



**Discussion Guides for Advance Preparation
in Support of
The Trinity Institute January 27-29, 2010
*Building an Ethical Economy: Theology & the Market Place***

Robert Owens Scott, Director of the Trinity Institute, visits with the speakers for the 2010 Trinity Institute. His interviews serve as beginning points for three adult education programs for which we offer these Study Guides. The Trinity Institute 2010 will feature panels that will meet four times during the three days of the institute. The panels will include the three main speakers, additional respondents, and questions from a world-wide audience. In the order in which they will appear at Trinity Church they are:

- ❖ Rowan Williams, 104th Archbishop of Canterbury
- ❖ Kathryn Tanner, Dorothy Grant McClear Professor of Theology, University of Chicago Divinity School
- ❖ Partha Dasgupta, Professor of Economics, Cambridge University

Each interview lasts approximately 15 minutes and provides the basis for three Study Guides. We suggest that the sessions last approximately one hour and that be adapted to suit local circumstances. Together, the interviews and Study Guides serve as an introduction to the person and the thought of each of the speakers as well as the general subject of theology and economics. They were prepared to be adaptable for a one-hour adult education class.

Edward O. de Bary, former director of the Education for Ministry Program, prepared these guides for Trinity Institute.



The 104th Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, is first of the three featured speakers for the 40th Trinity Institute January 27-29, 2010, *Building an Ethical Economy: Theology & the Market Place*.

Objectives:

- Introduce participants to a basis for constructive dialogue concerning religious faith and economics
- Explore our own perspectives about theology and economics
- Consider how we may prepare to hear more from the Archbishop and the panels that will present the Trinity Institute 2010.

Length of presentation and discussion: One Hour. The video presentation is about 15 minutes

1. If the group is smaller than 10-12 and has not met as a group before, take time to arrange for introductions. If this group is larger than 12 divide into groups of not more than 12 and allow introductions to take place only in those smaller groups. If this is an on-going class or group and people know one another well you may omit this step once they complete initial greetings.

2. View of DVD Robert Owens Scott's interview with Archbishop Williams. 15 minutes.

3. Divide into small groups of 5 to 8 persons. In the small group consider some of the following questions to begin your discussion. 30 min.

- What do you find especially significant in the Archbishop's presentation?
- What do you believe is the relationship between the way you behave as a buyer, owner, seller in our economic systems and your personal religious beliefs?
- In what way does pride properly describe some aspects of our economic challenges?

4. To wrap up, or perhaps as a plenary of the small groups, respond to: "What do you take away from this discussion that you are not likely to forget?"

Bibliography: Claire Foster and Edmund Newell, eds., *The Worlds We live In: Dialogues with Rowan Williams on Global Economic and Politics*, 2005.



Professor Kathryn Tanner is second of the three featured speakers for the 40th Trinity Institute January 27-29, 2010, *Building an Ethical Economy: Theology & the Market Place*. Professor Tanner is professor of theology, University of Chicago Divinity School.

Objectives:

- Become acquainted with Professor Tanner’s approach to the relationship of theology and economics, especially her critique of the notion of private ownership and her analysis of the relationship of grace and money
- Explore our personal ideas about an economy that always presumes scarcity and how your religious faith relates to that economy
- Consider Tanner’s concepts of “unconditional giving”, “non-competitive relationships”, and “inclusion” as useful constructs in a discussion of theology and economics

Length of presentation and discussion: One Hour

1. If the group has new members or has not met as a group before, take time to arrange for introductions. If this is an on-going class or group you may omit this step.
2. View Robert Owens Scott’s interview with Professor Tanner. 15 minutes.
3. Divide into pairs or groups of 3. 10 minutes
 - On a personal level what do Tanner’s concepts of “unconditional giving”, “non-competitive relationships”, and “inclusion” evoke?
4. Bring the pairs together into groups of 6 to 8 persons. 20 minutes.
 - In what way might Tanner’s concepts for economics affect your perception of grace and your understanding of economics?
5. The entire group. 15 minutes
 - What would you like to ask Professor Tanner if you had an opportunity? (If you attend the Trinity Institute in person or via webcast you will have an opportunity to do that January 28, 2010)

Bibliography: Kathryn Tanner, *Economy of Grace*, 2005.



Sir Partha Dasgupta is the third of the three featured speakers for the 40th Trinity Institute January 27-29, 2010, *Building an Ethical Economy: Theology & the Market Place*. He is professor of Economics, the University of Cambridge, England.

Objectives:

- To learn about Dasgupta's perspective on the economic and social implications of our current course of global development, especially his notion of capital as natural capital and social capital.
- To examine our own perspectives concerning the impact of globalizations on ourselves, our immediate communities, our nation, and the larger world.
- To prepare to grapple with the theological and economic challenges and problems that face us.

Length of presentation and discussion: One Hour

1. If the group is smaller than 12-15 and has not met as a group before, take time to arrange for introductions. If this is an on-going class or group you may omit this step.
2. View of DVD Robert Owens Scott's interview with Sir Dasgupta. 15 minutes.
3. Divide into groups of 2 or 3 persons and consider the following. 10 minutes.
 - In what ways do Dasgupta's perceptions of capital and your own agree and/or differ?
4. Come together in a group of 6 to 8 persons and consider: 20 minutes.
 - The interview and in his books (see below) compare the worlds of a child in the USA (Becky) and a child in Ethiopia (Desta). In what way can this inform your faith (theological) perspectives?
5. In a plenary session consider: 15 minutes.
 - What do you take away from this discussion that you will find applicable or useful in other contexts?

Bibliography:

Partha Dasgupta, *Economics: A Very Short Introduction*, 2007.