

# Science and Religion: Are They Compatible?

*Atlanta, Georgia*  
November  
9-11, 2001



Center  
for  
Inquiry

**CSICOP**

THE COMMITTEE FOR THE SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION  
OF CLAIMS OF THE PARANORMAL



Jim **ALCOCK** • Hector **AVALOS** • Michael **BEHE** • Susan **BLACKMORE**  
Vern **BULLOUGH** • Patricia Smith **CHURCHLAND** • Antony **FLEW**  
Owen **GINGERICH** • Ray **HYMAN** • Paul **KURTZ** • Raymond **MOODY**  
Joe **NICKELL** • Steven **PINKER** • Eugenie C. **SCOTT** • Quentin **SMITH**  
Wole **SOYINKA** • Victor J. **STENGER** and many others!

Be Part of the First

Center  
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Inquiry

## CENTER FOR INQUIRY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE!

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### Science and Religion: Are They Compatible?

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Many religionists believe they are; skeptics and secular humanists often deny this claim. These issues will be debated pro and con.

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**You're invited** to what may just be the most provocative conference you will ever attend—the Center for Inquiry's first International Conference. This revolutionary conference will be the first to call on the resources of both the Council for Secular Humanism and the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal. The theme—"Science and Religion: Are They Compatible?"—has allowed us to bring together some of the most distinguished, most fascinating speakers in the world.

For only \$149 (we're holding the line on costs), you can come to Atlanta and hear thought-provoking talks on hotly debated topics including:

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|---|---|
| ✓ Evolutionary Biology and Religious Belief   | ✓ New Cosmologies and Religion            |
| ✓ Near-Death Experiences                      | ✓ Spiritualism and Science                |
| ✓ The Medical Effects of Prayer at a Distance | ✓ Existence of Souls                      |
| ✓ Intelligent Design                          | ✓ African Americans: Religion and Science |
|   | ✓ Islam and Science                       |

Also featured: meetings on local groups and grassroots activism—plus an entertaining and astonishing presentation by nationally known physicist and showman David G. Willey.



# Schedule of Events

## Thursday, 8 November

7:00 P.M.

Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal **Fellows Dinner**  
—by invitation only—*Barry Karr*, Chair.

## Friday, 9 November

9:00 A.M. to 10:15

Opening Forum: **"Science and Religion: Are They Compatible?: Setting the Stage."**  
Chair: *Paul Kurtz*. Panelists: *Michael J. Behe*, *Vern Bullough*, and *Massimo Pigliucci*.

10:30 to Noon

**Do Souls Exist?**

*Patricia Smith Churchland* and *Jerome W. Elbert*. *Kendrick Frazier*, chair.

Noon to 2:00 P.M.

**Lunch**

*Paul Kurtz*, *Kendrick Frazier*, *Tom Flynn*, *Arthur Urrows*, and *James Kimberly*:  
**The Campaign for Reason**, \$25.

2:00 to 3:25

**Evolutionary Biology and Religious Belief**

*Susan J. Blackmore* and *Steven Pinker*.  
*Eugenie C. Scott*, chair.

3:35 to 5:00

**Prayer at a Distance: Medically Effective?**

*Gary P. Posner* and *Hector Avalos*.  
*Ray Hyman*, chair.

FRIDAY EVENING

Dinner on your own.

7:00

**Humanist Academy Dinner** in honor of Laureates of the International Academy of Humanism—by invitation only.

## Saturday, 10th November

9:00 A.M. to Noon

**Intelligent Design**

*Michael J. Behe*, *Eugenie C. Scott*, *Massimo Pigliucci*, and *Matthew Young*.  
*Quentin Smith*, chair.

Noon to 2 P.M.

**Lunch Banquet:** Address by Nobel Laureate *Wole Soyinka*. *Jan Loeb Eisler*, chair. \$25

## Concurrent Sessions

2:00 to 5:00

**Near Death Experiences**

*Antony Flew*, *James E. Alcock*, *Raymond Moody*, and *Karl Jansen*.

2:00 to 5:00

**Spiritualism and Science**

*Joe Nickell*, *Gary E. Schwartz*, and *Ray Hyman*.  
*Susan Blackmore*, chair.

6:00 to 7:00

**Reception/cocktails**

7:00 to 9:00

**Saturday Banquet**

*David G. Willey* and International Awards

## Sunday, 11 November

9:00 A.M. to Noon

**New Cosmologies and Religion**

*Owen Gingerich*, *Victor J. Stenger*, *Adolf Grünbaum*, and *Quentin Smith*.  
*Austin Dacey*, chair.

Noon to 1:30 P.M.

Lunch on your own.

## Concurrent Sessions

1:30 to 2:55

**African Americans, Religion, and Science**

*Norm Allen, Jr.* and *Wole Soyinka*.  
*Vern Bullough*, chair.

1:30 to 5:00

**Local Skeptics/CSICOP**

**Group Leaders meeting**

*Bela Scheiber*, *Barry Karr*, and *Amanda Chesworth*.

