

The seminar starts on January 1st at 7pm.  
The full cost of the Conference, including accommodation in Netherhall House, is £ 160.00.

**For more information:**

[www.nh.netherhall.org.uk](http://www.nh.netherhall.org.uk)

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**Netherhall House and  
Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies**

**16th International  
Interdisciplinary Seminar –  
January 1-7, 2014**



# How did it all start?

**The Creation of the Universe  
and of Human Beings:  
is God compatible with the  
latest scientific explanations?**

## The conference

SCIENCE CONTINUES TO MAKE PROGRESS IN MODELING AND understanding what happened in the first seconds after the Big Bang and how the conditions for life came to exist. Whilst studying the Earth and its immediate environment can be done in real time, studying other parts of the universe is much more like doing history. Looking out into space is looking back in time! The light coming to the Earth now may have been travelling through space for many hundreds or thousands or millions of light years.

But how far back can we see? And how much can this kind of 'history' tell us about our origins? Can the Big Bang be the moment of Creation and the moment the laws of physics emerge out of nothing? Can science lift the veil off creation altogether? Or do we need other kinds of knowledge alongside the natural sciences in order to understand where Human Beings and everything else come from?

New methods of genetic (DNA) analysis of genome-wide data give rise to fascinating questions about the very early history of the human population. Recent studies using these new methods of analysis seem to maintain that the origins of the human species cannot be monogenetic.

Are such findings credible? Are they compatible with Catholic teachings? Is a polygenetic origin of the Human Being compatible with Scripture and the Church's teaching on Original Sin?

The conference will look at the issues raised above and also include sessions on media-training to help participants communicate the harmony between science and faith.

## The origin of the Universe

*P. Adams (Thomas More Institute, London)*

The Big Bang – how is it going?

*V. Brigljevic (CERN, Geneva, and Rudjer Boskovic Institute, Zagreb)*

Does the Higgs Boson deserve the Nickname of 'the God particle'?

*S. De Haro (Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of Amsterdam)*

The Universe out of Information?

*L. De Vittori (University of Zürich)*

Listen to the Universe! Sounds from the Big Bang through Gravitational Waves.

*A. Driessen (University of Twente)*

The strange properties of the photon: a case study with philosophical implications.

*A. Suarez (Center for Quantum Philosophy, Zürich and Geneva)*

The emergent space-time.

*T. Strickers and P. Verhagen (Amsterdam University College)*

A Short Introduction to Cosmology and the Big Bang.

*F. Deriabin, Y. Megret, M. Palluc (ETH Zürich)*

The material world emerges from non-material principles.

*P.-J. Michel (Sorbonne, Paris)*

The dialogue between science and faith at xvii century:

The example of Blaise Pascal.

*A. Llebaria (Laboratoire d'Astrophysique de Marseille)*

The anthropic principle.

## The Origin of Human Beings

*D. Alexander (The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge)*

Understanding Adam and Eve theologically.

*M. de Arce (Trinity College, Dublin)*

Genesis and Genetics: A Synthesis.

*M. Berti (SISSA, Trieste)*

Where does human creativity come from?

*V. Brigljevic (Rudjer Boskovic Institute, Zagreb) and J. Sokolar (Medical Faculty, University of Zagreb)*

The origin of humanity in the light of Li&Durbin results (Nature, Vol 475, 493).

*M. Corpas (The Genome Analysis Centre, Norwich)*

Finding the human being behind a personal genome.

*L. Daldini (Waid Spital, Zürich)*

Tutorial: Base pairs, Genes, Polymorphisms and Genetic Diversity.

*M. Fox (University of Sheffield)*

The search for life on other planets.

*V. Harich, N. Kirchmayr, E. Ogrodnik, M. Szabo (ETH Zürich)*

The polygenetic origin of humanity, aliens and original sin.

*F. Remonda (ETH Zürich)*

The origins of humanity and uncontacted peoples: possible scenarios.

*T. Li Piani (Università di Pavia), S. Crimella (Politecnico di Milano), F. Botticelli (Università di Milano)*

Kanzi's choice: why a monkey can (not) be an engineer.

## Media Training: Communication about Science and Religion

*J. Valero (Expert in Media Training, London)*

Basic principles of good communication.

*S. de Haro (Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of Amsterdam) and A. Suarez (Center for Quantum Philosophy, Zürich and Geneva)*

Case studies with videos in YouTube.

## The Origin of Human Beings

(Session Friday, January 3)

- 15.00 Presentation by *Richard Durbin (The Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Cambridge)* on the question: «Can the polygenetic origin of humanity be really considered a well-established scientific conclusion on the basis of today's data?»
- 15.45 *Peter Adams (Thomas More Institute, London)* presents to Richard Durbin selected questions from the preparatory workshops
- 16.00 Discussion with the public, moderated by Peter Adams
- 16.30 Break for coffee
- 17.00 Panel on the question: «Can we give up the origin from a primal couple ('Adam and Eve') without giving up the teaching of original sin and atonement?». Presentation of different scenarios:  
– *Denis Alexander (The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge)*: Understanding Adam and Eve theologically;  
– *Mark Fox (University of Sheffield)*: The problem of aliens;  
– *Manuel Corpas (The Genome Analysis Centre, Norwich)*: Finding the human being behind a personal genome;  
– *Dermot Grenham (Actuary, Edinburgh) and Antoine Suarez (Center for Quantum Philosophy, Zürich and Geneva)*: The origin of humanity and original sin in the light of Thomas Aquinas S.Th.I, q.100 (Summary of the workshops)
- 18.00 Discussion with the public moderated by Peter Adams
- 18.45 Dinner