CAALENDAR

Events from 15 November 1992 on, or not previously listed.

[3/3] after an entry means speakers at this event are listed under the CONFERENCE SPEAKERS section.


New Developments in Technology Studies: Evolutionary Economics and Chaos Theory. Amsterdam, Netherlands. 6-8 May 1993. Contact: Loet Leydesdorff, Dept of Science Dynamics, Nieuwe Achtergracht 166, 1018 WV Amsterdam, Netherlands. Tel. 31-20-525-6598.


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CONFERENCE SPEAKERS


NEWS

The American Scientific Affiliation's resource book, Contemporary Issues in Science & Christian Faith: An Annotated Bibliography, 1992-93 is now available for $10.50, $8.50 to ASA members (plus $1.50 s&h in N. America). Member quantity discounts are available. Contact: Contemporary Issues Resource Book, ASA, P.O. Box 668, Ipswich, MA 01938, USA.

The Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences has expanded. With budget support they are able to secure new projects, including support from the Episcopal Church Foundation for the summer continuing education courses for clergy, a five-year pledge from the Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation to support a series of collaborative conferences with the Vatican Observatory, and funding from the National Institutes of Health for a theological and ethical study of the Human Genome Initiative. Contact: CTNS, 2400 Ridge Rd, Berkeley, CA 94709-1212, USA. Tel. 510-848-8152.

The first quarterly issue of Currents in Science, Technology, & Society (Winter 1992), Mark Hartwig, ed. and Dennis Wagner, publisher, appeared from Access Research Network, (ARN). Currents is designed to help ordinary citizens understand science. Subscriptions: $15.00 per year. Contact: ARN, P.O. Box 38069, Colorado Springs, CO 80937-8069, USA.

Work began on the Encyclopedia of the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine in Non-Western Cultures, to be published by Garland Publishing in 1995. The volume will contain alphabetically arranged entries on all aspects of the subject and is intended to provide an overview of scholarship in the field. Contact: Elaine Selin, Editor, Science Librarian, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA 01002, USA.

The Harvard Divinity School has formed a seminar on environmental values. It will serve as a forum for the exploration of human values in relation to the environmental concerns confronting the world. The seminar meets once a month during the academic year and will publish a newsletter Ecologic, a periodically updated Bibliography of Environmental Ethics. Contact: Timothy C. Weiskel, Director, Harvard Seminar on Environmental Values, 56 Francis Ave, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA. Fax 617-495-9489.

The Information Dept of the Institute of the History of Natural Sciences and Technology of the Russian Academy of Science has begun work on a bibliographical description (in Russian), of books and papers on the world history of natural sciences and mathematics published in the USSR between 1917 and 1991. This database includes items listed both in the index History of Natural Science: Literature Published in the USSR (1917-80) and in the still unpublished bibliography for 1981-91. Dictionaries will be available in English, French, and German. Contact: Boris Kozlov, Director, The International Center for the History of Science, Staropanskiy pereulok 1/5, Moscow, 10312, Russia. Fax 095-925-99-11.

All of the projects of the Jesuit Institute at Boston College are formulated under the theme "Religious Faith and the Searches for Knowledge." The Institute addresses the ways people of faith, in their various disciplines, seek God as they explore and understand the human world and the micro and macrocosmic world of their knowledge. The Ignatian vision of seeing God in all things, and the Ignatian strategy of attending to issues of greatest need in the Church and in the world, inspired the theme. Contact: The Jesuit Institute at Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA 02167, USA.

The North American Conference on Christianity & Ecology reports that more than half of all Christians are in denominations that have officially adopted ecological responsibility as basic to church ministry. Since its founding, NACCE has promoted ecological awareness. Contact: Firmament, Journal of Christian Ecology, P.O. Box 14305, San Francisco, CA 94114, USA.

Perspectives on Science Historical, Philosophical, Social, a quarterly journal that the University of Chicago Press will begin publishing in 1993, will be devoted to studies of the sciences that integrate historical, philosophical, and sociological perspectives. Its interdisciplinary approach is intended to cultivate a more comprehensive understanding of the sciences and the contexts in which they develop. One issue per year will be dedicated to a single topic with a guest editor. Contact: Joseph C. Pitt, Editor, Dept of Philosophy, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA 24061-4564, USA. Subscriptions: The University of Chicago Press, Journals Division, P.O. Box 37005, Chicago, IL 60637, USA.

Technostress is an international information network for those who want to research literature relevant to the interaction of humans and computers or other advanced electronic technologies. Contact: TiIN, 52 Norfolk Rd, Chestnut Hill, MA 02167, USA. Tel. 617-566-7429. Fax 617-738-7634.

The cover story in the 23 December 1991 issue of US News & World Report, "The Creation," was reprinted in its entirety in a one-time publication of the Institute for Science, Engineering and Public Policy. Contact: Institute for Science, Engineering and Public Policy, 1717 SW Park, Suite 1500, Portland, OR 97201, USA.