## Concurrent Sessions

3:05 to 5:00

**Science and the Islamic World**

*Tariq Ismail*, *Pervez Hoodbhoy*, and *Taner Edis*.  
*Roy W. Brown*, chair.

3:05 to 5:00

**Local Council for Secular Humanism**

**and Campus Freethought Alliance Group Leaders meeting;** *Edward M. Buckner*, chair; also *D J Grothe*, *Austin Dacey*, *Katherine Bourdonnay*.



## Biographical Notes



▶ **James E. Alcock** is professor of psychology at York University, Toronto; Fellow, CSICOP



▶ **Norm Allen, Jr.** is executive director, African Americans for Humanism; editor, *AAH Examiner*



▶ **Hector Avalos** is professor of religious studies, Iowa State; Executive Director, Committee for the Scientific Examination of Religion



▶ **Michael J. Behe** is associate professor of biology at Lehigh University; author of *Darwin's Black Box*



▶ **Susan J. Blackmore** is reader in psychology, University of the West of England; author, *The Meme Machine*, *Dying to Live*, and other books

**Katherine Bourdonnay** is communications director, Council for Secular Humanism

**Roy W. Brown** is a member of the Executive Council, International Humanist and Ethical Union



▶ **Edward M. Buckner** is executive director, Council for Secular Humanism



▶ **Vern Bullough** is distinguished professor at the University of California at Northridge; author, *Sexual Attitudes: Myths and Realities* and other books.



▶ **Amanda Chesworth** is director, Young Skeptics Program, CSICOP; executive director, Darwin Day



▶ **Patricia Smith Churchland** is professor of philosophy, University of California—San Diego; author, *The Mind-Brain Continuum* and *Neurophilosophy* and *The Computational Brain*; Humanist Laureate



▶ **Austin Dacey** is executive editor, *Philo*; Coordinator, Campus Freethought Alliance

**Taner Edis** is physics professor, Truman State University



▶ **Jan Loeb Eisler** is a board member, Council for Secular Humanism; vice president, the International Humanist and Ethical Union

**Jerome W. Elbert** is former research professor of physics, University of Utah; author of *Are Souls Real?*



▶ **Antony Flew** is professor emeritus of philosophy, Reading University, Humanist Laureate; author, *Merely Mortal*



▶ **Tom Flynn** is editor of *Free Inquiry*; author, *Galactic Rapture*



▶ **Kendrick Frazier** is editor, *Skeptical Inquirer*; editor, *Encounter with the Paranormal* and other books.





▶ **Owen Gingerich** is senior astronomer, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory; professor of astronomy and of the history of science, Harvard University

**D J Grothe** is field director, Council for Secular Humanism



▶ **Adolf Grünbaum** is Andrew Mellon Professor of Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh

**Pervez Hoodbhoy** is professor of physics, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan



▶ **Ray Hyman** is professor of psychology emeritus, University of Oregon; Fellow, CSICOP

**Tariq Ismail** is a noted Islamic scholar



▶ **Karl L. R. Jansen** is a member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists; an expert on ketamine



▶ **Barry Karr** is executive director of the Center for Inquiry and CSICOP



▶ **James Kimberly** is chief development officer, Center for Inquiry-West



▶ **Paul Kurtz** is professor emeritus of Philosophy, State University of New York at Buffalo; Chairman, Center for Inquiry; author, *Skepticism and Humanism: The New Paradigm* and other books.



▶ **Raymond Moody** is Bigelow Chair of Consciousness Studies, University of Nevada at Las Vegas; author, *Life After Life*



▶ **Joe Nickell** is senior research fellow for CSICOP; author, *Looking for a Miracle* and other books



▶ **Massimo Pigliucci** is associate professor of ecology and Evolution, University of Tennessee; author, *Tales of the Rational* and of *Phenotypic Evolution*



▶ **Steven Pinker** is director of the Center for Cognitive Neuroscience, MIT; author, *The Language Instinct* and *How the Mind Works*



▶ **Gary P. Posner** is a medical doctor; founder, Tampa Bay Skeptics



▶ **Bela Scheiber** is head of the Rocky Mountain Skeptics; co-editor, *Therapeutic Touch*



▶ **Gary E. Schwartz** is professor of psychology, Arizona State University



▶ **Eugenie C. Scott** is executive director, National Center for Science Education



▶ **Quentin Smith** is editor, *Philo*; professor of philosophy, University of Western Michigan



▶ **Wole Soyinka** is the winner of the 1986 Nobel Prize for Literature and Laureate; Humanist Laureate



▶ **Victor J. Stenger** is professor emeritus of physics and astronomy, University of Hawaii; author, *Timeless Reality: Symmetry, Simplicity and Multiple Universes*



▶ **Arthur Urrows** is director of development, Center for Inquiry



▶ **David G. Willey** is a physicist, a nationally known entertainer, and “resident mad scientist” on *The Tonight Show*

**Matthew Young** is a retired physicist and adjunct professor, Colorado School of Mines; author, *No Sense of Obligation: Science and Religion in an Impersonal Universe*