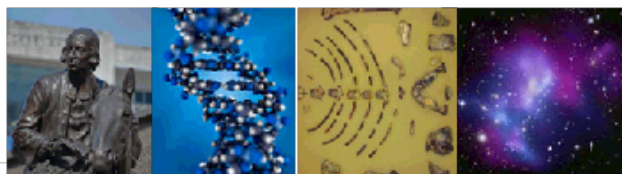


WesleyNexus

Science and Religion within the Wesleyan Tradition



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March 18, 2012

Dear WesleyNexus Colleague:

The Quarterly Review Archive

It is unusual to come across resources that apply specifically to science and religion within the Wesleyan context. So it was very exciting when I came across an edition of the Quarterly Review ([Winter, 2001](#)) published by the United Methodist Publishing House entirely devoted to Science, Technology and Faith. Of particular interest is an article by Rev. W. Douglas Mills who writes on “**Science, Evolution and Methodism: 1840-1925.**” This article, found on page 388, provides an accessible summary of issues in the debate and also contains a number of footnotes pointing out additional resources.

Letters to the Editor

WesleyNexus has created a new area for letters to the editor where participants can post feedback, concerns or disagreements with any items that are present on the WesleyNexus website. To send your comments, please send an email to WesleyNexus@aol.com. Please include the item you are responding to along with the link address. Also include a statement that you approve our posting of your letter. Please review our [Participant Guidelines](#) to be sure you comply with the letter and spirit of communication policy. WesleyNexus retains the right to reject correspondence that is determined to be outside our guidelines or the scope of our mission.

Scale of the Universe

One of our participants pointed out this animated graphic by Cary Huang. It provides an interesting perspective on the size of items in the universe ranging from the very large to the very small. It begins with the human scale and allows the user to interact by moving a slide to the left to see things on a smaller scale and to the right to see things on a larger scale. The user can also click on depicted items to get a short description. This is a wonderful tool for children and quite enjoyable for adults too. Scale of the Universe can be found [here](#).

Biologos on Evolution, Intelligent Design and Creationism

BioLogos has a multi-page discussion of evolution, intelligent design and creationism. It begins [here](#). They are up front with their perspective which can be found here. Topics include 1) Scientific evidence, 2) Scripture Interpretation, 3) God's Action in the Natural World, 4) The First Humans, 5) Responses to Arguments Against the Science of Evolution, 6) Arguments Against God and Christianity. All can be accessed from the first page.

Lynn Harold Hough: Imaginative Conservative

WesleyNexus strives to provide new content on a regular basis but also appreciates when our

participants provide content that is relevant to our mission. This past month we were informed of a link providing a short biography of Lynn Harold Hough, a Methodist theologian and educator who taught at Garrett Biblical Institute (now Garrett Evangelical Seminary) in Evanston. This article supplements the [review by Dick Rhorer](#) of the [Dawn Digrius article](#) in Methodist History in 2011. The biography can be found [here](#).

How to be Creative

A recent article in The Wall Street Journal delves into the issue of creativity. “How To Be Creative” provides some insight into what it takes to develop creative solutions to problems. Though individual insight and genius are part of the dynamic, creativity also requires community. They state that “for prompting creativity, few things are as important as time devoted to cross-pollination with fields outside our areas of expertise.” The case of Arthur Fry, the engineer at 3M who came up with post-it notes, is a case in point. His insight came to him while singing in the church choir one Sunday! The article can be found [here](#).

Free Will Philosopher

Philosophers are not usually known for receiving high-dollar grants for their research. However, the Templeton Foundation has provided a \$4 million grant to philosopher Alfred Mele of Florida State to direct research on the question of human free will. The project, The Big Question of Free Will (BQFW) is a four year project focusing on increasing our understanding of free will from the perspective of science, philosophy and theology. An interview with Mele can be found [here](#). Details on the grant can be found [here](#) along with additional links.

The Stone: Defending Science

The Stone is a platform sponsored by the NY Times where philosophers have an opportunity to present issues and ideas to the general public in a form and format designed to engage the non-professional. In a [recent article](#), Michael Lynch and Alan Sokal discuss issues of first principles in the science and religion dialogue.

God Bless,
Rick Barr, Secretary, WesleyNexus
wesleynexus@aol.com