

Announcement

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 & Spirit*. 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

\$60.00 Individual Member

\$65.00 Joint Member (two memberships but one set of publications)

\$40.00 Student Member (requires copy of student ID)

\$110.00 Institutional Member (supports IRAS's work: \$54.00 is tax deductible)

Overseas members are assessed a surcharge to cover mailing costs.

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:

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Institute on Religion in an Age of Science

The Forty-Fourth Annual Star Island Conference
Saturday 26 July to Saturday 2 August, 1997

Evolution of Morality

In the evolution of nature, culture, and religion, we have reached a crisis point. We face unprecedented problems of human conflict, the use of new technologies, and environmental degradation. Yet we also have gained new insights into the evolution of human nature, which place a fuller understanding of moral behavior within our reach.

In light of this new understanding, many questions press upon us: Is there a biological basis for morality or any part of morality? To what extent, if any, can sociobiology account for the moral insights of religions? In what ways does knowledge about the evolution of morality in diverse cultures offer insights that might help us encourage moral behavior in families, among ethnic groups, and within our educational, economic, and legal institutions?

In this conference anthropologists, biologists, philosophers, theologians, and scholars of world religions will discuss:

- what is meant by the ideas of *evolution*, *human nature*, and *morality*;
- current theories about the evolution of morality from the disciplines of *sociobiology*, *evolutionary psychology*, and *ecological anthropology*;
- the interaction between genetic and social determinants in shaping behavior in humans and other primates;
- the outcomes of dialogue between selected religious traditions and current evolutionary theory about human nature and morality;
- the extent to which religious traditions and their moral codes support and challenge sociobiological explanations of human morality.

CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS: Michael Ruse, philosophy and zoology, University of Guelph, and Karl Peters, philosophy of religion and science, Rollins College

SPEAKERS: Robert Carter, Zen Buddhism, Trent University; Charles Hallisey, Theravada Buddhism, Harvard University; Mary Maxwell, sociobiology and international relations, Independent Scholar; Michael Ruse, philosophy and zoology, University of Guelph; Paul Thompson, evolutionary ethics, University of Toronto; Mary Evelyn Tucker, Confucianism, Bucknell University. **CHAPLAIN:** Lucy Reid, feminist spirituality, Anglican minister, University of Guelph

PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH: Professionally designed, ages 3–17.

FEES: \$100/person including children's program; maximum/family \$500. IRAS members who register or others who apply for membership before March 10, 1997, receive a \$15 discount. Children under 3 free, but parents are responsible for their care at all times. Room and board are payable separately on the island, approximately \$275 per adult, \$170 per child under 12.

Contact for registration form and information:
Bonnie Falla, Registrar, 810 1/2 North 9th Street, Allentown, PA 18102.
Telephone (610) 432-8711