SUBJECT: Save the Date for our June 15 anniversary celebration and other news from AAAS DoSER

DoSER Newsletter, Spring 2021

Fostering dialogue between scientific and religious communities since 1995

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Welcome to Spring! In recent months, the AAAS Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER) program has been fostering virtual discussions across the nation on a broad range of issues where science, values, and identity intersect. Our out-of-this-world December Holiday Lecture brought together an astronomer and science fiction author to discuss how science, ethics, and faith in imagined worlds might inform humanity's present and future. We hosted three sessions at the AAAS Annual Meeting that highlighted the work of Indigenous, Black, and Latinx researchers and community leaders. The sessions explored how science can support community-led efforts in environmental justice, public health, and reconciling past injustices, and how science practice can be improved by including local voices. If you were unable to join us for any of these events, videos will be posted on the DoSER resources website soon.

We are also excited to announce an upcoming virtual 25th DoSER Anniversary celebration, "Forward Together: Where Science, Ethics, and Religion Intersect in a Changing World." During this half-day symposium, experts will discuss hot topics such as public health and artificial intelligence, the broad impacts of science on human life and society, and the importance of faith communities for enabling the broadest benefits of scientific advances. There will also be opportunities for participants to network with

scientists, science communicators, faith leaders and practitioners interested in the dynamic intersection of science, ethics, and religion. The event is free and open to the public. Please read below and visit our website for more information.

DoSER's collaborating organizations have also been active throughout the winter months. The "Engaging Faith Communities with Zooniverse" project has been hosting events with community leaders to discuss opportunities for religious communities to participate in scientific research projects that can be done safely from home. Synagogues participating in the 2020-2021 Scientists in Synagogues project have been hosting events for their members on topics such as coronavirus research, the search for life in the universe, memory and self, and Jewish ancestry and identity. More information about these projects can be found below.

Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter for updates on upcoming events, new publications, and other announcements. We look forward to seeing you again at future events, either virtually or in person.

– Jennifer Wiseman, Director, AAAS DoSER

SAVE THE DATE: 25TH ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM

Forward Together: Where Science, Ethics, and Religion Intersect in a Changing World

June 15, 2021

In honor of DoSER's 25th anniversary, we are hosting a half-day virtual symposium titled, "Forward Together: Where Science, Ethics, and Religion Intersect in a Changing World." Scientific experts, science communicators, faith leaders, and practitioners will discuss their engagement activities on topics at the forefront of the science-religion dialogue, including awe and wonder, genetics and neurology, artificial intelligence, combating racism, and increasing public trust in science.

This event is free and open to the public. Please visit our website or sign up at the link below for the most up-to-date information.

Sign up to receive event updates >>

JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT DOSER

Program Associate

Join our team! DoSER is hiring a Program Associate for the Science for Seminaries project to support constructive engagement between scientific and religious communities. The person in this position will assist the Science for Seminaries grantees as they integrate forefront science into their core curricula. This position will also offer the opportunity to work with the entire DoSER program on a variety of projects that advance engagement between scientific and religious communities. Additional information can be found on the AAAS website. Applications are due by **April 19, 2021**.

Apply by April 19th >>

Coming soon: We will soon be posting a position for a **Program Assistant**. Please visit the AAAS Careers website and the DoSER Resources website for more information.

AAAS DOSER EVENTS

HOLIDAY LECTURE: Imagining Different Worlds: Science, Ethics, and Faith in Science Fiction

More than 200 attendees gathered online for DoSER's lively 2020 Holiday Lecture, "Imagining Different Worlds: Science, Ethics, and Faith in Science Fiction," about how science, ethics, and faith in imagined worlds might inform humanity's present and future. The conversation featured Brother Guy Consolmagno, Director of the Vatican Observatory, and Dr. Nnedi Okorafor, an award-winning author of science fiction and fantasy. Dr. Katy Hinman, Associate Director of DoSER, moderated the discussion.

Read about the Holiday Lecture >>
Watch the Holiday Lecture online >>

DoSER at the AAAS Annual Meeting

Due to the global pandemic, the 2021 AAAS Annual Meeting was held virtually. However, that did not stop DoSER from hosting three vibrant panel discussions, a workshop, and a networking social.

At the first symposium, “Indigenous Knowledge, Science, and Ethical Frameworks for Collaboration,” speakers explored research and engagement projects led by Native American and Indigenous scholars working in diverse ethical, scientific, and public health disciplines. Speakers included Keolu Fox from the University of California, San Diego; Nanibaa’ Garrison from the University of California, Los Angeles; and Krystal Tsosie from Vanderbilt University. Lee Bitsoi from Fort Lewis College responded to the panelists, and Curtis Baxter from AAAS DoSER moderated the live discussion.

“The Dynamic Past: How Science Helps Give Voice to Silenced Stories,” the second DoSER symposium, explored how tools of science, including new technologies, techniques, and collaborations in a variety of fields have supported the reclamation and revitalization of culture, heritage, and identity for communities of African descent. It featured presentations and an informative discussion between Whitney Battle-Baptiste from the University of Massachusetts – Amherst; Joycelyn Davis from Africatown-C.H.E.S.S.; Jada Benn Torres from Vanderbilt University; and Robert Turner, pastor of the Historic Vernon A.M.E. Church. Rob O’Malley from DoSER moderated the live discussion.

