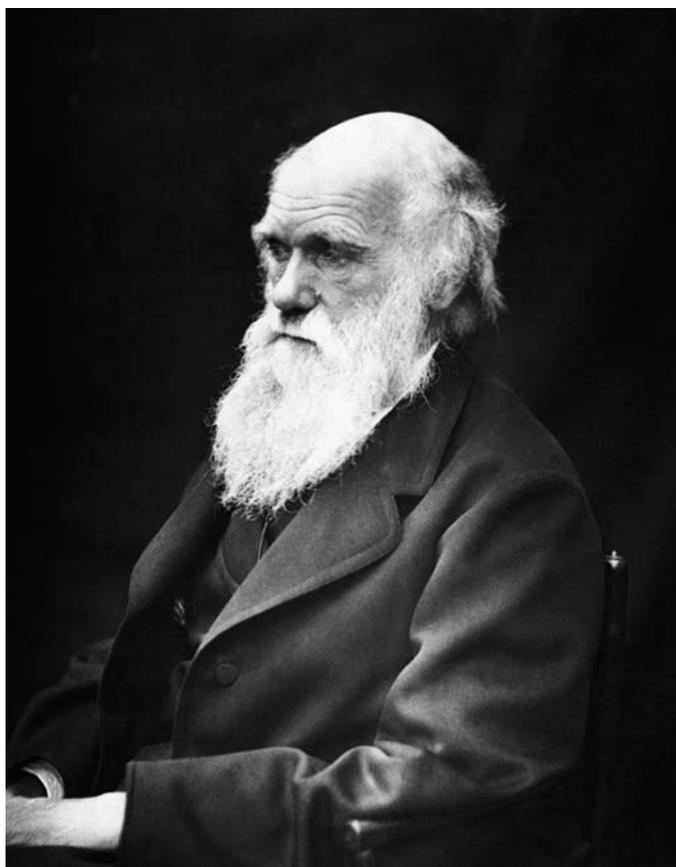




The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion

www.faraday-institute.org

THE DARWIN DOUBLE ANNIVERSARY 2009



This year marks a double anniversary for Charles Darwin [birth: Feb 12th, 1809; publication of *On the Origin of Species* in 1859]. The Faraday Institute is celebrating the anniversary through lectures, panel discussions, Courses, books and more popular articles. Many of these lectures and seminars will become available on-line in the Multimedia Folder on the Faraday web-site.

For media enquiries, please contact Katie Turnbull (01223 740929; mobile: 07500 883440; e-mail: kjt39@cam.ac.uk) or Clare Redfern (01223 741276; e-mail: cer58@cam.ac.uk).

FARADAY TERMLY PUBLIC LECTURES

Prof. Ken Miller: ‘God, Darwin and Design’

28th April 2009

Queen’s Lecture Theatre, Emmanuel College, Cambridge, 5.30 p.m.

Although the ‘Intelligent Design’ (ID) movement lacks a scientific basis and legal standing, it has substantial public support in the US, and an increasing footing in the UK and other parts of Europe. Prof Miller will argue that the popularity of this movement points to a profound failure on the part of the scientific community to articulate its own message effectively.

One of Miller's principal interests is the public understanding of evolution. He has written a number of articles defending the scientific integrity of evolution, answering challenges from the “intelligent design” movement; he served as lead witness in the 2005 trial on evolution and intelligent design in Dover, Pennsylvania. His popular book, ‘Finding Darwin's God: A Scientist's Search for Common Ground between God and Evolution’, addresses the scientific status of evolutionary theory and its relationship to religious views of nature.

Kenneth R. Miller is Professor of Biology at Brown University. He is a cell biologist, and chairs the Education Committee of the American Society for Cell Biology. He is currently serving as an advisor on life sciences to the News Hour, a daily PBS television program on news and public affairs. In 2006 he was named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Prof Rosalind Picard: ‘Playing God?: Toward Machines that Deny Their Maker’

12th Nov 2009

Queen’s Lecture Theatre, Emmanuel College, Cambridge, 5.30 p.m.

