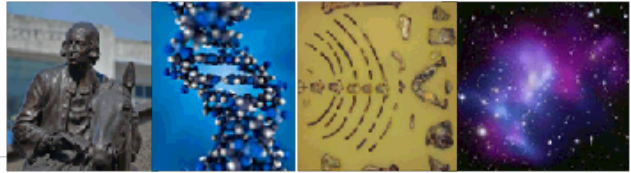


# WesleyNexus

*Science and Religion within the Wesleyan Tradition*



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September 30, 2012

**Dear WesleyNexus Colleague:**

**There are a number of events coming up in the coming year. A few of these are listed below.**

## **Empire and Economics: The Difference Religion Makes**

**Dr. Joerg Rieger** will deliver the 2012 Susan R. Andrews Progressive Theology Lecture on October 1, 2012 at 7:00 PM, Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, Maryland. Dr. Rieger is the Wendland-Cook Endowed Professor of Constructive Theology at Perkins Theological Seminary in Dallas.

His topic, "**Empire and Economics: The Difference Religion Makes**", presents a radical view of early Christians as social revolutionaries who worked actively to transform the empire of their day. His books include **No Rising Tide, Christ and Empire**, and **Globalization and Theology**, each a study of how the early church modeled resistance by poor, marginalized and alienated populations to the dominant political and economic forces of empire. Directions to Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church can be found [here](#).

## **The Blackstone Seminar 2012 - The Spirit in the Synapse: Neuroscience & Religion**

On October 22, 2012, the 2012 Blackstone Seminar for Science, Theology, Ethics, & Ministry will welcome **Dr. Jeffrey Pugh** to discuss the relationship between neuroscience and religion. There are some cognitive scientists today who argue that God is a figment of our imagination; that God, and by extension, religion, were created by brain structures to serve an evolutionary purpose. Because we understand how the brain created religion, we can now give religion up as an unnecessary vestige of our primordial past. Dr. Pugh's presentations will explore this perspective and argue that another interpretation is possible. Looking at the evidence that brain scans, cognitive science, and evolutionary biology offer, we might find that our brains have developed in order that we might grasp the reality of God in the world and in our lives. Dr. Jeffrey C. Pugh is the Maude Sharpe Powell Professor of Religious Studies at Elon University. Dr. Pugh is the author of "**Entertaining the Triune Mystery: God, Science, and the Space Between**", "**Devil's Ink: Blog from the Basement Office**", and "**Religionless Christianity: Dietrich Bonhoeffer in Troubled Times**".

To learn more about this program or register to participate, visit [www.blackstoneseminar.org](http://www.blackstoneseminar.org).

## **Montgomery County Science and Religion Discussion Group**

The Montgomery County group will have its first meeting on October 14 at 7:00 PM at Grace United Methodist Church in Gaithersburg, Maryland. The speaker will be **Rev. Skip Jordan** who is the Volunteer Services Coordinator for the Washington DC office of Capital Caring Hospice Services.

The title of his talk is “**Theology, Thanatology & the Universe**”.

### **Atom + Eve Project: Primate “Ethics” and Human Morality**

This program, the third of four seminars sponsored by the Templeton Foundations, take place on November 10th at the Washington Theological Union in Takoma Park, Maryland. It will focus on recent studies of group behavior in higher primates which is homologous to human competition and cooperation, and look at the evolutionary roots of human morality. Catholic biblical and moral theologians will lay out a contemporary view of evil, theodicy, original sin and moral life that is harmonious with contemporary science. A major goal will be to offer ministers a more adequate way of addressing the “problem of evil” in a pastoral context. For more information and to register, go to their website [here](#).

### **AAAS Annual Meeting in Boston**

The American Association for the Advancement of Science will have their annual meeting in Boston, Massachusetts on February 14 – 18, 2013. WesleyNexus will co-sponsor an exhibit table with the Ecumenical Roundtable on Science, Technology and the Church. Additional information and registration can be found [here](#).

