

Templeton Research Lectures
on the Constructive Engagement
of Science and Religion

Up to \$500,000 Grant over Three-to-Four Years
for Interdisciplinary Studies and Distinguished Lecture Series.

Rationale

Science can inspire great reverence, wonder, and awe. It also poses with urgency traditionally religious questions of meaning and purpose, of virtues and values. Science provides a continuous stream of remarkable insights into the nature of reality across a wide range of domains. By giving rise to astonishing transformations, science changes both our world and our worldviews.

As the pace of scientific discovery and innovation accelerates, there is an urgent cultural need to reflect thoughtfully about these epic changes and challenges in a constructive dialogue involving the world's religious and theological traditions. One of the greatest challenges of our age is to bridge the compartmentalized departments of the modern university, engaging in an integrative dialogue among all of the sciences, humanities, and religious disciplines.

This endeavor must honor the details and complexities of each discipline. At the same time, we must not shrink from the task of building exploratory and substantive connections on issues of broad and enduring significance between the variegated cultures of the sciences and the humanities. While such rigorous interdisciplinarity is extremely difficult, the Templeton Research Lectures seek to foster significant new insights and discoveries that may lie beyond the horizons of traditional academic disciplines. The culture of the university flourishes when such great issues and topics are deliberated in open forums across disciplines.

The primary aim of the Templeton Research Lectures is to promote the constructive engagement and original research between the physical, biological, and human sciences and those modes of inquiry and understanding generally found within the domains of theology, religious studies, and philosophy. This three-year project is designed as a catalyst for original research and progress. The program seeks to create long-term networks for vibrant and broadly significant scholarly exchange and continuing interdisciplinary endeavors.

Past recipients of the Templeton Research Lectures include Columbia University; University of California at Santa Barbara; Stanford University; Bar Ilan University; Université de Montreal; University of California at Los Angeles; University of Southern California; University of Arizona; Vanderbilt University; and Johann Wolfgang Goethe Universität, Frankfurt am Main.

Request for Proposals

The Templeton Research Lectures is a three-year program, with the possibility of a fourth year extension, which provides \$90,000 to \$130,000 per year in funding for scholars who want to develop on-going, interdisciplinary programs within their universities consistent with the aim of this program. The vision is to create vibrant and long-term networks of scholars engaged in vigorous dialogue, careful research, and significant publication. These programs should set high standards for rigor, seriousness, and originality in seeking a constructive engagement of the scientific disciplines and the world religions and attendant theologies and philosophies. The grant offers an honorarium of \$50,000 or more for an individual scholar selected each year of the program to give the annual Templeton Research Lectures at the host institution. This is an opportunity to bring a distinguished scholar from another institution for sustained interaction or possibly in specialized situations the elevation of an internal faculty to give the annual lectures. These lectures must result in a book length publication whose target audience is either the academic community or the educated layperson.

Applications for the grant should be submitted by an interdisciplinary committee of scholars employed by their host university and forming the core of a governing committee to oversee the program. One person should be identified as both the chair of the group and the contact person for the grant applicant. Two grants will be awarded in each year of the program on the basis of merit as evaluated by an independent panel of distinguished judges.

Application deadlines are January 1, 2006, and January 1, 2007. Two awards will be made each year for a total of eight awards. Applicants not chosen in any selection year may request that their application rollover and be reconsidered in future years.

The four key requirements of the grant are:

- 1) The formation of an interdisciplinary research committee which meets regularly to pursue its research agenda and monitors its progress;
- 2) A clear focus on interdisciplinary engagement and original research between the physical, biological and human sciences and the modes of inquiry and understandings typically associated with theology, religious studies, and philosophy;
- 3) The appointment of an annual "Templeton Research Fellow" to give a series of public lectures resulting in the publication of a book consistent with the aim of this program (i.e., original research on the constructive engagement of science and religion);

- 4) A mode of inquiry and engagement that exemplifies the spirit of a "humble approach" in the quest for understanding, that links the progress of scientific inquiry with efforts to advance metaphysical, theological, and philosophical concerns in a coherent, intellectually responsible manner.

The program provides considerable freedom for the interdisciplinary committee to engage in a wide range of scholarly activities as a group, and in topically focused public lectures planned and convened at the discretion of the governing committee. Funds should be allocated for this purpose, including the involvement of illustrious and engaging outside speakers. The interdisciplinary committee also has the duty of selecting and hosting the annual Templeton Research Lectures. Direct and indirect support of the annual Templeton Fellow should not be less than \$50,000, as specified in the model budget provided and must result in the publication of a book-length manuscript evincing original and thought-provoking scholarship.

