



THE INSTITUTE ON RELIGION IN AN AGE OF SCIENCE

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IRAS 2018 CALL FOR PAPERS

“Artificial Intelligence Turns Deep: Who’s in Control?”

64TH ANNUAL IRAS SUMMER CONFERENCE ON STAR ISLAND (JUNE 23-30, 2018)

Deep learning neural networks, big data, fast computers, and vast investments of at least fifty billion dollars by 2020 are rapidly changing the prospects of AI without adequately addressing the conundrum first raised by Hal’s famous line in 1968’s *2001: A Space Odyssey*: “Sorry Dave, I can’t do that”. Addressing the question of control 50 years after both the film (on which Marvin Minsky advised) and an IRAS Conference (at which Minsky spoke), a wide range of experts will consider: (i) the benefits of AI for the future of ALL of society; (ii) how to avoid pitfalls concerning control of AI; (iii) the ethical, social, legal, and religious factors to be considered; and (iv) possible processes to maintain human control of the future of AI.

We invite proposals from professionals in scientific or religious fields with expertise or interest in AI for oral or poster presentations relevant to the conference theme.

Proposals will be peer- reviewed and the top proposals will be invited as Shapley- Booth fellows to receive full room and board.

More information about this year’s conference can be found at <http://iras.org>

The **Deadline** for proposals is February 1, 2018. Fellowship decisions and accepted papers for either oral or poster presentations will be announced by March 15, 2018. **Proposals should include** 1) A cover letter including your contact information 2) An abstract of no more than 150 words and 3) A narrative of no more than 500 words (roughly two, double-spaced pages) Submit proposals as **Microsoft Word attachments (.doc or .docx)** to Emily Austin at austin.emily@gmail.com. Include “(your Last Name) IRAS Proposal” as the subject line.

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.

Star Island provides an environment that frees all who come to renew spiritually, explore matters of consequence, and gain knowledge about the world as it might ideally be.