

21st International Interdisciplinary Seminar Science and Society: Defining what is human.

Organised by:

*The Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies (Zürich and Geneva)
and Netherhall House (London)*

Thursday, January 3rd, 2019 (Oxford day)

Morning (11.00-14.00): Visit to Oxford.

Optional: Visit to Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology (11.30-12.30)

Guide: *Dr Paul Collins, Jaleh Hearn Curator of Ancient Near East*

Cast of the “Kish tablet from Sumer” (the earliest known writing, 3500 BC)
and other examples of very early writing from the site of Jemdet Nasr in Mesopotamia.

We meet at the Entrance at 11.30,
Beaumont Street, Oxford OX1 2PH

Afternoon (14.00-17.30): Experts meeting and panel.

Lecture Theatre, Hume Rothery Building, Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PH

We meet at the Entrance at 13.45.

Is today's science becoming entangled with the deepest questions of our existence?
Exchanging, discussing, and improving arguments (also in view of the raising campaign
“Atheism for children”).

14.00 *Andrew Briggs (Nanomaterials, University of Oxford):*

What lies at the root of the long entanglement between science and religion?
(on the basis of the book *The Penultimate Curiosity*, OUP)

14.30 Discussion

14.45 *Andrew Steane (Clarendon Laboratory, University of Oxford):*

About the structure of science and how it fits into our wider values.
(On the basis of the book *Science and Humanity*, OUP)

15.15 Discussion

15.30 *Panel: Is science part of a larger story about what is good and what is bad?*

Moderator: *Peter Adams (Thomas More Institute, London)*

Introductory short statements:

Mark Fox (University of Sheffield): C.S. Lewis and Newman on Evolution.

Zeeya Merali (Freelance journalist, London): Should scientists care about
responsibility?

Alfred Driessen (emeritus University of Twente): Human freedom, an illusion only?

Massimiliano Berti (SISSA, Trieste): The appropriateness of Mathematics for
describing the world: A wonderful gift we should be thankful for.

Vuko Brigljevic (CERN, Geneva, and Rudjer Boskovic Institute, Zagreb): The physical
reality and the human observer.

*Ilyas Khan (Inaugural Chairman of the Stephen Hawking Foundation and
CEO of Cambridge Quantum Computing):* How Grace can bridge the gap between
belief and atheism”

Antoine Suarez (Center for quantum Philosophy, Zürich and Geneva): Defining what
is human: Is this possible without God?

16:45 Discussion among experts and with the public.

Friday, January 4th , 2019

Academic sessions and tutorials in Netherhall House, London. (10.00 – 18.00 h.)

- 10.00 *Dominic Jones (Director of Netherhall House):*
Organizational Issues.
Antoine Suarez (Center for Quantum Philosophy, Zürich and Geneva):
Opening Note.
- 10.15 *Roberto Caiozzo, Nilesh Lalbahadoersing, and Floris van den Ende*
(Amsterdam University College-AUC)
(Tutorial) Quantum mechanics: getting to know the fundamentals.
- 10.45 *Vuko Brigljevic (CERN, Geneva, and Rudjer Boskovic Institute, Zagreb)*
Where is the “quantum observer”?
- 11.15 Discussion
- 11.30 Coffee Break.
- 11.45 *Iris de Smit and Amber te Winkel (Amsterdam University College-AUC)*
(Tutorial) Multiverse vs. the Copenhagen interpretation in quantum physics.
- 12.15 Discussion
- 12.30 *Mark Fox (University of Sheffield):*
How close are we to constructing a quantum computer?
- 13.00 Discussion.
- 13.15 Buffet lunch.
- 14.30 *Ilyas Khan (Inaugural Chairman of the Stephen Hawking Foundation and*
CEO of Cambridge Quantum Computing)
Will quantum computers make artificial intelligence any less ‘artificial’?
- 15.00 Discussion.
- 15.45 *Dominic Jones (University of Buckingham, London):*
Can machines become human?
- 16.15 Discussion.
- 16.30 Coffee Break.
- 16.45 *Marco Natale (IPE Business School)*
On the axiom of choice.
- 17.15 *Maciej Besta (Swiss Institute of Technology, ETH Zürich):*
Artificial intelligence and high-performance computing.
- 17.45 Discussion.

Saturday, January 5th, 2019

Academic sessions and tutorials in Netherhall House, London. (10.00 – 18.00 h.)

- 10.00 *Alfred Driessen (emeritus, University of Twente)*
Causality from outside time.
- 10.30 Discussion
- 10.45 *Antoine Suarez (Center for Quantum Philosophy, Zürich and Geneva):*
Defining what is human.
- 11.15 Discussion.
- 11.30 Coffee Break.
- 12.00 *Gennaro Luise (Pontificia Università della Santa Croce, Rome)*
Identity and Matter. Material extension as a kind of perfection?
- 12.30 *Fabio Massaioli (University of Rome III)*
The desire for unlimited happiness as a distinguishing trait of the human being and a possible basis for human rights.
- 13.00 Discussion.
- 13.15 Buffet Lunch
- 14.30 *Timothy Daly (Sorbonne Université, Faculté des Lettres, Paris):*
The problem of reductionism in neuroscience: the case of Alzheimer's disease research.
- 15.00 *Cesare Miglioli and Ignacio Monge (University of Geneva):*
Can computers replace teachers?
- 15.30 Discussion.
- 15.45 *Matteo Lovo (University of Pisa)*
Rights and responsibility as distinctive human features.
- 16.15 *Jean-David Ponci (Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies, Geneva)*
The importance of being human.
- 16.45 Discussion.
- 17.00 Coffee Break.
- 17.30 Conclusive talk.
General discussion and suggestions.
- 18.00 End of the Conference.