



DoSER
Dialogue on
Science, Ethics,
& Religion

AAAS



DoSER Newsletter, Winter 2019

Fostering dialogue between scientific and religious communities since 1995

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Welcome to spring! In recent months, the AAAS Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER) has been fostering discussions across the nation on a broad range of issues where science, values, and identity intersect. Our annual (and always very popular!) December Holiday Lecture featured a cross disciplinary discussion of human diversity, health, and well-being through discussions on genetic diversity, history, and cultural identity. At the AAAS Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, DoSER hosted a number of events, including a symposium on resilience to trauma from the perspectives of neuroscience, psychiatry, and ministry. We also sponsored a panel discussion on best practices for science engagement with faith communities. If you were unable to join us at the Annual Meeting, videos of both symposia will be posted on [the DoSER website](#) soon.

We've discovered significant interest from scientists across the country in building better mutual understanding and engagement with religious communities and students. As part of our "Engaging Scientists" project, DoSER staff hosted workshops for scientists at several national scientific society meetings and competitively selected universities. We participated in related public engagement events throughout the United States, including in California, Texas, Tennessee, and Maryland. DoSER representatives have also been traveling across the country to help with science events at synagogues and seminaries. (More details about all these happenings are below.) We are excited by the progress of our many projects and for the opportunity to connect people from different walks of life to consider forefront science, the impact those scientific advances have on different aspects of society, and the broader implications for humanity.

– Jennifer Wiseman, Director, AAAS DoSER

POSITION OPPORTUNITIES AT DOSER

Associate Program Director

Join our team! DoSER is hiring an Associate Program Director to help facilitate dialogue between scientific and religious communities. The person in this position will work closely with the Program Director to shape the strategic and programmatic vision for DoSER; manage the program budget, finance, and administration; directly supervise DoSER program staff; liaise with senior AAAS staff and cultivate partnerships with external organizations and key stakeholders; and more. Additional information can be found on the [AAAS website](#). Applications are due by **April 13, 2019**.

[Apply by April 13th >>](#)

Summer Internship

DoSER is also hiring a full time summer intern to assist with our Science for Theological Education and Engaging Scientists in the Science and Religion Dialogue (Engaging Scientists) projects. The person in this position will contribute to the development and implementation of project ideas; help organize meetings and conferences; gather information on topics important for science and religion; and provide support on various projects and activities. Additional information can be found on the [AAAS website](#). Applications close **April 5, 2019**.

[Apply by April 5th >>](#)

HOLIDAY LECTURE – THE TAPESTRY OF HEALTH



Human diversity and its practical impacts on health and well-being were the focus of DoSER's 2018 Holiday Lecture, "The Tapestry of Health: Genetic Diversity, History, and Cultural Identity," held at AAAS headquarters in Washington, DC. Experts examined these themes through scientific, cultural, ethical, and theological lenses. Charles Rotimi, Director of the Center for Research on Genomics and Global Health at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), focused on diversifying genomic research to improve healthcare and decrease inaccurate assumptions about patients. Lesley Jo Weaver, a medical anthropologist and professor at the University of Oregon, expanded on this idea by describing how structural and systematic inequalities shape the health outcomes of women in northern India. As she said, "racial legacies of colonialism underpin many of the health inequalities that we see today in India and beyond." Gay Byron, professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at the Howard University School of Divinity, summarized the discussion by stating, "it is only in telling our stories in the fullness of their particularity that we can begin to appreciate the full tapestry of health."

[Read the full article >>](#)

[Watch the Holiday Lecture online >>](#)

DOSER AT THE AAAS ANNUAL MEETING



It was a pleasure to see so many of you at the 2019 AAAS Annual Meeting. DoSER hosted two symposia, two workshops, and a reception during the conference. The team also held an engaging discussion in the exhibit hall, sharing best practices for facilitating dialogue between scientific and religious publics.

