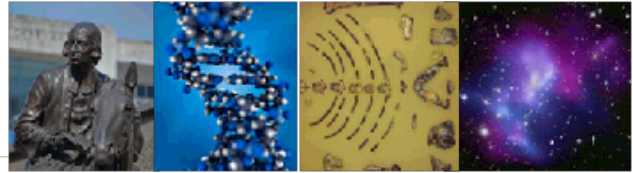


WesleyNexus

Science and Religion within the Wesleyan Tradition



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June 25, 2013

Dear WesleyNexus Colleague:

Summer is here and I hope you are enjoying the first week of summer. Below you will find some event announcements that are coming up in the next few weeks. We also note several links to some interesting videos and a NY Times article that you may find of interest. If you know of any events that should be included, please let us know. We can post them on the website and include them in next month's newsletter. You may email us at WesleyNexus@aol.com. I hope you enjoy this month's newsletter.

God Bless,

Rick Barr, WesleyNexus

Ian Ramsey Center for Science and Religion

The Ian Ramsey Center for Science and Religion will be presenting their 2013 conference at St. Ann's College, Oxford from July 17-21, 2013.

The theme of the conference is

The Second-Person Perspective in Science and the Humanities. The pioneering work of Martin



Buber, Emmanuel Levinas and others in the twentieth century has been augmented by new data from the empirical sciences, especially the study of joint attention and conditions such as autistic spectrum disorder, Williams Syndrome and prosopagnosia, characterized by atypical second-person responsiveness as well as research stimulated by the controversy as to whether certain non-human primates have a "theory of mind" and can entertain another's point of view. The implications of such developments can scarcely be exaggerated, shaping the foundations of ethics and personal identity, but touching also on other areas of philosophy, social cognition, neuroscience, developmental psychology, ethology, theology and many aspects of the humanities generally. Such research is also seen as having implications for society in a broader sense, especially at a time of rising concern about narcissism and apparent deficits of empathy and social cohesion.

The aim of the conference is to present, discuss and debate these developments from a variety of perspectives, crossing interdisciplinary boundaries to elucidate the purported distinctiveness of the second-person perspective and explore its implications. Information on the conference can be found [here](#).

Science and Religion at the Smithsonian Institution

Dialogue on the relationship between scientific and religious perspectives on human evolution

On Friday, July 26, 2013 from 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm in the Worldwide Theater in the Hall of Human Origins at the Natural History Museum in Washington, DC , there will be an open discussion of the relationship between scientific and religious perspectives concerning human origins. The event is free and no tickets are required. For those of you who are not able to go the Smithsonian in person, check out “A Primer on Science, Religion, Evolution and Creationism” which can be found online [here](#).



The 59th Annual IRAS Summer Conference at Silver Bay, New York

From July 27 to August 3, 2013, The Institute on Religion in an Age of Science (IRAS) will convene for their yearly conference at Silver Bay, New York.



This year’s program will focus on Scientific,

Spiritual and Moral Challenges in solving the World Food Crisis. Conference Co-Chairs are Solomon Katz and Pat Bennett. Dr. Katz is director of the Krogman Center for Childhood Growth and Development at the University of Pennsylvania. Katz is also a leading expert on the anthropology of food. To register, go to <http://www.iras.org/2013.html>

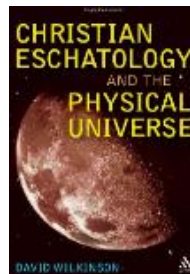
David Wilkinson to speak at Metropolitan United Methodist Church

David Wilkinson is a physicist, theologian, Methodist minister and Principal of St Johns College, Durham University (UK) who has been engaged in the science and religion dialogue for many years.

He is the author of a number of books including Christian Eschatology and the Physical Universe .

He will be visiting Metropolitan United Methodist

Church in Washington, DC on August 18, 2013. Details will be posted on WesNex.org as they become available.



Science and Religion Forum

Chance or Providence?: Religious Perspectives on Divine Action

Also in England, the University of Chester will convene a



conference on Chance and Providence?: Religious Perspectives on Divine Action. It will take place from September 5 -7, 2013. The keynote Gowland lecture will be given by Philip Clayton, Dean of Claremont School of Theology and Provost of Claremont Lincoln University in Claremont, CA.

Additional speakers will be Mark Harris, Daniel Langton, Bethany Sollereeder, Rabie E Abdul-Halim, and Christopher Knight. Information on the conference can be found [here](#).

Dr. Philip Clayton has been a formative thinker in the Science and Religion dialogue for two decades. His major books include *Mind and Emergence: From Quantum to Consciousness* (Oxford, 2004), *The Re-Emergence of Emergence* (Oxford, 2006), *In Quest of freedom: The Emergence of Spirit in the Natural World* (Gottingen: 2008), and *Adventures in the Spirit: God, World, and Divine Action* (Fortress, 2008). For more perspective on the recent work of Dr. Clayton, particularly as his thinking has evolved in recent years, see his continuing blog at <http://clayton.ctr4process.org/2008/09/10/11/12/>.

Dr. Clayton is also a leader in the developing international movement to bring critical theological analysis to laypeople in the churches, bringing theology out of the academy for impact on the thinking of “everyday Christians,” while taking seriously the best in contemporary scientific thinking. For more on this movement, we suggest that you bookmark the following websites:

<http://www.brianmclaren.net/archives/blog>

<http://www.apostleschurch.org>

<http://www.freshexpressions.org.uk>

<http://homebrewedchristianity.com>

<http://progressivetheology.wordpress.com>

World Science Festival

The World Science Festival is a production of the Science Festival Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization headquartered in New York City. The Foundation’s mission is to cultivate a general public informed by science,



inspired by its wonder, convinced of its value, and prepared to engage with its implications for the future. Video’s from this year’s festival, which took place the end of May, can be found at <http://worldsciencefestival.com/> The festival presented a wide array of topics ranging from physics to biology, medicine and mental health.

Math Wars and Critical Thinking Skills

A recent NY Times article, Alice Crary and W. Stephen Wilson discusses current issues concerning the methods and philosophy of mathematics teaching in

The New York Times

The Opinion Pages

our schools. Alice Crary is an associate professor of philosophy at the New School for Social Research and Eugene Lang College, and W. Stephen Wilson is a professor of mathematics and education at Johns Hopkins University. The article can be accessed [here](#).

Another NY Times article highlights a recent development in the “bible-belt.” The emphasis on the need for “spiritual community” is especially interesting: [In the Bible Belt, Offering Atheists a Spiritual](#)

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