

# When

May 6th, 2022

4.45-6.45 pm

(London time)

# Online panel

Zoom meeting

Link accessible to  
registered participants

According to *Robin Dunbar*, the centrepiece of the Neolithic is “the invention” of “mechanisms” that “allowed people to live together without killing each other”, and this is crucial to the evolution of humanity: “The Neolithic changed everything”.

In this panel we will discuss the following 5 questions, in the light of *Dunbar’s* theory about how religion evolved:

1. Can the prohibition of murder in Genesis 9:3-6 be considered one of the “mechanisms” Dunbar refers to?
2. Is religion something that humans, once they are evolved to our present form, need and hunger for?
3. Are art and burials related to the emergence of immersive religions?
4. Does Dunbar’s ‘mystical stance’ highlight the relevance of love as a basic element of religion?
5. Does humanity deserve to survive, and if yes, is religion necessary for this?



## Genesis in the Light of Dunbar’s theory about how religion evolved.

Is religion a key element in the evolution and survival of humankind?

### PROGRAM

**4.45 pm (London time)**

Introduction.

**4.50 pm**

Notes on Questions 1 and 2

*Antoine Suarez, IIS, Zürich.*

*Anna Pearson, CQC, Cambridge.*

**5.05 pm**

Answer to the Notes.

*Robin IM Dunbar, Professor University of Oxford.*

**5.10 pm**

Notes on Question 3.

*Alfred Driessen, Emeritus University of Twente.*

*Jean-David Ponci, IIS, Lausanne.*

**5.25 pm**

Notes on Questions 4 and 5

*Daan van Schalkwijk, Amsterdam University College.*

*Theo Mckeever, University of Manchester.*

**5.40 pm**

Answer to the Notes.

*Robin IM Dunbar, Professor University of Oxford.*

**5.55 pm**

General Discussion.

**6.35 pm**

Concluding Remarks



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### Registration:

Please send an e-mail to  
[suarez.antoine@gmail.com](mailto:suarez.antoine@gmail.com)  
If not already done, add a short  
description of your motivation  
and academic back-ground, and  
the name of the person who  
recommended you this meeting.