

Editorial


ARTHUR C. PETERSEN ZYGON'S NEW EDITOR;
CHRISTOPHER SOUTHGATE FOCUS OF THIS ISSUE

The scientist Christopher Southgate became a theologian and a poet. *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* has had the pleasure of publishing four of his articles (Southgate 2002, 2011, 2014, 2016) and a set of six articles on research done by him in collaboration with Andrew Robinson, inspired by Charles Sanders Peirce, on a semiotic approach to the origin of life (Robinson and Southgate 2010a, 2010b, 2010c, 2010d; Robinson, Southgate, and Deacon 2010; Southgate and Robinson 2010). *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* has also published four of Southgate's poems (2007a, 2007b, 2007c, 2007d). In this issue, colleagues engage his work on teaching "religion and science" and on evolution and theodicy, in particular with respect to the suffering of humans and other animals. Bethany Sollereeder and Andrew Robinson, a theologian and a medical doctor, respectively, are our guest editors for this *festschrift* issue. As befits academic conversation, Southgate offers some reflections in response. May his contributions and those of his conversation partners inspire further reflection!

Arthur C. Petersen has been appointed by the Joint Publication Board of *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* to become its fifth editor, formally also referred to as "editor-in-chief," after Ralph Burhoe, Karl E. Peters, Philip Hefner, and myself. Arthur is a professor of science, technology, and public policy at University College London, a highly respected academic institution that was the first in England to allow Jews, Catholics, dissenters (non-Anglican Protestants), and other non-Anglicans to enter. The office of the journal will continue to be in Chicago. Arthur has doctorates in physics and in philosophy, both earned in the Netherlands, and is currently working on a third doctorate, on science and religion, at the University of Oxford. His doctorate in philosophy of science dealt with the question how we deal with uncertainty in computer models of climate change when giving policy advice (Petersen 2012). He has been chief scientist at the PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, and a delegate to meetings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. In *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* he published "Uncertainty and God," drawing on William James (Petersen 2014). Though certainly he may be expected to bring in new accents and people, he is committed to continue with *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* as it has become a major platform

for academic reflection on the interplay of religion and human values with science and technology in our world.

Thus, more that is worthwhile will come in the future. For now, enjoy this issue!

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