



Naturalism and the Religious Worldview

Call for Papers

New Horizons for Science and Religion
in Central and Eastern Europe

Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion
University of Oxford

The Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion, University of Oxford (IRC) invites applications, and papers for its 2022 study week, 'Naturalism and the Religious Worldview'. This event will comprise a three-day workshop and a two-day conference. It will take place on 1 from 6 September, with the workshop running from 1 to 3 September and the conference from 5 to 6 September. The location will be the Hotel Sveti Križ, Trogir, Croatia, a short journey from the UNESCO World Heritage Sites at Trogir and Split.

This event is a part of the IRC's project, New Horizons for Science and Religion in Central and Eastern Europe, funded by the John Templeton Foundation. It is hosted with the collaboration and support of the Humane Philosophy Project, the University of Warsaw, and the German Research Foundation's 'Theologie als Wissenschaft' project at the Ruhr University Bochum.

Study week theme

The conference will focus on one of the perennial themes of modern thought, namely the compatibility of valued elements of religious life with naturalistic metaphysics. These include free will, the meaning of life, the significance of beauty, or the bindingness of moral and political obligations. Many leading modern thinkers have contributed to this discussion, including Nietzsche, Kant, Dostoevsky, Karl Barth, John Paul II, Mary Midgley, Bernard Williams and Roger Scruton. Some have argued that elements of religious life are recoverable without religious belief, while others, including both religious and non-religious thinkers, have argued that they are inseparable.

The study week will bring together canonical thinkers and contemporary research from across disciplines and traditions to reflect on how we should respond to this theme today.



Workshop

The workshop will take place from 1 to 3 September 2022 and will provide advanced undergraduate/MA level classes from students with a background in science, theology or philosophy. It will comprise:

- Three lectures per day delivered by specialists in the study-week theme;
- Group-work exercises exploring lecture topics;
- One seminar per day including the opportunity to present group work;
- Opportunities for students to interact informally with one another and with instructors.

All classes will be delivered in English. Students who attend the workshop are encouraged to stay on for the conference, where they will have the opportunity to build on the work they have done, in dialogue with researchers at the forefront of their areas.

Conference

The conference will take place from 5 to 6 September 2022 and will bring together leading researchers in science, theology and philosophy to present research on the theme of naturalism and the religious worldview. Planned keynotes will include:

- Prof. S. Teresa Obolovich, Pontifical University of John II, Cracow
- Prof. Simon May, King's College London
- Prof. Benedikt Göcke, Ruhr-Universität Bochum

Twelve short paper slots are available. All papers will be delivered in English.

Participation and paper submissions

Undergraduate and M.A. students are invited to attend both the workshop and conference; or the workshop only. Researchers and graduate students (including M.A. students) are invited to deliver papers at the conference. Papers should be written in the official language of the study week, English. All applications should be sent by 30 June 2022 to cee.irc@theology.ox.ac.uk. Please indicate in the subject line whether you wish to take part in:

1. Naturalism and the Religious Worldview Workshop
2. Naturalism and the Religious Worldview Conference
3. Naturalism and the Religious Worldview Workshop and Conference



The registration fee is 450 euros for the workshop and 300 euros for the conference. This will cover organisational costs, food, and accommodation. All applicants should provide, in a separate document, the following information: name, status/title, institution, curriculum vitae, contact address, email and phone number. Those who wish to deliver papers at the conference should also provide a title and 250-300 word abstract.