

Institute on Religion in an Age of Science- IRAS

The Twenty-Ninth Annual Summer Conference

Saturday, July 24 to Saturday, July 31

DISORDER & ORDER A Study of Entropy and A Study of Evil

Occidental science and religion traditionally have as their basis the notion that the cosmos in which we find ourselves is ordered: fundamentally rational and hence capable of being grasped intellectually. Our science and theology assume that our existence is not characterized by a sequence of non-related random events, but rather that these events are part of a cosmic order than is potentially knowable.

In spite of this basic belief, neither science nor religion perceives this order as readily available for comprehension. It has hidden dimensions. Furthermore, both science and religion recognize that there are disordering processes in the cosmos. In science, this is exemplified by the Second Law of Thermodynamics, involving the concept of entropy. In religions, the experience of these disordering processes has been expressed through myths and symbols of evil. The inadequacies in conceptions of evil, both philosophical and theological, which keep evil an enigma to rational thought, may be analogous to the difficulties in scientific comprehension of order and disorder, for example, the debates over the significance of chance in quantum theory.

It is the purpose of this conference to bring together a cross-disciplinary group to examine conceptualizations of order and disorder with the goal of exploring possible syntheses between the domains of science and religion.

SPEAKERS:

Philip J. Hefner,	Professor of Systematic Theology Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
Paul G. Kuntz,	Professor of Philosophy Emory University
Wendy O'Flaherty,	Professor of History of Religions and Indic Studies University of Chicago
Arthur R. Peacocke,	Dean, Clare College Cambridge University

Robert Russell, Adjunct Professor of rheology and Science
Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley
Director, Center for Theology and the Natural
Sciences

Emerson W. Shideler, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy
Iowa State University

CHAPLAIN:

Malcolm R. Sutherland, Minister, Harvard Unitarian Church
Harvard, Massachusetts

Program & Chairpersons: Sanborn C. Brown and David R. Breed

Conference Coordinator: Edward F. Rutledge

IRAS is an interdisciplinary and multid denominational society of scientists and religious thinkers accompanied by others from business and the various professions. Its fundamental goal is the exploration of how insights and concepts developed by the modern sciences can be constructively related to expressions of hopes, goals, and basic guiding principles from the religions of the world. It is believed that such integration of scientific and religious insights is necessary if we human beings are to live harmoniously with nature and with ourselves and if we are to continue to move towards a future that maximizes human welfare on our planet. IRAS publishes *Zygon, Journal of Religion and Science*, including papers presented on Star Island. In addition to its own members, IRAS invites participation by professionals and graduate students in science, religion, education, and others who are interested in the conference theme. In addition to the daily morning chapel, each day will provide ample opportunities to explore the conference theme through addresses by the major speakers, colloquia, workshops, and small group discussions.

Registrar: Please mail registration and fee to Bonnie Falla, 300 South Adams Street, Sheffield, IL 61361 Phone: (815) 454-2290. Make checks payable to IRAS.

Registration Fees: Husband and wife, \$90.00; individuals over 20, \$50.00; Children 12-20, \$30.00; children under 12, \$25.00. Registration fees, less 20% are refundable if request for cancellation is received before June 1

Room and Board: see RATES for 7 Day Conferences

Round trip boat fare: \$6.00 and \$4.00 (under 12 year)