Darwin mapped out a new research programme for investigating the emotions of animals and humans in his seminal work *The expression of the emotions in man and animals* (1872). Today the question is whether affective computers or robots can be designed and, if so, what this might mean for questions of human identity and value. Is this ‘playing God’? What happens if the machines deny their maker?

Rosalind W. Picard is founder and director of the Affective Computing Research Group at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Media Laboratory, co-director of the Things That Think Consortium, the largest industrial sponsorship organization at the lab, and leader of the new and growing Autism Communication Technology Initiative at MIT.

The author of nearly two hundred scientific articles and chapters in multidimensional signal modeling, computer vision, pattern recognition, machine learning, and human-computer interaction, Picard is known internationally for envisioning and conducting research in the field of affective computing. Her award-winning book, *Affective Computing*, (MIT Press, 1997) lays the groundwork for giving machines the skills of emotional intelligence.

FARADAY RESEARCH SEMINARS

During this year research seminars will address Darwinian themes. For example:

Prof. Celia Dean-Drummond ‘Beyond Separation or Synthesis: Christ and Evolution as Theodrama’

17th Feb 2009

Garden Seminar Room, St. Edmund’s College, 1.00 p.m.

“The premise of this seminar is that there is much more to be said about evolution and Christianity than simply either taking the path of friendship or hostility towards Darwin. Moreover, such debates regularly miss out or push to the background proper consideration of that central tenet in Christian theology, namely, our understanding of the place and significance of Christology. I will argue for a different way of appropriating evolutionary ideas into Christological discourse using theodrama, rather than narrative as a framework for discussion. I believe this takes due account of the contingency of evolutionary processes, while giving proper scope to the importance of the Christ event in Christian theology”.

CAMBRIDGE SCIENCE FESTIVAL PANEL DISCUSSION

A Panel Discussion on ‘God and Darwin’ will be held as part of the Cambridge Science Festival on Saturday March 14th at 3.00 p.m. in the Queen’s Lecture Theatre, Emmanuel College, Cambridge. Panel members will include Prof. Simon Conway Morris FRS (expert in evolutionary biology), Prof. John Hedley Brooke (expert on Darwin history) and Prof. Michael Reiss (expert on biology education).

RESCUING DARWIN PUBLICATIONS AND DEBATES

The Faraday Institute is collaborating with Theos (a London-based think-tank) in their efforts to see Darwin celebrated during his double anniversary as the great naturalist that he was, not as the icon for any particular ideology:

The report ‘Rescuing Darwin – God and evolution in Britain today’ by Nick Spencer and Denis Alexander (Feb. 3rd 2009) describes the results of quantitative research carried out by the polling organisation ComRes on the levels of belief and disbelief in Darwinian evolution, together with commentary and analysis, relating these findings to Darwin’s own religious beliefs. The report is available from the Faraday on-line Shop.

On **Tuesday May 12th** at 6.30 p.m. there will be a Panel Discussion on evolution and religion in **Westminster Abbey**, London, debating the contents of the report. The panel will be chaired by Ed Stourton, presenter of BBC Radio 4’s Today programme, and panel members will include Lord Robert Winston, Prof Steve Jones, Prof Nancy Rothwell and Dr Denis Alexander.

CONFERENCE AND PUBLIC EVENT IN TURKEY

Darwin Celebration Conference, Istanbul, Turkey April 2009

The Faraday Institute is organising two events in Turkey, where disbelief in evolution is currently more than 60%.

The first event is an academic conference on Darwin and evolution today involving 70 Turkish academics, students and observers, drawing top Turkish and international speakers in evolutionary biology. The conference will present the latest thinking in evolutionary biology, as well as addressing the challenge of teaching modern biology in the Islamic world.

