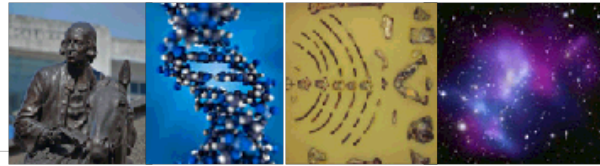


WesleyNexus

Science and Religion within the Wesleyan Tradition



[Home](#) 15

[Back](#)

[Links](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Dear WesleyNexus Colleague:

June 26, 2016

A rather quaint question batted about in some social settings is to ask where one “got their education?” Colleges and universities are the bastions of learning, the repositories of journals and massive book collections. Rules restricting access are universal and necessary, and most people will never again have access to such resources after graduation. However, all this is becoming a thing of the past. With the massive resources now available on the Internet in text and video, we are a mouse-click away from inexhaustible libraries unavailable a generation ago. The Wesleyan heritage values education as a foundation for faith-filled living. This month we are highlighting resources that we hope will stretch your thinking, promote discussion and provide new insights: as philosopher Josiah Royce wrote “insight is knowledge that makes us aware of the unity of many facts in one whole, and brings us into contact with these facts and the whole wherein they are united”. We hope you find some insight here.

WesleyNexus is an all-volunteer organization and relies on our participants to continue our presence on the web and to develop in-person programs. We thank everyone who helped contribute to this effort. Going forward, we will need support for our ongoing programs and to accumulate funds for the rest of the year. As always, all funds that we collect as donations are spent on maintaining our web presence, sponsoring programs, distributing the newsletter, and promoting activities of other organizations within the science and religion space. **All contributions are acknowledged for tax reporting purposes either through PayPal receipt or by letter.** Please consider supporting us with a contribution either through the PayPal DONATE link below, or, by sending a check to:

WesleyNexus, Inc.
24500 Fossen Road
Damascus, MD 20872



Thanks in advance for your support.

God Bless,

Rick, Maynard, and the rest of the
WesleyNexus Board of Directors

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Introduction to The Sources of Religious Insight by Jacquelyn Kegley

Jacquelyn Kegley of California State University, Bakersfield is one of the preeminent scholars on Josiah Royce, who lived from 1842 – 1916. Most of his productive years were spent at Harvard University where, along with

William James, question of religious knowledge, experience and meaning were systematically addressed. His impact was wide ranging and significant as he addressed the philosophical issues of a society changing rapidly due to communication, transportation, technology and science. Kegley's article focuses on The Sources of Religious Insight which may be Royce's most accessible book. It is in this book that Royce lays out his understanding of personal religious insight, community and a balance between the two. In this book, Royce defines the term The Beloved Community, later adopted by Martin Luther King, as "a spiritual or divine community capable of achieving the highest common good. He believed each individual should strive toward this goal of achieving the Beloved Community, and that the more individuals who join the effort, the greater the possibility of its realization." Though the book is over 100 years old, Kegley gives a solid case for revisiting this text during our current tumultuous times. As she says in here closing sentence, "this book brings us a treasury of insight for our time". The article can be found [here](#).



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The War on Stupid People: American society increasingly mistakes intelligence for human worth.
by David H. Freedman

When one says that one is interested in science and religion, the first reaction of people may be to puzzle over what that might mean and the second might be that it is for "smart people", theology geeks or science nerds. That is almost correct because both areas of knowledge are infinitely rich and deep with experts whose writings are nearly incomprehensible without long and rigorous training. With that in mind, it is very sobering to read David Freedman's article pointing out how American culture has moved towards idolizing exceptional intelligence and talent, frequently minimizing the value of those with average ability. As he says, 'as recently as the 1950s, possessing only middling intelligence was not likely to severely limit your life's trajectory... the 2010s, in contrast, are a terrible time not to be brainy. Those who consider themselves bright openly mock others for being less so. Even in this age of rampant concern over micro-aggressions and victimization, we maintain open season on the non-smart". For Christians in particular, his reflection should give one pause. For those engaged in science and religion the task is quite formidable. How can we spread the wonder and beauty of science for those who may have been turned off at an early age thinking they could not understand? Conversely, how do you make it understandable while not being patronizing or overly simplistic? The same applies to theology. The Wesleyan approach is to invite one to learn as much as one can while recognizing with humility the infinite expanse of what one does not know, and give thanks. The emphasis on Christian education beyond the high school or college classroom should invite everyone to join in learning scripture but also about how the universe and its contents are incredibly and wonderfully made. I invite you to read this article [here](#).



The War on Stupid People

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Why Teleology isn't Dead by John Farrell.

John Farrell is a science writer whose specialty is to ask questions about how science and technology affect human beings. He is the author of the book The Day Without Yesterday: Lemaître, Einstein and the Birth of Modern Cosmology published in 2005. In this article, Farrell addresses the question of teleology in nature. Teleology, from the Greek telos, meaning end or purpose, was central to the philosophy of Aristotle and was used by Aquinas in one of the arguments for the existence of God. Science, however, has increasingly

marginalized the concept and has had less and less cause to incorporate it in scientific understanding. As Farrell points out, this may be starting to change. “A recent spate of books by scientists suggests that science itself may have room for teleology, a new way to quantify and grasp a goal-driven directionality in nature, or an Aristotelian version, but one unafraid to acknowledge a progressive movement in time toward consciousness”. Citing the work of Simon Conway Morris, Stuart Kaufman, Farrell highlights how complexity and evolution can work together to influence the emergence of conscious humans. Morris gets the lion’s share of attention in his most recent book, *The Runes of Evolution*. Morris is an advocate of Darwinian evolution, but he is not to be mistaken for one who promotes Intelligent Design. However, that does not mean he is a Darwinian reductionist. You can read the whole article [here](#).



