



Science for Seminaries



Science for Seminaries Newsletter, Winter 2018

## Fostering dialogue between religious and scientific communities since 1995

### Welcome



When the weather gets cold, DoSER gets moving! Representatives from the [Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion \(DoSER\) Program](#) have been traveling across the United States to visit seminaries and present at conferences. We were happy to see several of you at the [American Academy of Religion's \(AAR\) annual meeting](#), where we co-sponsored a reception and spoke on a panel discussing the integration of scientific research into graduate theological education.

We also have several events coming soon in Washington, DC, and encourage you to join us. Our free annual [Holiday Lecture](#) will occur December 18th at AAAS Headquarters. This year we will bring together experts in genetics, history, and theology to discuss human diversity with a focus on human health and well-being. We are also organizing two symposia, two workshops, and a reception at the [2019 AAAS Annual Meeting](#), which will occur February 14-17, 2019. More information about both events are below. We hope you will join us at these stimulating events and look forward to seeing you there!

### Upcoming Deadlines

**January 14 - April 12:** Applications Open for the 2019 Faculty Enrichment Summer Workshop

**August 13 - October 1:** Call for Letters of Interest Open for the 2020 Cohort

**[Application instructions will be posted on www.ScienceforSeminaries.org.](http://www.ScienceforSeminaries.org)**

# Project Highlight

The cornerstone of the Science for Seminaries project is assisting a diverse group of seminaries as they integrate science into their core curricula. 25 seminaries will be chosen to participate over the next four years, joining the 10 seminaries that have already completed a pilot program and the 7 seminaries in the midst of their project work. This quarter, we checked in with two project leaders to see what they've done so far as part of the Science for Seminaries Project.



**Dr. Martin F. Hanna**  
Associate Professor of Systematic  
Theology, Seventh-day Adventist  
Theological Seminary, Andrews University



**Fr. John Kartje**  
Rector/President and Assistant Professor,  
Department of Biblical Studies and  
Homiletics, Mundelein Seminary

## What are you working on for the project?

**Dr. Hanna:**

"On July 30, we conducted a workshop with science advisers, content advisers, project faculty, and other scientists and theologians. This semester, project faculty members are beginning the process of implementing science-theology dialogue in their classes and developing relationships with content and science advisers in preparation for further curriculum revision to be implemented in spring, summer, and fall 2019 classes.

Our first public event will be the 2019 Seminary Scholarship Symposium (February 12, 14-16), which will focus on science-theology dialogue in relation to the interpretation of the early chapters of the biblical book of Genesis. In addition, we are implementing a web page, a student writing competition, a second public conference, and a research and publication initiative."

**Fr. Kartje:**

"To date, we have implemented research from neuroscience and astrophysics—including consultations from practicing scientists in those fields—into our basic core courses on the nature of revelation and creation. The addition of secular scientific knowledge helps our theologians to better understand the full implications (and limitations) of the religious knowledge they are conveying.

We are currently preparing our students to bring the faith/science dialogue into the parishes they visit each week, as well as planning a major campus event in the Spring focusing on the nature of what it means to be a human being, drawing on the latest research in anthropology and genetics."

## What is the primary benefit of this project?

**Dr. Hanna:**

"This grant from AAAS DoSER enables seminary students to benefit from formal interdisciplinary dialogue through the founding of an on-campus Institute for Science-Theology Dialogue. We have titled our project, "Facilitating Science-Theology Dialogue," in harmony with our goal to derive maximum benefit from being on a university campus with a comprehensive spectrum of accredited science programs.

In addition, the grant helps us improve the quality and reputation of the theological education we provide."

**Fr. Kartje:**

"The primary mission of Mundelein Seminary is to prepare priests to be effective parish ministers. In the modern world, that mission demands that a priest be broadly familiar with the major developments in contemporary science and that he develop a basic facility in discussing science with others. The Science for Seminaries project is allowing Mundelein to transform its curriculum and pedagogy so as to equip future parish priests with the tools they will need to fruitfully engage their parishioners in the dialogue between religion and science."

## Other News from DoSER & AAAS

### AAAS DoSER Holiday Lecture The Tapestry of Health: Genetic Diversity, History, and Cultural Identity

December 18, 2018, 5:30 – 7:15pm  
AAAS Headquarters, Washington, DC



Join DoSER on December 18th for a cross-disciplinary discussion of human diversity through scientific, cultural, and theological lenses, with a focus on health and well-being. Speakers will include Rev. Dr. Gay L. Byron, a Presbyterian minister and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the Howard University School of Divinity; Dr. Charles Rotimi, Director of the Center for Research on Genomics and Global Health, within the National Institutes of Health (NIH); and Dr. Lesley Jo Weaver, a medical anthropologist at the University of Oregon.

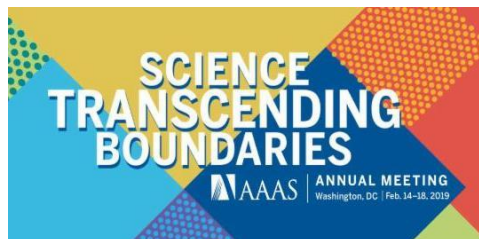
The holiday lecture is free and open to the public. A reception will follow. More information is available on the [DoSER website](#).

[Register for the DoSER Holiday Lecture](#)

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## DoSER at the AAAS Annual Meeting

The AAAS Annual Meeting will be held February 14-17, 2019 in Washington, DC. This year's theme, Science Transcending Boundaries, highlights ways science is bringing together people, ideas, and solutions from across real and artificial borders, disciplines, sectors, ideologies, and traditions.



DoSER will be hosting two workshops, two symposia, a reception, and additional events throughout the meeting. We encourage you to register for our sessions and come say hello.

February 15, 10:00am: [The Biology of Resilience: How Science and Faith Communities Can Work Together](#)

February 15, 6:30pm: [AAAS DoSER Reception](#)

February 16, 10:00am: [Science Engagement with Faith Communities](#)

February 17, 9:00am and 1:30pm: [DoSER Workshop](#)

[Register and learn more about the AAAS Annual Meeting](#)

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## New Resource Available on Science Communication

[AAAS DoSER](#) and the [AAAS Center for Public Engagement with Science and Technology](#) are happy to announce the release of a new booklet, *Scientists in Civic Life: Facilitating Dialogue-Based Communication*. This free booklet provides an overview of science communication research, public perceptions of science, and strategies for engagement with a wide range of publics who hold diverse worldviews, values and beliefs.

[Download the free booklet](#)



## Invest in Dialogue

Did you know that DoSER is funded by the generosity of donors and grants? Supporting DoSER's vital work of facilitating conversations between scientists and religious communities is as easy as clicking the link below. Your investment will help us fortify our current engagement projects and expand our work into exciting new areas. Email us at [doser@aaas.org](mailto:doser@aaas.org) to learn more.

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