The second event is a public event to celebrate the Darwin Anniversary involving short talks, a panel discussion, and a presentation for the first time in Turkey of 'Re:Design' the popular dramatisation of the correspondence between Charles Darwin and Asa Gray, exploring his ideas concerning religion and evolution. The dramatisation is produced and performed by The Menagerie Theatre Company, Cambridge.

FARADAY COURSES

Faraday Short Courses on Science and Religion are open to any graduate or undergraduate from any university in the world and aim to provide expert and up-to-date information on issues relating to science and religion.

During 2009 there will be three Courses covering a broad range of science and religion topics, including extensive coverage of Darwinian evolution (full details can be found at www.faraday-institute.org - see 'Courses' page).

Science and Religion in Schools, April 3-5, 2009. Teachers in these courses are encouraged to focus on the teaching of science in the science class-room and to keep discussion about any broader implications of Darwinism for the RE class. Speakers include Prof. Simon Conway Morris FRS, Professor of Palaeobiology at Cambridge University, who will be speaking about 'Fine-Tuning' in Biology, and Dr Denis Alexander who will be address the question as to whether evolution has any religious significance.

Neurosciences and Religion, 3-5 July, 2009. A week-end course on neuroscience, cognitive science, psychology and the philosophical, theological and ethical implications of scientific ideas. With world experts as speakers, the course will explore fundamental questions of human existence which arise out of the relationship between human consciousness and our bodily make-up and evolutionary history. Speakers include Dr Justin Barrett from Oxford University, who will address the purported naturalness of childhood religion, and Dr Fraser Watts and Dr Nicholas Gibson from Cambridge University, who will discuss evolutionary psychology and religious belief.

Summer Course, 12-17 July 2009, 'Science and Religion in an Evolving Universe'. This one-week course will include a day focused on the theme of 'Biology and evolution' during which talks will be given by Prof. Stephen Freeland, an evolutionary biologist from the University of Maryland who studies the origin of the genetic code; Prof. Simon Conway

Morris FRS from Cambridge on fine-tuning in biology; Prof. Keith Fox, professor of biological sciences from the University of Southampton; and Dr Ernest Lucas, a Biblical scholar, on the interpretation of Genesis.

BOOKS: RECENT AND FORTHCOMING

Autumn 2009 ‘Ideology and Biology- from Descartes to Dawkins’

Edited by Dr Denis Alexander and Prof Ronald Numbers, University of Chicago Press

This will be the latest publication to come out of the Faraday Institute, following a Writers Workshop in Cambridge, in 2007, for a group of high-profile historians, sociologists, theologians and philosophers. The book, to be published by Chicago University Press in 2009, examines the various ways in which biology has been used for ideological purposes, from 1600 to the present day. Co-edited by the Institute Director, with the historian Prof. Ronald L. Numbers (Wisconsin-Madison University, USA), the book’s dominant theme is on the historical and contemporary ideological abuses of Darwinian evolution.

Contributors to this collection of essays include Prof. Ronald L Numbers, Prof. Michael Ruse, Prof. Alister McGrath and Prof. Nicolaas Rupke.

Summer 2008 ‘Creation or Evolution: Do we have to choose?’

By Dr Denis Alexander, Monarch Books (Oxford)

This book, written by the Director of the Faraday Institute, Dr Denis Alexander, seeks to reassure and educate those segments of the Christian community that have a problem with Darwinian evolution. The book is in its second printing in the course of a few months and its US publication date is Jan 2009.

RESOURCES

The Faraday Institute produces original research papers and multimedia on a broad range of topics, including evolution and Darwin. For further information please see the ‘Multimedia’ and ‘Faraday Papers’ webpages at www.faraday-institute.org. In particular see Faraday Paper No 12 by Prof. R.J. Berry: ‘Creation and Evolution not Creation or Evolution’. All Faraday Papers are available for free down-load, or in print formats (order on-line), several in a range of different languages.

