



BIOLOGOS

Interdisciplinary Studies Conference

January 28/29, 2015



Being Human

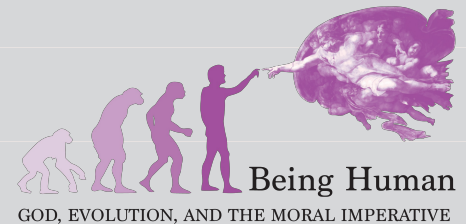
GOD, EVOLUTION, AND THE MORAL IMPERATIVE

Wednesday

9:00 AM	Keynote #1: Darcy Visscher "Teaching about Evolution to the Weary and the Wary: A Personal Journey" Respondents: Harry Cook, Keri McFarlane
10:15 AM	COFFEE BREAK
10:45 AM	Keynote #2: Thomas Oord "Does Evolution Make Morality an Illusion?" Respondent: Henry Schuurman
12:00 PM	LUNCH
1:00 PM	<i>LOL with Comedian Dan Taylor</i>
1:30 PM	Keynote #3: Tim O'Connor "Why Are They Trying to Get Rid of Me?" Respondent: Heather Looy
3:00 PM	Reel Justice Film presented by MASS, Room L116
7:30 PM	"Teaching About Evolution to the Weary and the Wary: A Public Conversation" Harry Cook, Thomas Oord, Tim O'Connor and Denis Lamoureux A Public Forum in The King's University Atrium

Thursday

9:00 AM	Keynote #4: Thomas Oord “A Loving God, Evolution, and the Problem of Evil”
	Respondent: Stephen Martin
10:15 AM	COFFEE BREAK
10:45 AM	Keynote #5: Paul Allen, Denis Lamoureux, Tim O’Connor, Thomas Oord and Doug Harink Panel Discussion and Q&A: “Who or What is the Biblical Adam?”
11:45 AM	LUNCH
12:45 PM	Keynote #6: Tim O’Connor “The Heart of the Matter: Evolution and the Image of God”
	Respondent: Paul Flaman
2:00 PM	Student Responses
2:30 PM	Closing Remarks



Tim O’Connor

He is a Professor of Philosophy at Indiana University, Bloomington and a member of its Cognitive Sciences Program. O’Connor received his doctorate in philosophy from Cornell University. He has written over 70 scholarly articles on such topics as free will, consciousness, the emergence-reductionism debate concerning the micro-macro structure of the physical world, and the existence and nature of God. O’Connor is the author of two books — **Persons and Causes: The Metaphysics of Free Will** (2000) and **Theism and Ultimate Explanation** (2008) – and is now writing a third, provisionally titled **Thinking About Faith: Philosophy, Science, and Christian Belief**.

Keynote #3 – “Why Are They Trying to Get Rid of Me? Fact vs. Hype in the Emerging Sciences of Human Action” Certain influential social psychologists and neuroscientists say that I am not in control of what I am doing. I, they say, am trapped in a body, without access to the controls, which lie buried deep within the subpersonal machinery. Mental states may play a role in causing what I do, but I don’t really consciously direct my actions—I don’t really decide anything. To their credit, these thinkers offer evidence for this terrifying claim. To their demerit, it is not very impressive....

Keynote #6 – The Heart of the Matter: Evolution and the Image of God

Theistic evolution says that the transcendent, creator God causes the unfolding appearance of gradually differentiated forms of biological life—humans included—not through a series of ‘special’, punctuated acts that are unmediated by natural physical processes, but by intending and sustaining continuously the physical processes and ‘boundary conditions’ that suffice for natural evolutionary processes to occur. God is not absent on a theistic evolutionist picture, he is everywhere.

Thomas Jay Oord, Ph.D.

He is a Professor of Theology and Philosophy at Northwest Nazarene University, Nampa, Idaho. Dr. Oord has written or edited more than 20 books, including *Defining Love: A Philosophical, Scientific, and Theological Engagement* (Brazos), and *The Nature of Love: A Theology* (Chalice). He serves on the executive council of several scholarly societies. As well as being a professor, writer, and researcher, Dr. Oord also serves as an ordained minister in the Church of the Nazarene. Oord posts scholarly and popular essays on his website: <http://thomasjayoord.com>



Keynote #2 – "Does Evolution Make Morality an Illusion?"

When I desire to do good, am I responding as a moral being in a moral universe, responding to God's summons in me? Or are these just my selfish genes doing what they need to survive?

Keynote #4 – "A Loving God, Evolution, and the Problem of Evil"

"All nature is red in tooth and claw", said Tennyson, and Loren Eiseley has concluded that, "The sea rejects its living". Natural selection seems so impersonal and discards so much life. Is this evil? If so, how do we reconcile this with the idea of a loving and providential God?

BIOLOGOS

Darcy Visscher

He is an Adjunct Professor of Biology at The King's University and his research focuses on the evolutionary and ecologically adaptive value of large mammal behaviour. In particular, Dr. Visscher uses computer simulations to model the trade-offs individuals make between predation risk and foraging opportunities to maximize their Darwinian fitness. He embraces the struggle to integrate his calling to be a scientist with that of being a faithful follower of Christ. As a student and lecturer, he has been thankful for the opportunity King's provides to engage in meaningful discussions of science and faith.



Keynote #1 – "Teaching about Evolution to the Weary and the Wary: A Personal Journey"

Certain ways of reading the Bible can make some people suspicious of the theory of evolution; conversely, the theory of evolution can make some people doubt their faith. The intellectual and spiritual journey that leads to resolution of the false conflict between faith and science is deeply personal and challenging. Teachers and learners at King's travel this road together. What's your story?



Special Guest — Wednesday January 28, 1:00pm

LOL with Comedian Dan Taylor

Dan Taylor is a pastor and comic based in Edmonton, AB. After over a decade of public speaking experience throughout Canada, Dan began to make an impact on the comedy scene as well. He was named SiriusXM Alberta's top comic and has opened for Russell Peters and performed at Just For Laughs. Drawing on his experience as a husband, father, social worker, pastor, and barista, Dan's unique background enables him to connect with a diverse audience. Dan is the pastor of Disciples Church Edmonton.



Denis O. Lamoureux

He is an Associate Professor of Science and Religion at St. Joseph's College in the University of Alberta. His appointment is the first tenure-track position in Canada dedicated to teaching and research on the relationship between scientific discovery and Christian faith. Lamoureux's academic specialty focuses on the modern origins controversy. Lamoureux is a member of the Evangelical Theology Society and the Canadian Evangelical Theological Association. He is the author of **Evolutionary Creation: A Christian Approach to Evolution** (2008) and **I Love Jesus and I Accept Evolution** (2009). Lamoureux is also a contributor in the recent **Four Views of the Historical Adam** (2013).



Paul Allen

He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Theological Studies at Concordia University, Montreal, Canada. His area of specialization is systematic theology with a focus on the science-theology dialogue and theological anthropology. His publications include his doctoral dissertation, published as **Ernan McMullin and Critical Realism in the Science-Theology Dialogue** (Aldershot, United Kingdom: Ashgate Publishing Co., 2006). He has since co-written **Catholicism and Science** with Peter M.J. Hess (Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Co., 2008) and most recently **Theological Method: A Guide for the Perplexed** (London: T & T Clark, 2012). He teaches courses on God, political theology, science and theology and theological method.

BIOLOGOS

Teaching About Evolution to the Weary and the Wary:

A Public Conversation

Panel Discussion

Harry Cook, Thomas Oord, Tim O'Connor and Denis Lamoureux

Wednesday January 28 7:30pm

The King's University Atrium

9125-50 St, Edmonton

