

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. The use of the term “wicked” implies a judgement on some of the issues my clients are facing. In my professional capacity, it is imperative that I am not seen to judge them or label them (or their actions) as “wicked”. Is it possible that the term will be seen in a judgemental way?**

It is possible that it will be seen this way and we must make sure in our presentations that the term “wicked” refers not to those who are affected or are deeply involved in the related issues but to the nature of the problem, its complexity and its intractability.

- 2. The theme of the Seminar as being “Theological Approaches to Wicked Problems in Secular Society” implies that this will have formal theological input. Is this so?**

Yes, Rev Dr Charles Sherlock will be the concluding speaker and he will be tasked with drawing the theological threads together with some concluding thoughts. That said, the point of the Symposium is to explore the wicked problems our members are dealing with and to test how our understanding of God and the love of Jesus Christ can provide a wider theological approach to dealing with these complexities. Our hope is that the need for wider theological understanding will emerge as the various situations and experiences are described.

It will be wonderful if a perspective started to emerge which, as Christians, we can humbly offer the rest of society to help it as it deals with these problems also.

- 3. You say the submissions will be “peer reviewed”. What does this mean?**

It means that not all submissions will automatically be accepted, rather they will be assessed against the criteria as listed in the Call for Papers. The review (and the symposium itself) is not just an academic exercise. The peers doing the review will be fellow scientists and professionals who will be looking to see if the understanding of Wicked Problems has been understood, that presentations are in keeping with ISCAST’s Core Values and will be presented within the spirit of ISCAST’s desire to explore the interface between science and Christianity.

Since the professional and scientific concerns of ISCAST are wide ranging, topics will be pursued not so much in the depth that similar symposia might explore were they to focus on one science or on the theological dimension in isolation. Thus, for some, the format might seem to be superficial, but we can cope with that as long as they fairly represent the real-life struggles we are dealing with.

We are seeking informed, intelligent, first-hand experience from practitioners confronting the complex challenges that are confronting not only Christians but the rest of society as well.