Call for Proposals: The 1994 Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science is expected to have a track on religion and science. Contact: Audrey Chapman, Director, AAAS Science and Human Rights Program, AAAS, Room 10108, 1333 H St, NW, Washington, DC 20005. Tel. 202-326-6790. [See CALENDAR in this issue for this year's track.]

BOOKS


Naming the Silences: God, Medicine and the Problem of Suffering, Stanley Hauerwas, 1990 (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans). 154pp. $9.95. Pb. ISBN 0-8028-0496-9. Asking why a good and all-powerful God allows us to experience pain and suffering, is a theological mistake. Rather, Hauerwas explores why that question seems so important. He shows a God who can give voice to that pain in a manner that gives us a way to go on.


Science and Liberation, Gerben Stavenga, 1991 (Amsterdam: Thesis). 173pp. $10.95. Pb. ISBN 90-5170-097-0. Probes the foundations of science. An analysis of Karl Barth's theological research program leads Stavenga to raise the possibility that scientific research has a blind spot: there is a basic structure of reality characterized by a subject-object relation and with freedom and liberation as essential features.

Science and Religion: Some Historical Perspectives, John Hedley Brooke, 1991 (New York: Cambridge University). 422pp. ISBN 0-521-23961-3. A guide to the relationship between scientific thought and religious belief. Shows that they have been mutually relevant in such a variety of ways that no simple generalizations are possible. Instead of treating science and religion as separate, a historical approach requires sensitivity to shifting boundaries and a willingness to consider the contexts in which particular forms of science could be used for both religious and secular ends.


The Vineyard: Scientists in the Church, Eva-Maria Amrhein, and Robert Brungs, 1992 (Peoria, IL: Versa Press). 146pp. Pb. ISBN 0-9625431-5-2. The development of science and technology is a prominent Intellectual and cultural challenge facing the church. The church has responded sluggishly, but interest in questions involving both science and theology is growing. There can be no possible conflict between the church's doctrinal tradition and the results of valid scientific work.

Books are available from: LSTC Book Center, 1100 E. 55th St, Chicago, IL 60615, USA. Tel. 312-753-0680. Include Title, Author, ISBN number, your name and complete address. If ordering with VISA or MasterCard, include card number, expiration date, and signature. Shipping and handling will be included in the bill. Non-USA shipping will be by surface mail; USA via UPS.

BOOKS RECEIVED


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(Offer Expires 15 November 1992.)
PERIODICALS


Cosmology as an Agenda Item for the Eighth Council, George L. Murphy. Dialog, Fall 1991.


FORTHCOMING


TEMPLETON LECTURE SERIES

The John Templeton Foundation implements the Templeton Lectures as one of its programs under the Center for Humility and Theology. The Foundation is dedicated to exploring new dimensions of religious faith and its relationship to science. Each lecturer has been chosen as a scholar who has explored aspects of our culture in terms of the impact of the discoveries of science upon philosophical and theological thought.

The following description of the lectures lists themes, dates, host sponsors and speakers as known. Updates will be made as the information is received. (See also CONFERENCE SPEAKERS in the previous issue.)


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FROM THE FIELD

Bridges?

Science and religion is not building a bridge between two well-defined territories. The metaphor suggests we are considering answers to a single problem, connecting A and B. Actually, we disagree as much about the questions, about the A and B, as about possible answers.

Some want religion to adapt to scientific results. In searching for God, they look for traces of ultimate contingency, rationality, or design in the context of modern science. Others focus on the reach of scientific knowledge. Might there be a place for mystery at the heart of reality? Others emphasize the experience of ambivalence as the major divide between our situation and the medieval one. Their search becomes one for meaning, an ill defined notion that may stand for purpose, harmony, values, or an infinite future.

A discussion between Paul Davies and Mary Hesse at the Erasmus Ascension Symposium highlighted the divergence in questions. Davies took religion in the context of a dream that humankind would come to know more about the universe, answering “why” questions. A niche for God or meaning might be above naturalistic accounts altogether. Hesse asked for good models for God. However, starting from within religious traditions, one is in danger of neglecting why one would consider such a tradition applicable or plausible in the first place.

The bridge metaphor is inadequate. It assumes that the two territories are given. However, we develop our view of the nature of religion and the scope of scientific explanation in relating science and religion. Disagreements are not only about the nature of the bridge, they are also about the reach of science and about the nature of religion.

Willem B. Drees.

Calendar, cont...


Science and URAM Research. Toronto, Canada. 25-28 August 1993. Contact: Tibor Horváth, URAM, Regis College, 15 St Mary St, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2R5, Canada.

Is Technology out of Control? Holyoke, MA, USA. October 1993. Contact: Marianne Postiglione, ITEST, 221 N Grand Blvd, St Louis, MO 63103, USA.

Templeton Lecture Series, Cont.


March 1993 Lecture details to be announced.