

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, ten 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 two hundred fifty meetings at universities, colleges, and theological schools.

Publications—*Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* and *IRAS Newsletter*. IRAS members receive subscriptions to these 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:

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

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The Forty-Sixth Annual Star Island Conference
Saturday, July 31, to Saturday, August 7, 1999

Sexuality and Human Nature: A Scientific, Religious, and Moral Exploration

Our sexuality has been viewed in many ways: Source of joy, temptation and damnation. Fountain of life and distraction from duty. Binding force and subversive disrupter. Balm of the senses and greatest personal threat. Some would say all of them.

This conference will explore the personal meanings of sexuality from evolutionary, anthropological and psychological perspectives. Among the questions considered will be:

- What is sexuality and who are we sexually, as evolved animals and as social beings?
- To what extent can we consciously choose our own gender identities and sexual orientations?
- What gives rise to sexual pleasure in the brain, and how does it work in relation to other sources of pleasure?
- What is the relationship between the feelings of transcendence evoked by sexual and mystical experiences?
- How does society shape our sexual responses?
- How do our sexual responses shape society?
- What are the implications of differing sexual mores for family life and marriage?
- How is sexuality regarded by the world's religious traditions?
- Is there more wisdom to religious regulation of sexual freedom than some in modern society like to admit?

These questions will be addressed by the following speakers, among others:

James Weinrich, psychiatrist, University of California at San Diego, author of *Sexual Landscapes* (modern research on sexuality); **Jose Cabezon**, Professor of Theology, Iliff School of Theology, Denver (Buddhist views on sexuality); **Robert Carter**, Professor of Philosophy, Trent University, Canada (philosophical perspectives); **David Skover**, Professor of Law, University of Seattle Law School, joint author of *The Death of Discourse* (free speech, pornography, and their impact on society); **Ann Jennings**, Director, Office of Trauma Services, Maine Department of Health (sexual and physical abuse—origins, attitudes, manifestations, and repercussions)

PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH: ages 3–17

FEES: \$100/person including children's program; maximum/family \$500. Children under 3 free, but parents are responsible for their care at all times. Room and board are payable separately on the island, approximately \$285 per adult, \$180 per child under 12.

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