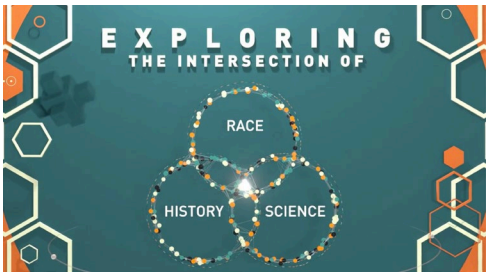
Read more about the session >>

For the final session, “Pursuing Environmental Justice Through Science and Religion,” three speakers and a moderator analyzed the effects of environmental degradation and discrimination on vulnerable populations. They also discussed how elements of various faith traditions, combined with forefront science, can assist environmental justice efforts. Participants included Ibrahim Abdul-Matin from Green Squash Consulting, Neddy Astudillo from GreenFaith, and Ingrid Waldron from Dalhousie University. Rajul Pandya from the American Geophysical Union’s Thriving Earth Exchange program moderated the discussion.

Read more about the session >>

Videos of all three sessions will be published on the DoSER resources website soon.

NEW VIDEO: HUMANS AND RACE

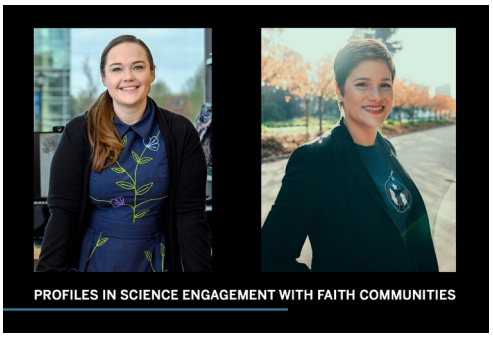


DoSER is pleased to introduce “Humans and Race,” the first of a new video collection exploring the past and present intersections of science and racism. This series will explore difficult topics, such as how science has contributed to racism, how modern science understands humanity as one species, how racism is still real, and how the history of science is far from perfect when it comes to racist ideas.

Watch the video >>

ENGAGING SCIENTISTS

New Profiles in Science Engagement with Faith Communities



DoSER’s Engaging Scientists in the Science and Religion Dialogue project launched two new profiles that highlight scientists and science communicators who have meaningfully engaged with faith communities about science. An additional three scientists and science communicators will be profiled throughout the year, featuring 22 total as part of this series.

The profiles are intended to provide real-world examples of impactful engagement that other scientists might learn from. Dr. Liz Barnes, an Assistant Professor at Middle Tennessee State University, shared how she addresses tensions related to religious identity and evolution in her classes about biology. The second new profile highlights Dr. Mónica Feliú-Mójer, Director of Communications and Science Outreach at Ciencia Puerto Rico. She discussed the importance of using relevant cultural contexts when engaging with communities. “[Science communication] helped me realize that I could bring my whole self into science and that I could connect it with my culture and my identities, and that was okay.”

The Engaging Scientists project was created in consultation with the AAAS Center for Public Engagement with Science and Technology.

Read the profiles in science engagement with faith communities >>
Read more about the profile series >>

Host a Workshop on Engaging People of Faith

Institutions and organizations are now able to host the DoSER workshop on “Engaging People of Faith” for their employees and members! The AAAS Communicating Science Workshops help participants build strong foundational skills whether they are new to public engagement or have prior experience and are ready to take their engagement to the next level. At the “Engaging People of Faith” workshop, participants discuss how culture, worldview, and identity (including faith) influence ideas about science; and review best practices for science engagement on potentially contentious topics. Participants will collaborate with peers on a challenging question or situation to help shape how they approach future public engagement activities with people of faith.

Learn More >>

COLLABORATING PROJECTS

Scientists in Synagogues

Sinai and Synapses Scientists in Synagogues

Congratulations to the 12 synagogues selected as participants in the 2020-2021 Scientists in Synagogues project! This year, the project accepted applications in two parts. The synagogues accepted in Part 2 include Beth Haverim Shir Shalom (NJ), Congregation Knesseth Israel (IL), Temple Isaiah (MA), and Temple Mount Sinai (TX).

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.

Read more about the 2020 Scientists in Synagogues cohort >>
Learn more about Scientists in Synagogues >>

Engaging Faith-based Communities in Citizen Science through Zooniverse

In a time when classrooms are going virtual and large groups are not allowed to gather, the Zooniverse platform allows all people – no matter their background, training, or expertise – to contribute to real academic research. DoSER is pleased to partner with Dr. Grace Wolf-Chase as she engages faith-based and interfaith communities in research via Zooniverse and to help faith-based and interfaith organizations build and lead their own Zooniverse projects.

Dr. Wolf-Chase is looking to partner with community leaders who are interested in developing a project on the Zooniverse platform or would like to use existing projects in their youth or adult education classes. Please contact her if you are interested in getting involved or starting a project. You can also learn more about the project or sign up for upcoming events on the DoSER resources website.

Contact Grace Wolf-Chase >>
Visit the website >>

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.

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