



DoSER Newsletter, Fall 2016

Fostering dialogue between scientific and religious communities since 1995

AAAS Retreats Help Seminarians Leverage Science



Conservative Protestant retreat participants explore the flora and fauna of Mt. Hood, Oregon, with a U.S. forest service guide. Credit: AAAS/Curtis L. Baxter III

AAAS recently hosted three summer enrichment retreats for Christian seminary educators that introduced leading-edge scientific developments, and methods for incorporating science into classrooms, to better equip seminary students to enhance the role of science in their future congregations.

The trio of retreats in Maine and Oregon built on the success of AAAS' Science for Seminaries project and were hosted by AAAS' Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER) program.

Over four-days, participants heard from a mix of scientist advisors, faculty from seminaries considering ways to incorporate science in their institutions, faculty mentors experienced in science integration, and project leaders from the 10 pilot seminaries AAAS is helping in their efforts to reflect science in their core curricula.

[READ MORE »](#)

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Science for Seminaries made a big impact among seminary professors this summer, as DoSER hosted three Faculty Enrichment Retreats that introduced the project to a new cohort of instructors. The retreats—in coastal Maine and on Mt. Hood, Oregon—assisted 37 professors from a wide range of institutions in planning science integration for their classrooms. Interest in increasing quality science in the education of future clergy is high – even with three events, DoSER had to turn away three-fourths of applicants.

[Read more about the Science for Seminaries Faculty Enrichment Retreats »](#)

As summer turns to fall, we're finalizing a series of educational videos designed to assist seminary faculty. These videos feature interviews with world-class scientists who are at the forefront of their fields—scientists like Neil Shubin, Huda Zoghbi, Sylvester James Gates, Frans de Waal, Guy Consolmagno, and more. The series will be made available to the wider seminary community this fall through our recently updated [ScienceforSeminaries.org](#) website. Seminary faculty will find additional resources on the site in coming months, including course descriptions and syllabi used by the first 10 seminaries that AAAS supported in their science integration efforts.

Our pilot program with seminaries will come to a close in November 2016, but it has now fertilized a new effort for enhancing science in Rabbinic education. DoSER is partnering with Sinai and Synapses to foster enriched science engagement in several rabbinic training institutions.

We're also excited to announce the continuation of the Science for Religion Reporters project for a second year, and a special DoSER symposium at the 2017 AAAS Annual Meeting in Boston on the importance of the support of religious communities for climate policy. Keep reading to learn more about current DoSER projects and upcoming events.

Jennifer Wiseman, DoSER Program Director

SCIENCE FOR RELIGION REPORTERS

We are pleased to announce that DoSER will bring forefront science to the nation's religion



reporters for a second year. DoSER will offer support for a select group of these reporters to attend the 2017 AAAS Annual Meeting and will sponsor a special lecture on the Moral and Cognitive Capacities of Animals at the annual meeting of the Religion News Association (RNA), featuring Harvard University Research Associate Irene Pepperberg (left) and 2015 Science for Religion

Reporters award winner Kelsey Dallas. The 2016 Science for Religion Reporters award opens September 15, 2015.

[Read more about the Science for Religion Reporters project »](#)

SCIENCE, SYNAGOGUES, AND RABBINIC TRAINING

Our collaboration with [Sinai & Synapsis](#) is already yielding productive conversations, with our project partner Sinai & Synapses convening [a meeting of scientists and rabbis](#) for the “Scientists in Synagogues” program to enhance the involvement of scientists and science in Jewish congregational life. DoSER Director Jennifer Wiseman gave an opening talk at the gathering on the ways forefront science impacts nearly all aspects of modern life and congregational interests. We’re also partnering with Sinai & Synapses to help enhance science engagement in rabbinic education.

[Read more about the our partnership with Sinai & Synapses »](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

DoSER Holiday Lecture

December 2016

AAAS: 1200 New York Avenue, Washington, DC

Details coming soon!

DoSER Symposium at the 2017 Annual Meeting

February 16-20, 2017 | Boston

“Case Study: The Paris Agreement and Leveraging Religious Support for Climate Policy”

Exploring COP21 and the Paris Agreement as a case study for fruitful religious engagement in science policy, this symposium will look ahead to the many steps needed in the coming years to meet the agreement’s ambitious goals, and discuss how scientific and

religious communities can foster constructive relationships to ensure a more just and sustainable future.

Panelists: Jessica Hellmann (University of Minnesota), Fletcher Harper (Interfaith Partners for the Environment), Matthew Nisbet (Northeastern University)

Discussant: Katharine Hayhoe (Texas Tech University)

[Learn more about the 2017 AAAS Annual Meeting »](#)

JOIN OUR TEAM

AAAS seeks a Senior Program Associate for DoSER's "Engaging Scientists in the Science and Religion Dialogue" project. The position involves leading this major initiative to support scientists interested in engagement with religious and public audiences.

[Learn more about this job »](#)

OTHER AAAS HAPPENINGS

- [Read about the Science and Human Rights Coalition Meeting: Climate Change and Human Rights »](#)
- [Register for the 2016 Leadership Seminar in Science & Technology Policy »](#)



[Manage Your E-mail Subscription Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

This email was sent on behalf of Special Announcements from AAAS/DoSER to: %%Emailaddr%%

AAAS/Science | 1200 New York Avenue NW | Washington, DC 20005 | USA
+1 202-326-6730 | 1-866-265-4152 (toll-free in the USA)

Copyright © 2016 American Association for the Advancement of Science.