
Submit your master thesis to the Anders Bäckström Prize 2021!

Professor emeritus in the Sociology of Religion Anders Bäckström (Uppsala University) has founded a fund to support research on diaconia, Christian social practice, welfare and religion, and in particular young researchers in this field. The Anders Bäckström Fund is placed at Diakonhjemmet foundation in Oslo/Norway. The board of the Anders Bäckström Fund announces this year for the first time an award for an excellent master thesis in the field of diaconal studies and welfare and religion. This prize, the Anders Bäckström Prize, will be awarded for the second time during the conference of the International Society for the Research and Study of Diaconia and Christian Social Practice (ReDi) in September 2021 in Oslo/Norway.

What type of theses can apply?

All post-bachelor theses and master theses (but no PhD theses) that relate to the field of diaconia and Christian Social Practice or welfare and religion in a broad sense are eligible. There are no limitations with regard to length or grade of the thesis. A precondition is, however, that the author of the thesis must have passed the program connected to the thesis.

Has the thesis to be in English?

It is the ambition of the Anders Bäckström Prize not to limit itself to master theses written in English. Only an abstract and a short recommendation letter (max. one page) of the supervisor have to be in English. However, it cannot be guaranteed that the evaluation committee is able to recruit evaluators in all possible languages. But please do not hesitate to give it a try!

Who can apply?

Either the candidates themselves or their supervisors can apply.

What does the prizewinner get?

The prizewinner receives 1000 € and a certificate. Since it is awarded at the Biannual Conference of the International Society for the Research and Study of Diaconia and Christian Social Practice (ReDi) the prize covers also all expenses that are related to the participation in this conference (including conference fee, travel and accommodation).

Timetable and process

Deadline for submitting the masters thesis is **1 February 2021**. The masters thesis should be sent to baeckstroemprize@diaconiaresearch.org together with an abstract and a short recommendation letter (max one page) of the supervisor.

In March 2020, the board of the Anders Bäckström Fund will appoint an evaluation committee with three experts from different disciplines and contexts. The task of the evaluation committee is to prepare a ranked list of the submitted theses and to suggest a prizewinner until May 2021. In June 2021, the board of the Anders Bäckström Fund will nominate and contact the prizewinner.