



Toronto School of Theology Three Minute Thesis Competition

Let's celebrate the research of TST's graduate students!

On **Friday, March 25, from 1:00 - 4:00 pm**, the Toronto School of Theology will "pilot" a Three Minute Thesis competition. The 3MT competition is widely used throughout universities. Eligibility, rules and judging criteria are consistent with all such competitions and can be found [here](#).

Twenty TST graduate students have registered for this competition.

The prizes for this competition will be the same as at the University of Toronto:

- 1st place: \$1000
- 2nd place: \$500
- 3rd place: \$250
- People's Choice: \$50

PROCESS:

- Judges will sign on to the Zoom link at **1:00 pm** to review their instructions.
- Participants will sign on at **1:15 pm** to review their instructions.
- The audience may sign on at **1:25 pm**, in preparation for a 1:30 pm start for the first heat, which will last about 40 minutes.
- The second heat will begin at **2:45 pm**.

Judges will score each presentation according to established criteria and will confer at the end of each hearing. The "People's Choice" selection will be chosen by all of those who have heard all ten presentations who are not official judges, if at least ten persons have heard all of the presentations. Finalists will be announced on the TST website.

The judges for the March 25 competition include:

Faraz Alidina, a 4th year PhD Candidate at the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations at the University of Toronto who researches Persian poetics. He was the winner of last year's UofT 3MT competition and the Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools (NAGS) 3MT competition. You can read more about his winning entry [here](#).

Robert Osborne, a former Director of Corporate Relations and Communications for Ontario Power Generation. He earned a masters degrees in Environmental Studies and Business Administration. In his retirement, Bob has led the Indigenous Education project at St. Luke's Anglican Church in Burlington, in honor of his grandmother's Ojibway family.

Kyle Steele, of Knightsbridge Robertson Surette, is an Academic Executive Search Consultant who has held former roles as a public sector consultant. He has experience within post-secondary enrolment services.

Rachele (Evie) Vernon O'Brien, describes herself as Nannyish /Jamaican Womanist/Activist theologian at large. Evie lives in the United Kingdom and participates in many projects of World Council of Churches. She has been theological adviser to United Society Partners in the Global Mission (SPC). In that role she combated xenophobia and supported displaced persons and migrants.

This panel will select the three finalists from each heat who will progress to the **final competition on Monday, April 25**, held in conjunction with the TST Board of Trustees meeting. The panel of judges that day will be TST Trustees, including:

George Terrence Smith, CSB, the Chair of the TST Board of Trustees and the Interim Dean of the Faculty of Theology at the Saint Paul University, Ottawa.

Sioban Nelson, the University of Toronto representative on the TST Board of Trustees. A former Vice-Provost at U of T, she is currently professor at the Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing. She is the author of *Say Little, Do Much: Nursing, Nuns, and Hospitals in the Nineteenth Century* (University of Pennsylvania, 2003).

Carolyn Tuohy, an Independent Trustee on the TST Board of Trustees. She is professor emeritus of political science and distinguished fellow in the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Toronto, and author of *Remaking Policy: Scale, Pace and Political Strategy in Health Care Reform* (University of Toronto Press, 2018).

John G. Richardson, an Independent Trustee on the TST Board of Trustees. He is a lawyer who has served the University of Toronto and Toronto School of Theology. He likes to use his legal knowledge to help clients solve problems through “careful analysis to identify the real problem, the range of possible solutions and the means of achieving the same in order to develop a strategy for achieving the solution in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.” (<http://www.jgrlaw.com>)

All judges and presenters will receive the Zoom link a day before the competition. The rubric for evaluation will be provided to the judges the day before.

If you wish to be part of the audience, RSVP to Elizabeth Neilly (elizabeth.neilly@utoronto.ca) by 12:00 pm on Thursday, March 24, to be added to the list to receive the Zoom link.