### **American Scientific Affiliation Annual Meeting**

The American Scientific Affiliation will have their annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee on July 19-22, 2013 at Belmont University. More information on the meeting can be found [here](#).

### **Wesleyan Theological Society**

The 48th Annual Meeting of the Wesley Theological Society will take place at Seattle Pacific University, Seattle, Washington on March 21 - 23, 2013. More information will be posted when available.

### **CTNS Public Forum**

On Tuesday, November 6, 2012 will present **Bishop Richard Cheetham**, Bishop of Kingston-upon-Thames. Bishop Cheetham will be speaking on “Truth Claims in Science and Religion”. Bishop Cheetham received his Ph. D. from King’s College London in October 1999 for research on the understanding of religious belief which underlies the practice of collective worship in schools. He was appointed Bishop of Kingston in 2002. The program will begin at 7:00 PM at Graduate Theological Union Library, Dinner Board Room, 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley, California. The program is free and open to the public.

### **Eighth Annual Evolution Weekend**

February 8-10 has been designated Evolution Weekend by the Clergy Letter Project. Religious people from many diverse faith traditions and locations around the world will take the time to affirm that evolution is sound science and does not threaten, demean, or diminish their faith in God. They also affirm that the wonders of science often enhance and deepen awe and gratitude towards God. For more information and the sign up for Evolution Weekend, go to the web site [here](#).

### **The Science and Religion Dialogue: Past and Future**

The University of Heidelberg (Germany) and the John Templeton Foundation will host a major conference on “The Science and Religion Dialogue: Past and Future” from October 25th to 29th,

2012. The opening ceremony, which can be viewed via livestream on their website, will feature renowned keynote speakers in the area of science and religion. It will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Sir John Templeton and the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the John Templeton Foundation.

In addition, you will be able to watch a livestream of 12 academic sessions, which will focus on numerous scientific disciplines and various aspects of the science and religion dialogue. Furthermore, at a Live Q&A, the general public is invited to submit questions to experts in the area of science and religion. More information on the program can be found [here](#).

### **Are Science and Religion at War?**

**Dr. Karl Giberson** will be speaking at the University of Colorado on October 10, 2012. Dr. Giberson is a long time participant in science and religion conversation. He is a professor at Stonehill College, where he teaches writing, and Science-and-Religion in the Cornerstone Program. He is a fellow of the American Scientific Affiliation. The University of Colorado event posting can be found [here](#).

### **NPR takes on Science and Religion**

Neal Conan, host of NPR's Talk of the Nation, will be moderating the Controversies in Science panel discussion "Fact, Faith, Science and Religion" at COSI (333 W. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio) on October 11 at 7 pm. He will host a lively panel discussion with **Karl Giberson** (see above) and **Michael Shermer**. Dr. Michael Shermer is the Founding Publisher of Skeptic magazine and editor of Skeptic.com, a monthly columnist for Scientific American, and an Adjunct Professor at Claremont Graduate University and Chapman University. Dr. Shermer's latest book is *The Believing Brain: From Ghosts and Gods to Politics and Conspiracies—How We Construct Beliefs and Reinforce Them as Truths*. The program is free and supported by a grant from the John Templeton Foundation. Call 614.228.2674 for details or register online through Eventbrite for this free program. Space is limited.

### **Evolution: A Symbiosis of Religion with Science**

**Dr. Michael Zimmerman** will be presenting Plymouth Congregational Church Parry Lecture for 2012 on October 12 at 7:00 PM in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Dr. Zimmerman will discuss "Evolution: A Symbiosis of Religion with Science. He has a PhD in Ecology from Washington University in St. Louis, the Executive Director of The Clergy Letter Project, Academic Vice-president and Provost at the Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington and a frequent contributor to the Huffington Post. For more information see the [program brochure](#).

God Bless,  
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