairly new to theological economics scholarship, but has a passion for exploring its contemporary applications and usefulness in the public square. With interests in how theological considerations can help facilitate methodological advancements in economics, assess economic systems, and create, design, and evaluate policies within economic systems, Dr. Tatum has written: "[To What Ends for Theology-Oriented Economic Policymaking?](#)," "[Move Beyond the One-Hit Wonder of Economic Growth and Use the Whole Hymnal](#)," "[Homo Economicus as Fallen Man: The Need for Theological Economics](#)," and "[A Theology of Economic Reform](#)." He is excited that the projects he has planned regarding the theology and economics of globalization, poverty, inequality, and labor policy, among others, will benefit from the collective wisdom of the Economics Research Hub, as he likewise looks forward to supporting the growth and development of fellow members and their work. He would also be delighted to develop *A Theological Economics Policy Primer* in collaboration with fellow Hub members.

Whereas the generation of interdisciplinary and faith-informed scholarship may seem daunting for many of us trained disciplinarily, obstacles can be more easily overcome, foundations laid, and research developed in a supportive scholarly community. Accordingly, Dr. Tatum invites those who have a desire to produce and support such scholarship to reach out to him about the possibility of being a founding member in KLC's Economics Research Hub.

Inquiries may be directed to Dr. Tatum at rtatum@unca.edu.



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