



Fostering dialogue between scientific and religious communities since 1995

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



We hope you and your families are safe and healthy during this time of rapid change, challenge, and uncertainty. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is dedicated to providing accurate, up-to-date information about COVID-19 and sharing best practices to combat its spread. AAAS programs, including the Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER), are also adapting our work to ensure we continue to provide resources during this time, and DoSER continues to facilitate related dialogue between scientific and religious communities. Please follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for updates on upcoming events and the newest information and resources on the coronavirus.

DoSER activities have gone virtual! Yes, even in this new physically-distanced environment, DoSER continues to build relationships and conversations around interesting developments and opportunities in science. We are pleased to welcome eight new seminaries to our Science for Seminaries program, for whom we hosted a virtual Curriculum Meeting August 29-May 1. Our super team orchestrated stimulating talks, parallel sessions on different science topics, and even lively coffee break chats, all in the “virtual” realm. DoSER staff also led a virtual Engaging Scientists workshop for AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellows, and we continue to explore best practices for virtual webinars and workshops. We have also

opened voting for a Public's Choice certificate, recognizing one of the public engagement projects supported by the Engaging Scientists project in 2019. (More details and the link to vote is below.)

We were pleased to see many of you at the Holiday Lecture and the AAAS Annual Meeting this winter, where DoSER sponsored several stimulating sessions. If you were not able to join in person, videos of these events are available on the [DoSER website](#). We look forward to seeing you again at future events, either virtually or in person.

– Jennifer Wiseman, Director, AAAS DoSER

HOLIDAY LECTURE – A CLIMATE OF HOPE



When thinking about ways to address climate change, what brings you hope? At DoSER's 2019 Holiday Lecture, "A Climate of Hope: Scientists and Faith Communities Addressing the Climate Crisis," Dr. Katharine Hayhoe and the Rt. Rev. Dr. Katharine Jefferts Schori discussed climate change, environmental stewardship, and ways faith communities and scientists are working together to address

one of today's most pressing issues.

Dr. Hayhoe, director of Texas Tech University's Climate Science Center, shared her experience engaging with religious communities, who are sometimes skeptical about the realities of the climate crisis, and how her Christian beliefs motivate her to address climate change. She also shared best practices for people who are not religious, namely to "consider what brings them hope, what they value and how they identify," and then to "reach out to other members [of those communities] and have conversations about common values, how climate change imperils those values, and call for actionable solutions." Bishop Jefferts Schori, oceanographer and the 26th presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, responded by underscoring the importance of having conversations about environmental stewardship with neighbors and people inside one's community. Focusing on her own community, she emphasized the similarity of Christian and scientific teachings about climate change, stating "both realms of inquiry (science and religion) are wisdom traditions. Looking at the world with one of those lenses can provide insights, but much greater depth of perception is possible if both of them are used together."

[Read about the Holiday Lecture >>](#)

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

DOSER AT THE AAAS ANNUAL MEETING



It was a pleasure to see so many of you at the 2020 AAAS Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA. DoSER hosted two symposia, a workshop, 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, “Responding to Climate Change: Science, Religion, and Cultural Practices,” explored the interconnections between resilient communities and faith traditions and how elements of various faith traditions, combined with cutting edge science, can provide resources and tools for communities. It featured presentations and an informative discussion between Susan Bratton from Baylor University, Vijaya Nagarajan from the University of San Francisco, Todd A. Mitchell from the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, and Patty Bowman from the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center.

“Death in the 21st Century: What is Left Behind,” the second DoSER symposium, discussed 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. Speakers highlighted the need for socially and scientifically informed policies relating to these issues. Panelists and discussants included Lynne Carpenter-Boggs from Washington State University, Faheem Hussain from Arizona State University, Malia Fullerton from the University of Washington, and Elizabeth Crocker from AAAS.

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

SCIENCE FOR SEMINARIES

Welcome to our 2020 Science for Seminaries Schools!



DoSER is pleased to welcome eight seminaries to participate in the third cohort of the Science for Seminaries project. This project, created in consultation with the [Association of Theological Schools \(ATS\)](#), will help a diverse group of seminaries integrate science into their core curricula. Including this third cohort, a total of 34 seminaries have already participated in the Science for Seminaries program, and one final cohort of eight more schools will be selected in 2021.

The eight seminaries are Azusa Pacific Seminary, Chicago Theological Seminary, Denver Seminary, New Brunswick Theological Seminary, Pentecostal Theological Seminary, Regent College, Saint John’s School of Theology and Seminary, and Wesley Theological Seminary.

