



DoSER
Dialogue on
Science, Ethics,
& Religion



DoSER Newsletter, Fall 2019

Fostering dialogue between scientific and religious communities since 1995

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



As one season ends and another begins, DoSER celebrates its own new beginnings and opportunities. We are very excited to welcome three new staff members to the team: Dr. Katy Hinman, Associate Director; Rachel Kline, Program Associate for the Engaging Scientists Project; and McKenzie Prillaman, Program Assistant. They look forward to helping facilitate dialogue between scientific and faith communities, and are eager to speak with you at future events and workshops.

DoSER is all about building relationships and conversations around interesting developments and opportunities in science. Our staff members have been pleased to meet new people and find great enthusiasm for dialogue as we traveled across the United States and Canada to visit seminaries, universities, and scientific meetings, facilitating workshops for scientists, seminary planning events, and good conversations. Recent sites included Toronto, Ontario, Canada for the Association of Science and Technology Centers Annual Conference; Salt Lake City, Utah for the Science for Seminaries Faculty Enrichment Retreat; Louisville, Kentucky for the Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting; Fort Lauderdale, Florida for Knox Theological Seminary's Science for Seminaries Curriculum Meeting; and Honolulu, Hawai'i for the Annual Meeting of the Society for Advancing Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science. We look forward to visiting other cities and events in the next few months and meeting others who are interested in the intersection of science and religion. Please follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to see when we're coming to a city near you.

We also have several upcoming events in Washington, DC, and we encourage you to join us. We will host our annual [DoSER Holiday Lecture](#) and reception December 17th at AAAS Headquarters, featuring climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe and Episcopal Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori. The event is free and open to the public. This year we are focusing on climate change and the ways in which faith communities and scientists are working together on environmental stewardship. We are also organizing two symposia, a workshop, and a reception at the [2020 AAAS Annual Meeting](#), which will occur February 13-16, 2020 in Seattle, Washington. More information about both events is below. We hope you will join us for these stimulating discussions, and we look forward to seeing you there!

– Jennifer Wiseman, Director, AAAS DoSER

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS



Dr. Katy Hinman is our new Associate Program Director. Originally from Decatur, Georgia, she earned a BA in biology from Carleton College, a PhD in ecology and evolution from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and a MDiv from Candler School of Theology at Emory University. Her dissertation research focused on bat pollination of agave plants in southeastern Arizona. She was also the Executive Director of Georgia Interfaith Power & Light, a nonprofit that works with faith communities on environmental issues. Prior to joining DoSER, Dr. Hinman was the pastor at College Park First United Methodist Church in College Park, Georgia.



McKenzie Prillaman is our new Program Assistant. Originally from Roanoke, Virginia, she received a BA in neuroscience with a minor in bioethics from the University of Virginia. As a postbaccalaureate research fellow, she conducted adolescent nicotine addiction research at the National Institute on Drug Abuse. There she discovered science communication, and upon completion of her fellowship, she joined AAAS as an intern before joining DoSER.



Rachel Kline is our new Program Associate for the Engaging Scientists project. Originally from Chevy Chase, Maryland, she earned her undergraduate degree in brain and cognitive sciences from MIT and her Master's in pharmacology from Boston University. She worked in project management for nearly a decade at both nonprofits and commercial companies, managing numerous projects for clients in government, healthcare, and industry. Drawn by her long-time love of science, Rachel joined AAAS in 2017 as Assistant Editor for the journal *Science Robotics* before joining DoSER.

ANNOUNCING THE AAAS DoSER HOLIDAY LECTURE

[A Climate of Hope: Scientists and Faith Communities Addressing the Climate Crisis](#)

December 17, 2019, 5:30 – 7:15 pm (Reception to follow)

AAAS Headquarters, 1200 New York Ave. NW, Washington, DC, 20005



Join DoSER on Tuesday, December 17th for a discussion on climate change, environmental stewardship, and the ways in which faith communities and scientists are working together to solve one of today's most pressing issues. Our speakers include Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, climate scientist and director of Texas Tech University's Climate Science Center, and discussant Rt. Rev. Dr. Katharine Jefferts Schori, XXVI Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church.

The Holiday Lecture is free and open to the public. A reception will follow. Webcasting and a recording will also be available for those who cannot attend in person. More information is available on the [DoSER website](#).

Registration closes December 15.

SCIENCE FOR SEMINARIES

Science in the Curriculum Faculty Enrichment Workshop



At the end of July, DoSER hosted a Science in the Curriculum Faculty Enrichment Retreat in Salt Lake City, Utah. Representatives from seventeen seminaries from across the country joined scientific and theological experts to engage across denominations and discuss and reflect on a variety of scientific topics, including psychology, gene editing, astronomy, ecology, and environmental stewardship.

Participants also visited the National History Museum of Utah to explore how local science institutions can be partners in science engagement through site visits or lab tours. Participants acquired pedagogical skills and strategies for integrating science into their curricula, shared insights on how the science topics connect with their theology, community, and classrooms, and built relationships with each other and the broader theological and scientific communities.