The first symposium, “The Biology of Resilience: How Science and Faith Communities Can Work Together,” discussed how these two groups can work collaboratively towards the common good of building resilience from trauma. It featured presentations and an informative discussion between Scott Russo from Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; Farha Abbasi from Michigan State University; Melissa Kelley from Boston College School of Theology and Ministry; and Kimberly Konkel from Building Resilient Communities through Trauma Informed Congregations Community of Practice (TiCong).

[Read more about the symposium >>](#)

“Science Engagement with Faith Communities,” the second DoSER symposium, highlighted opportunities, challenges, and best practices for science communication with the general public, and specifically with religious communities and students. Presenters demonstrated how engagement that is cognizant of community interests, culture, and faith can have a positive and sustaining impact. Speakers and discussants included Rick Potts, Smithsonian Institution; Jame Schaefer, Marquette University; Fatimah Jackson, Howard University; and Salman Hameed, Hampshire College.

The AAAS Annual Meeting is currently accepting proposals for the 2020 Annual Meeting.

[Submit a proposal >>](#)

SCIENCE FOR SEMINARIES

Applications open for the 2019 Summer Faculty Enrichment Retreat

The Science for Seminaries Faculty Enrichment Retreat is an opportunity for faculty members and administrators to gather new ideas for enriching theological education with forefront science in their own curricula. Designed to be intimate workshops with seminary peers and scientist advisors, retreat participants will connect with like-minded leaders from seminaries across the country, learn about the latest advances in science, and engage with learning outcomes gleaned from previous participants in the

Science for Seminars project. This opportunity is open to faculty and administrators at institutions accredited by the [Association of Theological Schools \(ATS\)](#). Applications are due by **Friday, April 12, 2019**.

[Apply by April 12th >>](#)

ENGAGING SCIENTISTS



The “Engaging Scientists in the Science and Religion Dialogue” (Engaging Scientists) project partnered with six institutions across the U.S. to host workshops, events, and other activities at their campuses. The primary goal of these events has been to explore challenges, opportunities, and effective strategies for constructive dialogue about science by scientists with diverse (and particularly with religious/spiritual) publics. Three

institutions – Texas State University, Stanford University, and Howard University – hosted events and workshops during the fall and winter. Each institution focused on a different scientific theme, from sustainability to human evolution to AI.

[Read about Stanford University’s discussion on Science, Spirituality, and Sustainability >>](#)

[More information about the Engaging Scientists workshops and events >>](#)

OTHER AAAS HAPPENINGS

[Submit a session proposal for the 2020 AAAS Annual Meeting](#)

Deadline: Thursday, April 18, 2019, 11:59pm PT

Applications are open for scientific sessions (90-minute symposia and 10-minute flash talks) and career workshop proposals for the 2020 AAAS Annual Meeting. The meeting, which will be held in Seattle, Washington, will focus on ‘Envisioning Tomorrow’s Earth.’

[Apply by April 18th >>](#)

[AAAS Forum on Science & Technology Policy](#)

Thursday, May 2, 8:00 am – Friday, May 3, 5:00 pm, Washington, DC

The annual AAAS Forum on Science and Technology Policy is the conference for people interested in public policy issues facing the science, engineering, and higher education communities. Registration closes April 28, 2019.

[Register by April 28th »](#)

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, and your investment will help us expand our dialogues into exciting new areas. Email us at doser@aaas.org to learn more.

DONATE »

A horizontal banner with a black background and a red-to-orange gradient top. On the left, there are three circular icons: a brain, a microscope, and a dinosaur skeleton. To the right of the icons, the text reads "ENHANCE YOUR CLASSROOM REACH - SCIENCE VIDEOS FROM" in white. Below this, there are logos for DoSER (three blue hexagons) and AAAS (a stylized 'A' logo). At the bottom right of the banner, it says "Download at SCIENCEFORSEMINARIES.ORG" in white.

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For more information about this event, contact doser@aaas.org