



CSSR Update

Center for the Study of Science & Religion
at Columbia University

CSSR Activities and Programs

2002 CSSR Seminar Series

This year marks the first CSSR faculty seminar series. These monthly seminars address topics of religion, health, computer science, physics, biology, history, and ethics. Please see the other side of the page for a schedule of upcoming seminars.

Columbia Forum for Society, Science, and Religion

This student organization has provided lunch discussions and forums for topics of science and religion. As membership grows, it hopes to diversify its programming to include collegiate conferences, a journal, and community outreach. The group is open to undergraduate and graduate students of Columbia University. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Mirian Pak (e-mail: mp835@columbia.edu).

Curriculum Development

The Center for the Study of Science & Religion has been working with the Religion Department to create new course offerings in Science & Religion for undergraduates. This year, the CSSR has sponsored two classes: "Psychology of Religion" with Israela Silberman, Ph.D. and "Religion, Science and Health in Indo-Tibetan Buddhism" with Joseph Loizzo, M.D., Ph.D. A co-taught course entitled "Science and Religion, East and West" with Robert Pollack, Robert Thurman, and Joseph Loizzo is in the planning stages. The CSSR is also in the process of creating a new undergraduate major and concentration in Science & Religion through the Religion Department. If you are an undergraduate student interested in these new curricular offerings, please contact the CSSR.

Genetic Testing in the Jewish Community

A symposium will be held in the Fall of 2002 and will address the primary issues in an interdisciplinary fashion, marshaling experts from the medical, ethical, legal and rabbinic fields. The proposed title for the symposium is, "Why is this Gene Different from All other Genes?: Religious, Ethical and Legal Ramifications on the Testing for Jewish Genetic Diseases." The participants will collectively review the current state of scientific knowledge, including the limitations and controversies in its application; address the Halakhic issues that stem from genetic testing in general, and for Jewish genetic disease in particular; reevaluate the current existing policies regarding Jewish genetic testing and forge provisional guidelines for future testing policies. If you are interested in this program, please contact the Association for Orthodox Jewish Scientists by e-mail at AOJS@perrydavis.com.

Judaism & Medical Practice Seminar at Columbia University

The CSSR and the Columbia/Barnard Hillel co-sponsor this breakfast seminar. Each semester, the sponsors select a speaker to address topics of religion and health. Past topics have included "When Man Makes Man: Reproductive Technology and Jewish Law," "The Confidentiality of Genetic Information: Jewish Perspectives on the Duty to Warn," "Meeting the Challenges of Palliative Care and Quality of Life in Today's Nursing Homes," and "Strife of the Spirit, Strife of the Body." If you are interested in this program, please contact Joanne Ben-Avi at the Columbia/Barnard Hillel (e-mail: jb427@columbia.edu).

Templeton Research Lectures

In the fall of 2000, the John Templeton Foundation awarded the CSSR a three-year grant to present the Templeton Research Lectures on topics of Science and Religion. In the first year, we presented a series entitled "Experiencing the Mysterious." This year, we present a two-day colloquium on the centennial of William James's *The Varieties of Religious Experience*. The third year of this grant will be devoted to topics of narrative medicine, the doctor-patient relationship, and forgiveness. In all years, this grant also partially funds the "Writer-in-Residence" program at Columbia College of Physicians & Surgeons. If you are interested in these lectures, contact the CSSR.

March 2002

2002 CSSR Directors

Ruth Fischbach, Ph.D.

Professor of Bioethics in
Psychiatry, Department of
Psychiatry, College of
Physicians and Surgeons

Robert Pollack, Ph.D.

Professor of Biological
Sciences, Adjunct Professor
of Religion and Lecturer in
Psychiatry

Allan Rosenfield, M.D.

Dean, Joseph L. Mailman
School of Public Health

Robert Thurman, Ph.D.

Professor of Religion,
Department of Religion

Kate Wittenberg

Electronic Publishing
Initiative at Columbia

CSSR STATEMENT

The purview of the Center for the Study of Science and Religion is broad, extending from each discipline to the other. From the direction of religion—the subjective experience of a natural world that is as just as it is elegant in design—it extends into the sciences by reconsidering the old, large question: is the natural normative? From the direction of science—the massive and ever-growing collection of consistent, objective data that support the notion of a natural world wholly understandable by model-testing and experimentation—it extends into religion to ask how the scientific method might be used to better understand subjective religious experience, and how religious experience might inform the practices of science and medicine.



Center for the Study of Science & Religion

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The Center for the Study of Science & Religion is an interdisciplinary, inter-school, collaborative forum for the examination of issues lying at the boundary of the scientific and religious ways of comprehending the world and our place in it. For these questions to be revisited in a useful way, questioners must be willing to accept the burden of sharing both objective knowledge and subjective experience with each other. This obligation to acknowledge emotional states—feelings—as data, has made the CSSR an enterprise that has attracted interest from an exceptionally broad range of schools and departments at the university.

The CSSR has made formal affiliations across the university. Our affiliates include the Columbia University Department of Religion (<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/religion>), the Joseph L. Mailman School of Public Health (<http://cpmcnet.columbia.edu/dept/sph>), the Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research (<http://www.columbiapsychoanalytic.org>), and the Program in Narrative Medicine at the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons (<http://cpmcnet.columbia.edu/dept/medicine/narrativemed>).

Please visit us on the web!!

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/cssr>

CSSR 2002 Seminar Series Schedule

Time/Date/Location	Title	Speaker
5:00-6:30pm Wed., April 3, 2002 Davis Auditorium	Robots That Can Collaborate and Learn	Manuela Veloso, Ph.D. <i>Associate Professor, Computer Science, Robotics Institute, Carnegie Mellon University</i>
5:00-6:30pm Wed., April 24, 2002 Davis Auditorium	The Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center: A Biopsychosocial Spiritual Model for Serving Teens	Angela Diaz, M.D. <i>Professor of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, Mount Sinai School of Medicine</i>
5:00-6:30pm Mon., May 6, 2002 Davis Auditorium	Ordinary Faith, Ordinary Science	William Phillips, Ph.D. <i>1997 Nobel Laureate in Physics</i>
5:00-6:30pm Wed., September 25, 2002 Location TBA**	Science and Spirituality: Doing and Being	Praveen Chaudhari, Ph.D. <i>Research Staff Member, IBM Yorktown Heights</i>
5:00-6:30pm Wed., October 2, 2002 Location TBA**	Fallen Angels or Rising Beasts?: Human Uniqueness as an Interdisciplinary Challenge for Theology and Science	J. Wentzel van Huyssteen, Ph.D. <i>Professor of Theology & Science, Princeton Theological Seminary</i>
5:00-6:30pm Wed., October 30, 2002 Location TBA**	Spirit: A Natural Resource in Poor Communities	Mindy Fullilove, M.D. <i>Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, Columbia</i> Robert Fullilove, Ph.D. <i>Associate Professor of Clinical Public Health, Columbia University</i>
5:00-6:30pm Wed., November 20, 2002 Location TBA**	Toward a New Environmental Ethic: Science and Religion in Conversation	Larry Rasmussen, Th.D. <i>Professor of Social Ethics, Union Theological Seminary, New York</i>
5:00-6:30pm Wed., December 11, 2002 Location TBA**	The Position of the Sacred in Contemporary Alternative Medicine	Courtney Bender, Ph.D. <i>Assistant Professor of Religion and Sociology, Columbia University</i>

**Please check CSSR website for confirmation of fall seminar locations.