

Announcements

Institute on Religion in an Age of Science
The Fortieth Annual Star Island Conference
Saturday, 31 July, to Saturday, 7 August 1993

Charting Our Lives: Possibilities, Constraints, and Decisions

This conference focuses on our contemporary quest for ethical patterns that promote meaningful living for ourselves and others—in a world where new possibilities present themselves almost too rapidly to be integrated. We approach this quest from a particular perspective: How do we discern whether emerging new options are life giving or life destroying? How do we nourish the constraining elements from our past that are necessary for life and transform those elements that are destructive?

Emerging possibilities touch every area of life. We think of life-sustaining and life-terminating options; new possibilities for women, men, and family structure; the increasingly global scope of economic and cultural life; information technology and its impact on our work. The need to assimilate such changes has evoked such responses as warring ethnic factions, the “electronic cottage,” medical ethics dialogues, and the current “family values” debate.

The sciences cannot tell us how we should deal with these changes, but they can contribute to our understanding of the possibilities available to us, the costs and benefits of various options, and the constraints that limit our options. Important among those constraints are our human behavioral propensities—social, emotional, and moral; our values, ways of doing things, existing institutional arrangements, and material infrastructures. Some of these constraints can be altered; others cannot. Many of these struggles raise old issues concerning the rights and requirements of the individual and the community. Religions for millennia have wrestled with these issues, and their contributions are integral to the discussion.

EVENTS AND TOPICS

Some presentations will focus on new developments in medicine, family, work, globalization, and popular culture; others on resources from the sciences and from religious and cultural heritages. Participants will have the opportunity to approach the theme through case studies.

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REGISTRATION FEES

IRAS member adult, \$100; nonmember adult, \$120; registration plus new IRAS membership, \$150; registration plus new joint IRAS membership (two adults), \$255; young people between 5 and 16, \$60, including youth program; children under 5, free, or, with optional child-care program, \$60. Student scholarships are available. Fees less 20% are refundable if registration is canceled before 1 June 1993. Room and board are payable on the island.

Registration forms and further information available from:
Mrs. Bonnie Falla, Registrar, 810 1/2 North 9th St.,
Allentown, PA 18102. Telephone (215) 432-8711

For more information on IRAS membership, see p. 125 of this journal.

THE FIRST BOOK-LENGTH STUDY OF ONE
OF THE 20TH CENTURY'S SEMINAL THINKERS

*Yoking Science and Religion:
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IRAS

The Institute on Religion in an Age of Science

Purpose—IRAS is an independent society of scientists, philosophers, religion scholars, theologians, and others who want to understand the role of religion in our dynamic scientific world.

Activities—Each year IRAS holds a week-long conference on Star Island, 10 miles off the coast of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Topics are selected to be relevant to current scientific thinking and to fundamental religious questions. (IRAS members pay a reduced rate for conference registration.)

IRAS organizes events at the annual meetings of the American Academy of Religion (AAR) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). IRAS has sponsored more than 250 meetings at universities, colleges, and theological schools.

Publications—*Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science*, *IRAS Newsletter*, and *Science & Religion News*. IRAS members receive subscriptions to these three publications free of additional charge.

Special Relationships—Affiliated Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS); Member, Council of Societies for the Study of Religion (CSSR).

Membership Dues

\$50.00 Individual Member

\$55.00 Joint Member (two memberships but one set of publications)

\$30.00 Student Member (requires copy of student ID)

\$100.00 Institutional Member (supports IRAS's work: \$47.50 is tax deductible)

Overseas members will be assessed a surcharge to cover mailing costs.

For information on membership application with Star Island Conference registration, see pp. 123-24 of this journal.

Invitation to Join—If you are in accord with the purposes of IRAS and would like to become a member, please submit an application to the IRAS Council, which reviews and votes on applications at biannual meetings in February and July. For an application write to:

Nancy Anshuetz, 26 Turning Mill Road, Lexington, MA 02173

***Brain, Culture, and the Human Spirit:
Essays from an Emergent Evolutionary Perspective***
(Lanham, Md.: University Press of America)

Paul D. MacLean
Eugene G. d'Aquili
Victor Turner
Roger W. Sperry
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James B. Ashbrook, editor

Publication date: November 1992

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