



The Institute on Religion in an Age of Science

Call for Papers

The 62nd Annual IRAS Conference

How Can We Know?

Co-creating Knowledge in Perilous Times

June 25 to July 2, 2016 – Star Island, New Hampshire

What does knowing and living reliably and humanely now require of us – as persons, communities, institutions and whole societies?

How do we know that these are perilous times? How do we know what is to be done? Does knowing evolve from imagining? How do religious, scientific and secular traditions differ? What are the biological foundations of morality? What might “know yourself” really mean? What have we been missing in the science/ religion dialogue?

These are not abstract questions. Our fate – global, societal and personal – hangs on them. The reason, of course, is that what we commit to doing and becoming is largely a function of what we think we actually know.

Given the destructive culture wars of our time – ecological, economic, societal, political and personal – we simply cannot afford to *agree to disagree* on what is to be taken as reliably known. Rather, we need dialogues that foster personal and shared learning; we must explore afresh the nature and demands of reliable knowing.

Tensions between the ways of knowing that underlie the sciences and those of other historical, cultural and religious perspectives often inhibit working together for human and planetary well-being. Pointing to the rapid progress and obvious power of the natural sciences, many assume that only the scientific method fosters reliable ways of knowing. Many scientists, as well as others who emphasize the ambiguities of history and the co-creative power of persons and communities, disclaim such a contention and emphasize the need for a thorough-going self-critical awareness.

How Can We Know? Co-creating Knowledge in Perilous Times – the 2016 IRAS Summer Conference – has been designed to explore the above focal question in light of the emerging conditions of the early 21st Century.

Call for Papers: Paper proposals of no more than 250 words, or poster proposals of no more than 100 words, should be sent by email to Ruben Nelson by February 15, 2016: rubennelson@shaw.ca We have full and partial scholarships for the top papers.

Confirmed Speakers: Pat Bennett, Warren Brown, Phillip Cary, Chris Corbally, Wentzel van Huyssteen, Jonathan Marks, Margaret Boone Rappaport, Louise Sundararajan, John Teske.

IRAS: IRAS is the Institute on Religion in an Age of Science. Our most current (2015) Mission Statement is set out in the footer of this page. For more see www.iras.org

“IRAS cultivates a community of informed and respectful inquiry and dialogue at the intersections of science with religion, spirituality and philosophy in service of global, societal and personal well-being.”