[Read the full article >>](#)

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Over 500 religious leaders learned about forefront science in the AAAS DoSER Continuing Education Project.



From 2017-2019, AAAS DoSER supported four seminars across the country as they sought to prepare active clergy to engage with congregants' questions and concerns about new advances in science and technology. The Science in Continuing Education for Pastors pilot project provided religious leaders at Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School, Columbia Theological Seminary, Concordia Seminary, and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary with resources and opportunities to discuss science topics with scientists and fellow faith leaders. By the end of the pilot project, participating seminaries had offered 6 courses and hosted over 12 campus events for approximately 565 congregational leaders. Classes and events touched on a variety of science topics, including astronomy, conservation, anthropology, biology, neurology, psychology, public health, and medicine. Participants found the sessions and events to be "very helpful...[specifically,] it's helped me to be more resilient in my role as a pastor."

AAAS DoSER plans to launch a second phase of the Continuing Education project in the coming years that will build upon this pilot project.

[Read the full article >>](#)

ENGAGING SCIENTISTS



This fall, DoSER staff attended multiple science conferences to give presentations or workshops for scientists and communicators as part of the "Engaging Scientists in the Science and Religion Dialogue" project. Many of these meetings focused on inclusion and informal science learning. In September, representatives from DoSER and the Center for Public Engagement hosted a workshop and poster at the 2019 Inclusive SciComm Symposium in Rhode Island. This was followed in September by an exhibit at the Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC) Annual Meeting in Canada. Finally, at the end of October, two members of the DoSER staff flew to Hawai'i for the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) Annual Meeting. We also participated in scientific society conferences, such as the Ecological Society of America (ESA) 2019 Annual Meeting, and are excited to host a workshop at the American Geophysical Union's (AGU) Conference in December.

The Engaging Scientists project is exploring new directions in science engagement, including in informal science learning (ISL) spaces such as zoos, aquariums, and science centers. Stay tuned!

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

DoSER AT THE AAAS ANNUAL MEETING



ENVISIONING
TOMORROW'S
EARTH
AAAS ANNUAL MEETING
Seattle, WA | February 13-16, 2020

The [AAAS Annual meeting](#) will be held February 13 – 16, 2020 in Seattle, Washington. This year's theme, Envisioning Tomorrow's Earth, focuses on ways in which communities can solve today's pressing problems by drawing on our current understanding of the world and developing answers using forefront science. Please continue to check the [AAAS Annual Meeting program](#) and the [DoSER website](#) for additional events where you can find us.

Scheduled events:

[Responding to Climate Change: Science, Religion, and Cultural Practices](#)

Friday, February 14, 2020, 1:30 – 3:00pm

This session will explore the interconnections between resilient communities and faith traditions. Topics to be discussed include the current climate science data being used by faith communities to assist vulnerable populations; how religious and indigenous communities are adapting to become more resilient in this new world; and how elements of various faith traditions, combined with cutting-edge science, can provide resources and tools for communities.

[Connecting Scientists and Religious Communities: AAAS DoSER Reception](#)

Friday, February 14, 2020, 6:30 – 8:00pm

Please join us at a reception to learn more about DoSER's work and how you can get involved. The event is open to all Annual Meeting attendees. People encouraged to attend include scientists looking to engage with religious individuals or communities and people of faith who want to engage at the interface of science and religion.

[Workshop: Science Communication and Engagement with Religious Publics](#)

Sunday, February 16, 2020, 9:00 – 12:00pm

DoSER staff will present an overview of why considering the perspectives of religious and spiritual publics is important for science engagement. Scientists engaging with these communities will have an opportunity to discuss prior experiences and anticipated challenges, share strategies for constructive dialogue with sensitivity to a range of worldviews, and practice effective science communication at the intersection of science, faith, and culture.

[Death In the 21st Century: What is Left Behind](#)

Sunday, February 16, 2020, 3:30 – 5:00pm

Topics to be explored in this session include sustainable burial practices; social and legal dimensions of a digital "afterlife;" and questions of long-term curation, access, and use of genetic data and other health information. In discussing such topics, the aims are to develop socially and scientifically informed policies relating to these issues.

SUPPORT SCIENCE-RELIGION DIALOGUE

Did you know that DoSER is partially funded by the generosity of donors like you? Supporting DoSER's vital work of facilitating conversations between scientists and religious communities is as easy as clicking the link below. Your donation will help us continue the dialogue and expand our reach 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-black gradient. On the left, there are three circular icons: a yellow brain, a black microscope, and a white dinosaur skeleton. To the right of the icons, the text reads "ENHANCE YOUR CLASSROOM REACH - SCIENCE VIDEOS FROM" in white. Below this, it says "Download at SCIENCEFORSEMINARIES.ORG" in white. On the far right, there are logos for DoSER (three blue hexagons) and AAAS (a blue triangle and the letters AAAS).

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