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Gifford Lectures Now in Video Online



You can now view Gifford Lectures online [here](#)!

“Since the first lecture in 1888, Gifford Lecturers have been recognized as pre-eminent thinkers in their respective fields. Among the many gifted lecturers are Hannah Arendt, Noam Chomsky, Stanley Hauerwas, William James, Jean-Luc Marion, Iris Murdoch, Roger Scruton, Eleonore Stump, Charles Taylor, Alfred North Whitehead, and Rowan Williams.

The online Gifford Lectures database presents a comprehensive collection of books derived from the Gifford Lectures. In addition to the books, the Web site contains a biography of each lecturer and a summary of the lecture or book. The Web site also contains a biography of Adam Lord Gifford, a copy of his will bequeathing money to the four major Scottish universities to hold the lectures, a brief description of natural theology, an introduction to each of the four universities and news about forthcoming Gifford-related events”. From the website.

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The Middling Power of the Placebo Effect by Ross Pomeroy

For non-scientists and scientists alike, the placebo effect is a bit of a puzzle. While physics can demand precision in expected experimental outcome within a miniscule fraction of one percent and other disciplines struggle to attempt precision as close to the physics gold standard as possible, medical science exhibits in drug trials the maddeningly disruptive force of consciousness on experimental outcomes. In Pomeroy’s article, the author deflates the hype and looks at the placebo effect from a more realistic perspective. For one not engaged in medical research professionally, Pomeroy provides some helpful perspective. The article can be read [here](#).



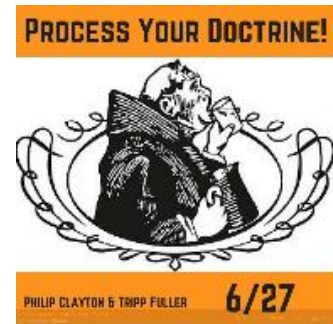
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Upcoming Events

Newly Posted Event

Process Theology from the Pros!
June 27, 2016 @ 9:00 PM Eastern, 6:00 PM Pacific online

“Join Philip Clayton and Tripp for some constructive (and possibly) postmodern theological goodness next Monday. They will tackle three classical doctrines from a process perspective - and you get to vote for which doctrines. So head on over, sign up, vote, and share. Click here to register <http://ow.ly/k0cK301sYxP> — with Philip Clayton and Tripp Fuller.



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IRAS Conference taking place now!

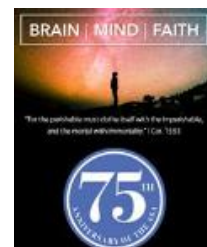
The Summer Conference is IRAS’s flagship event. It is an exceptional opportunity to get away from daily routines long enough to engage in deep and trans-formative learning; to encounter others with a passion for human well-being; to participate in respectful and informed dialogue illuminated by the best scientific, religious and philosophical insights. All of this occurs in a setting that is physically beautiful, ecologically responsible, psychologically safe, intellectually reliable, personally challenging, spiritually uplifting and family/child friendly. Each Summer Conference explores a focal question that demands the best of science, religion, spirituality and philosophy to map its dimensions. The theme of the 2016 IRAS Summer Conference, scheduled for June 25-July 2 on Star Island (off the coast of New Hampshire) is **How Can We Know? Co-creating Knowledge in Perilous Times: *What does knowing and living reliably, inclusively, sustainably and humanely now require of us – as persons, communities, institutions and whole societies?*** As a collaborating partner with IRAS, WesleyNexus benefits from the following discounts available to those in our network. Any person in the WesleyNexus network – any of you who subscribe to our monthly newsletter – can take advantage of these discounts:

- Conference registration at a 30% discount
- Room and Board 30% discount on Star Island, plus another \$50 back.
- More information on our website www.wesnex.org
- More information on the IRAS website www.iras.org

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Brain/Mind/Faith

Ted Davis and Justin Barrett will be two of the five plenary speakers at the American Scientific Affiliation 2016 Annual Meeting at Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, CA. The ASA Annual Meeting is being held on July 22-25, 2016. “Brain | Mind | Faith” will include various topical areas for parallel oral sessions. These areas include: Christian Women in Science and Engineering, Physical Sciences, Life and Environmental Sciences, Mind Sciences, Teaching Faith and Science, and more. There will be both introductory and advanced workshops on issues in science and faith. Be sure to stop by the BioLogos booth and receive additional papers and information on science and faith. – (From Biologos.org). Mike Beidler, Chair of the Metropolitan Washington Section of the ASA, along with several others in our section, will be attending the Azusa Conference, and we hope will offer his usual, insightful report for a future WesleyNexus newsletter. See more at: <http://network.asa3.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=798428>



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