



The Quaker Institute for the Future

Advancing a global future of inclusion, social justice and ecological integrity through participatory research and discernment

QIF 2024 Summer Research Seminar August 12-16, 2024 - Online

Do you have a project you would like to develop in a Quaker context?

Would you value the opportunity to share and learn in a setting of collaborative Quaker discernment?

Do you have a concern for public policy that will help ensure a healthy and sustainable future for human communities and Earth's commonwealth of life?

You are invited!

The Quaker Institute for the Future's 2024 Summer Research Seminar (SRS) will take place online (by Zoom) from August 12th-16th.

QIF Summer Research Seminars create a venue for Spirit-led research using Quaker methods of discernment and reflection. The SRS is an opportunity to bring new ideas, projects, and research for collaborative discernment conducted as a Meeting for Worship. As individuals share their projects in a Quaker process of collective inquiry and discernment, they often arrive at a configuration of knowledge and understanding that would not have occurred had the projects remained individual efforts.

Each day will begin with a time of silent centering worship, typically followed by presentations of two projects. These presentations include time for questions, clarification, and discussion, all aimed to support those who are developing ongoing projects.

When possible, presentations are organized into themes by day. Themes may include:

- Moving past colonial legacies
- Acting on environmental and social crises
- Confronting the financial system
- Moving toward housing justice
- Supporting and securing democracy
- Bridging our polarities
- Taking away the occasion of war

We invite SRS participants to propose additional themes when they register.

The second part of each day is usually reserved for discussions, worship sharing, artistic and other creative sharing, and informal interactions among participants. Music, art, poetry, and video are welcome. Discussions will include author-led conversations on the most recent QIF books, “Smarter Planet or Wiser Earth: Dialogue and Collaboration in the Era of Artificial Intelligence,” by Gray Cox, and “Sketches from Behind Prison Walls,” by Devon Kurtz.

Registration

We welcome those who wish to present a project for worshipful discernment, those who wish to participate in introducing and facilitating a theme-based discussion, those who wish to attend and participate without taking on either a presentation or theme-based facilitation, and those who wish to take part in book discussions.

Please register at www.quakerinstitute.org by following the links to the 2024 Summer Research Seminar. The registration form will be available beginning June 8.

Please register by July 1 if you wish to present a project, facilitate a discussion, or share creative works. You will be able to briefly describe your proposal using the registration form. Registration for other participants will be open throughout the SRS. There is no registration fee, though participants are encouraged to make a donation to QIF that is within their means to help QIF cover the costs of organizing, promoting, and documenting the SRS.

Youth Grants

QIF is offering \$500 stipends to applicants aged 18 to 35 years old to make a presentation on research or activism that resonates with the QIF mission of advancing a global future of inclusion, social justice, and ecological integrity through Spirit-led participatory research and discernment. The SRS organizing committee will hold two or more orientation/clearness sessions for stipend recipients and will be generally available to help stipend holders prepare for the SRS.

This is part of a year long program of Youth Grants. NOTE: People may choose to apply for a Youth Grant independently of the Summer Research Seminar and use it for purposes other than to develop a presentation at the SRS. For more information on the Youth Grants, see:

<https://quakerinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-QIF-Youth-Grants-Info-Sheet.pdf>

Inquiries

For other questions regarding registration or the SRS in general or to apply for a Youth Grant stipend, contact Gray Cox at gray@coa.edu or #207-460-1163.