LECTURES ON EVOLUTION BY THE FARADAY INSTITUTE DIRECTOR

Dr Denis Alexander lectures widely on the topic of evolution and religion, and some of his lectures particularly relevant to this Darwin Anniversary year are listed below, with contact details of organisers where possible.

Tuesday Feb 6th ‘Creation or Evolution – Do We Have to Choose?’ Lecture organised by Christians in Science at St. Andrew’s Church, Oxford, 7.30 p.m. Local organiser: Diana Briggs (diana.briggs@gmail.com).

Friday Feb 13th ‘This House Believes Intelligent Design has no place in science lessons’. Dr Alexander will be arguing in favour of this motion at a Durham University Union Society Debate, 8.30 p.m. Local organiser: President of the Union, Will Stanley (president@dus.org.uk).

Saturday Feb 21st ‘Creation or Evolution – Do We Have to Choose?’ Lecture at St. Paul’s Church, Chipperfield, 8.30 a.m. Local organiser: Philip Waine (philwaine1@btinternet.com).

Wed 25th Feb Pascal Lecture One: ‘Celebrating Darwin in his Anniversary Year’. University of Waterloo, Canada. Local organiser: John North (jsnorth@uwaterloo.ca)

Thurs 26th Feb Pascal Lecture Two: ‘Is Darwinism Incompatible With Purpose?’. University of Waterloo, Canada. Local organiser: John North (jsnorth@uwaterloo.ca).

Thurs 12th March ‘Darwin, Creation and Evolution’. Lecture in Basingstoke. Local Organiser: Karen Blakeley (karen.blakeley@waverleylearning.co.uk).

Fri March 13th ‘Creation or Evolution – Do We Have to Choose?’. Lecture at 6th Form Conference, Rugby School. Local organiser: John Taylor (jlt@rugbyschool.net).

Mon April 6th ‘Evolution makes God unnecessary’ (posed as a question that some people might think – the lecture will in fact argue the opposite!). Spring Harvest Week One, Skegness. Local organiser: Sian Clarke (sianc@springharvest.org).

Sat April 11th ‘Evolution makes God unnecessary’ (posed as a question that some people might think – the lecture will in fact argue the opposite!). Spring Harvest Week Two, Skegness. Local organiser: Sian Clarke (sianc@springharvest.org).

Thurs April 16th ‘Evolution makes God unnecessary’ (posed as a question that some people might think – the lecture will in fact argue the opposite!). Spring Harvest Week Three, Skegness. Local organiser: Sian Clarke (sianc@springharvest.org).

Sat April 18th ‘Evolution and Christian Faith’, Edinburgh Science Festival, 6.00 p.m. Local organiser: Pat Hymers (Pat@scifest.co.uk).

Wed May 6th. ‘Creation or Evolution – Do We Have to Choose?’ Lecture in Bedford. Local organiser: Peter Protheroe (peterproth@yahoo.co.uk).

Thurs May 14th ‘Creation or Evolution – Do We Have to Choose?’ Lecture in Southampton University organised by local Christians in Science group. Local organiser: Simon Kolstoe (s.kolstoe@ucl.ac.uk).

Thurs May 28th 'Creation or Evolution – Do We Have to Choose?' London Faraday Lecture Series as part of the London Pentecost Festival. Local organiser: Emma Morrice (emmamorrice@sharejesusinternational.com).

Fri 6th June Two talks on evolution. All Saint's, Lindfield. Morning Workshop. Local organiser: Andrew Nunn (andrew@havenlea.co.uk).

Sep 8th-10th 'A Critique of Intelligent Design', Lecture at Science & Religion Forum Conference, Cambridge. Local organiser: Tony Stolberg (t.l.stolberg@bham.ac.uk).

LECTURES BY THE FARADAY INSTITUTE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Prof Bob White lectures widely on the environment, geology and religion.

Sat Feb 21st 'The Age of the Earth: science and the bible' at Ripon College, Cuddesdon. Local organiser: martin@hodsons.org