

Announcements

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* and *IRAS Newsletter*. IRAS members receive subscriptions to these publications and to *Science & Spirit* 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:

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

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Institute on Religion in an Age of Science

The Forty-Fifth Annual Star Island Conference
Saturday 25 July to Saturday 1 August 1998

Interweaving Art, Science, and Spirituality

When we talk about "feeling religious," we refer to a spectrum of human emotions and states of being that includes assent, awe, communion, enlightenment, gratitude, hope, humility, immanence, reverence, and transcendence.

This conference will explore such "spiritual" emotions and states of being. What is known about their neural organization and evolution? How are they evoked by art, by ritual, by the contemplation/understanding of Nature, and by psychoactive agents? How does art function to bridge our emotional, scientific, and religious lives?

Speakers from disciplines including brain science, psychology and evolutionary psychology, comparative religion, the arts, literature, and theology will consider:

- What are emotions? What are they for? How do they work? How do they evolve? How are they mimicked/elicited by pharmacological agents?
- What is transcendence? What is the relationship between transcendence and art? Between transcendence and the theistic impulse? Can some form of transcendence be achieved through the practice and knowledge of science?
- How are religious art and ritual distinctive from other kinds of art and ritual? Are they adaptive? To what extent is the transmission of religious doctrine dependent on its artistic expression? Are traditional religious art and ritual relevant to our times?
- How do Nature and an understanding of Nature (science) engage with spiritual experience? To what extent can art reflect, interpret, and make meaningful the understandings wrought by science?

CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS: Ursula Goodenough, biology, Washington University, and Robert Schaible, arts and humanities, University of Southern Maine.

SPEAKERS: Jensine Andresen, religious studies, University of Vermont; Eugene d'Aquili, psychiatry, University of Pennsylvania; Merlin Donald, psychology, Queens University; Ellen Dissanayake, human ethology, Ball State University; John Grim, religious studies, Bucknell University; Philip Hefner, theology, Lutheran School of Theology; Randolph Nesse, evolutionary psychiatry, University of Michigan; Andrew Newburg, psychiatry, University of Pennsylvania; Stephanie Rayner, studio artist; Carl Smith, composer, Washington University.

CHAPLAIN: Ursula Goodenough.

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 10 March 1998 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 \$280 per adult, \$175 per child under 12.

Contact for registration forms and information:
Bonnie Falla, Registrar, 810 ½ North 9th Street, Allentown, PA 18102
Telephone (610) 432-8711