This year, due to ongoing social distancing mandates, the kickoff Curriculum Meeting was held virtually on three successive afternoons beginning April 29th. Seminary faculty were still able to engage with scientists, theological experts, and former participants during breakout sessions, plenary discussions, and coffee hours. Presentations covered topics both timely and relevant, including public health, biological evolution, epigenetics, CRISPR, neuroscience, and astronomy.

[Learn more about the 2020 Cohort >>](#)

Applications for the Science for Seminaries Retreat EXTENDED to May 29



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 Seminaries project. This opportunity is open to faculty and administrators at institutions accredited by the [Association of Theological Schools \(ATS\)](#).

Due to the pandemic, the application deadline for this workshop has been extended to **Friday, May 29, 2020**. Whether this retreat occurs in person, as planned, or virtually, AAAS DoSER is committed to providing selected applicants with a dedicated and immersive experience that will significantly assist any application to join the 4th Cohort of the “Science for Seminaries Phase II” project.

[Apply by May 29th >>](#)

ENGAGING SCIENTISTS

Vote for your favorite science engagement project by June 5



As part of DoSER’s ongoing [Engaging Scientists in the Science and Religion Dialogue](#) project, we offered 18 awards to support thoughtful engagement activities with (and within) diverse faith communities in 2019. These awards of \$1000 each were distributed to scientists across five universities. The participating schools also hosted a DoSER science engagement workshop and a public event in 2018-2019.

The scope of recognized projects ranged from cross-disciplinary scholarship, to undergraduate education, to direct engagement with faith leaders and communities, and on topics that included biomedical

research, evolution, and climate change and environmental stewardship. You can read descriptions of the projects and see some of their outputs on the DoSER website. Help us identify the “Public’s Choice” project with your vote!

[View all projects >>](#)

[Click here to vote >>](#)

Engaging Scientist Workshops



DoSER staff continues to host our popular workshops for scientists across the U.S. as part of our Engaging Scientists project. In January, our in-person workshop at the American Astronomical Society meeting in Honolulu, HI highlighted the need for thoughtful, socially responsive science engagement with diverse publics. Discussion topics included the site of the Thirty Meter Telescope, the ethics of space exploration, and the

potential for light pollution in the night sky from commercial satellites. In April, we hosted a virtual workshop for the AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellows. DoSER representatives introduced best practices for constructive, inclusive dialogue about science and society, and supported participants in breakout discussions on how faith and spirituality can be important in science engagement.

SCIENTISTS IN SYNAGOGUES

Applications for the 2020 Cohort EXTENDED to July 23



Applications are open to apply to participate in the 2020 Scientists in Synagogues project. This initiative, administered by [Sinai and Synapses](#) in consultation with AAAS DoSER, offers Jewish communities the opportunity to explore the most interesting and pressing questions surrounding Judaism and science. During the year-long project, rabbis and scientists share how they integrate Judaism and science, and model productive conversations

about some of the most crucial and thought-provoking issues of the day.

Due to the pandemic, the application deadline has been extended to **Thursday, July 23, 2020**. Visit the [Scientists in Synagogues website](#) for more information.

[Apply for Scientists in Synagogues >>](#)

OTHER AAAS HAPPENINGS

[Applications and nominations open for the 2020 Science, Technology and Human Rights Conference](#)

Student Essay Competition Deadline: Thursday, May 28, 11:59pm ET

AAAS Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Nominations Deadline: June 30, 2020, 11:59pm ET

The AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition is hosting their annual Science, Technology, and Human Rights Conference in Washington, DC on October 22-23, 2020. Undergraduate and graduate students are invited to participate in the essay competition, which was created to inspire students to explore connections between human rights and science, engineering, and the health professions. Nominations are also open to honor scientists, engineers, and their organizations whose exemplary actions have demonstrated scientific freedom and/or responsibility in challenging circumstances.

[Apply for the essay competition by May 28 >>](#)

[Submit a nomination by June 30 >>](#)

[Submit a session proposal for the 2021 AAAS Annual Meeting](#)

Deadline: Tuesday, July 14, 2020, 11:59pm PT

The application deadline for the 2021 AAAS Annual Meeting has been extended to July 14, 2020. Applications are open for scientific sessions and career workshops. The meeting, which will be held in Phoenix, AZ, will focus on 'Understanding Dynamic Ecosystems.'

[Apply by July 14 >>](#)

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 »](#)





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