



Fostering dialogue between scientific and religious communities since 1995

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



With summer in full swing, the AAAS Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER) program has been busy organizing workshops, hosting meetings, and preparing for projects that launch with the start of the school year. In June, DoSER gathered leaders from the first new cohort of seminaries participating in the next phase of the [Science for Seminaries](#) project. The attendees shared their plans to integrate science into their seminary education programs, discussed opportunities, and visited two science labs at George Washington University. (More about Science for Seminaries below.)

We are particularly glad about the enthusiastic response to DoSER's new "Engaging Scientists" workshops for scientists and science communicators from members of scientific societies where these workshops have been held. We are now preparing for workshops at additional scientific societies and competitively selected research universities across the United States. The workshop discussions provide an opportunity for scientists and science communicators to learn about how to implement best practices in science communication with students and a largely religious public in their spheres of work and public engagement. These scientific institutions are recognizing the value and need of these skills and understanding for their scientific professionals. (More details are below.) You can follow all of these activities on social media and our [DoSER website](#).

– Jennifer Wiseman, Director, AAAS DoSER

DoSER IN MOTION



DoSER was pleased to participate in a variety of meetings and festivals in the past few months, and has additional events scheduled in the summer and fall.

On June 27, religious and scientific representatives from 12 synagogues in several regions of the U.S. gathered in New York City to begin the second round of the Scientists in Synagogues project. Scientists in Synagogues, administered by [Sinai and Synapses](#) in consultation with AAAS DoSER, "is a grass-roots program to offer Jews opportunities to explore the most interesting and pressing questions surrounding Judaism and science." Jennifer Wiseman, Director of AAAS DoSER, presented an overview of interesting topics at the forefront of science and discovery that have strong implications for broader questions of ethics, meaning, and human identity, and discussed how science can best be conveyed to stimulate thoughtful discussion and

reflection. Synagogue leaders then shaped their plans for bringing interesting and relevant science discussions and activities into their congregational life.

[Read more about Scientists in Synagogues »](#)



DoSER staff attended the Festival of Science and Religion in Washington, D.C., organized by the [Think-Write-Publish Science and Religion project](#) at Arizona State University (ASU). Program representatives Rob O'Malley and Lilah Sloane discussed AAAS' engagement activities with religious and scientific communities, and shared some best practices for

science dialogue with cultural competency and sensitivity to a broad range of worldviews. Visitors also watched the [Science: The Wide Angle](#) films produced by DoSER to stimulate thoughts and discussions about science and life.

SCIENCE FOR SEMINARIES



DoSER has welcomed seven seminaries to participate as the first cohort in a new phase of its Science for Seminaries project. This project, created in consultation with the [Association of Theological Schools \(ATS\)](#), will assist a diverse group of seminaries to integrate science into their core curricula over an 18-month period. As many as 32 seminaries will be chosen to participate over the next four years, joining the 10

seminaries that already completed a very successful pilot program.

The seven seminaries are Bethany Theological Seminary (Richmond, IN), Kenrick-Glennon Seminary (St. Louis, MO), McCormick Theological Seminary (Chicago, IL), Mundelein Seminary (Mundelein, IL), Nazarene Theological Seminary (Kansas City, MO), Sacred Heart

Seminary and School of Theology (Hales Corners, WI), and Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary of Andrews University (Berrien Springs, MI).

[Learn more about the first cohort of seminaries »](#)

In August, DoSER will host around 30 seminary professors, theological experts, and scientists at a Science for Seminaries Faculty Enrichment Workshop in Maryland. This workshop encourages participating seminary faculty to engage with forefront science topics by supplying them with science resources and assisting them in building networks with scientists and other theological educators. The workshop also helps to expand the Science for Seminaries project, as DoSER will be hosting faculty from participating institutions as well as faculty from other schools that will benefit from the resources and skills shared at the event.

[Learn more about the Science for Seminaries project »](#)

ENGAGING SCIENTISTS



The “Engaging Scientists in the Science and Religion Dialogue” project assists scientists through workshops and resources to be better equipped for positive science engagement with religious students

and publics in their spheres of work and influence. As part of this “Engaging Scientists” project, the DoSER team has organized symposia and roundtables for scientists and faith leaders to discuss a range of topics at the intersection of science, faith, and culture. Videos of these presentations can be found on [DoSER’s website](#). Here are presentations from several of these events at major scientific society meetings:

[View the presentation from the 2018 American Astronomical Society \(AAS\) Meeting »](#)

[**View presentations from the 2018 American Association of Physical Anthropologists \(AAPA\) Meeting »**](#)

[**View presentations from the 2017 Society for Neuroscience \(SfN\) Meeting »**](#)

As preparation for possible extensions of the “Engaging Scientists in the Science and Religion Dialogue” project, DoSER is hosting workshops for scientists and science communicators working in informal science contexts. In July, DoSER representatives Liz Crocker and Rob O’Malley hosted a workshop at the National Aquarium in Baltimore. Institutional leadership, animal care staff, scientists, and marketing representatives discussed best methods to communicate to the public about animal welfare, conservation science, and upcoming institutional projects and initiatives. Liz Crocker also presented the DoSER workshop on science engagement and communication with religious publics at the Science | Government, Institutions and Society (SIGNS) summit in Chicago, IL. This event brought together scientists and science communicators from across the world to promote and support grassroots science advocacy.

[**Contact DoSER to discuss potential collaborations with museums or public science centers »**](#)

Join the Network!



A major goal of AAAS DoSER is to grow a network of scientists, public communicators, organizations, and faith communities who are interested in constructive dialogue and engagement on science and society topics. We invite you to sign up for the Engaging Scientists Network as science ambassadors and/or leaders of religious communities.

[**Join the Engaging Scientists Network »**](#)

OTHER AAAS HAPPENINGS

**Report Launch: Geospatial Evidence in International Human Rights Litigation:
Technical and Legal Considerations: July 26, 2018, 12:00 – 1:30pm ET, Washington,
DC**

The AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law (SRHRL) program will launch its new report, which provides the first comprehensive assessment of how geospatial technologies have been used in international human rights litigation.

**2019 Early Career Award for Public Engagement with Science Nominations Deadline:
Nominations due August 1, 2018, 11:59pm ET**

The AAAS Early Career Award for Public Engagement with Science recognizes early-career scientists and engineers who demonstrate excellence not only in their research careers but also in promoting meaningful dialogue between science and society.

Science Diplomacy 2018: September 14, 2018, 9:00am – 6:00pm ET, Washington, DC

For its fourth annual conference, the AAAS Center for Science Diplomacy will discuss emerging and timely issues of science diplomacy.

INVEST IN DIALOGUE

Did you know that DoSER is funded by the generosity of donors and grants? Supporting DoSER's vital work of facilitating conversations between scientists and religious communities is as easy as clicking the link below. Your investment will help us fortify our current engagement projects and expand our work into exciting new areas. Email us at doser@aaas.org to learn more.

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