The Templeton Research Lectures provides resources to catalyze high quality, interdisciplinary scholarship on science and religion. It is hoped that these funds will help to leverage other resources, in order to develop lively communities of public discourse that will flourish and grow over the long term. These initiatives should generate models of excellence and innovative scholarship, which demonstrate the benefits of research on the constructive interface among the sciences, the world religions, and their attendant theologies and philosophies.

Directives and Limitations

Applications will be accepted from outstanding research universities worldwide. For definition purposes, a research university offers substantial doctoral programs in the sciences and other fields, pursues significant funded research in the hundreds of millions of dollars (or its equivalent), and has a faculty who possess credentials and achievements that are well-known and well-regarded both within and outside of the nation where it is located. No applications will be accepted from individuals. See the project website for more details.

An interdisciplinary committee should be formed at the host institution for the purposes of making this application. The interdisciplinary committee should meet on an on-going basis for study and exchange and to assess its progress. Funds from the grant should be allocated to support these meetings, probably on a monthly basis, including the purchase of books and publications for group study, the provision of gracious collegial meals, and the hosting of a number of outside speakers.

This interdisciplinary committee should also oversee the administration of the grant. A chairperson should be designated for conducting the business of the committee, including making this grant application. Funds from the grant should also be allocated to provide

administrative support for the chair and the committee. Funds from the grant should also be used to provide compensation for the chair in the form of salary supplement or course reductions.

Each year of the grant, under the leadership of the interdisciplinary committee, the host institution is required to appoint a "Templeton Research Fellow" to give a series of public lectures known as "the Templeton Research Lectures on the Constructive Engagement of Science and Religion" at the host institution and resulting in the publication of a book length manuscript, as well as articles in peer-reviewed journals, popular magazines, and alumni publications. Direct or indirect compensation for the Templeton Research Fellow should not be less than \$50,000 as indicated in the model budget posted on the project website. In the application for the grant, the host institution should list potential candidates for these annual lecture series and provide brief biographical narratives for envisioned candidates. Of course, the participation of such persons cannot be guaranteed until after the grant is awarded, an invitation issued, and a response received, so this list of potential candidates is meant to be indicative of the institution's vision and plan, and not a contractual obligation. In the event that a targeted candidate cannot participate, the host committee may substitute other suitable candidates to give the annual Templeton Research Lectures consistent with the aim and stipulations of this call for proposals.

The completion of written manuscripts and evidence of submission to a well-known academic press for publication by the Templeton Research Fellow is a requirement for continued disbursement of the grant. An annual six page narrative report, including financial statement, press clippings, brochures produced, and other material relevant to the project, is also required for continued disbursement of the grant. The host committee is also required to distribute and collect an audience survey for all public lectures and an annual questionnaire for all members of the interdisciplinary committee.

Thematic foci are encouraged, as long as an interdisciplinary approach is maintained. Utilization of grant monies to facilitate collaboration with scholars at other institutions may serve this goal in certain circumstances. The honoraria provided for the Templeton Research Fellows should be generous, within the limitations of the available funds, in recognition of the demanding scholarship involved in preparing original interdisciplinary lectures and publications. A significant portion of the honoraria for the annual Templeton Research Fellows should be linked to the completion of written manuscripts and submission for publication. Additional funds from the grant can also be used for staff support, course reductions, and other support for the lecturers and the work of the interdisciplinary committee. Fostering sustained, engaged, and original research that leads to innovative products and insights requires careful planning and commendable vision. The host committee is encouraged in their application to consider creative ways to reward exemplary achievement and participation in the project.

The project should evince an open and exploratory approach to the engagement of science and religion. Projects may be inter-religious or intra-religious as deemed

appropriate by the applicants. The use of the sciences to promote narrow dogmatics or apologetics, however, would not be consistent with the aim of this project.

The core budget is \$90,000 per year or \$270,000 over three-years with the possibility of a fourth year extension. It is expected that overhead will be contributed by the host institution. The Templeton Foundation is prepared to match actual additional cash contributions to the project raised by the host institution, up to \$20,000 per year, thus increasing the funding for the project up to \$130,000 per year or \$390,000 over three-years with the possibility of a fourth year extension.

Budgeting allocations are left to the discretion of the host institution and the interdisciplinary committee, but should be noted in the proposal. A model budget is included on the project website.

Proposals will be selected by a panel of distinguished judges. Two awards in the three-year cycle will be given out each year. Re-submissions with modification are encouraged in future years for unsuccessful proposals.

Criteria of Merit

1. Does the application show a substantive interaction among the sciences and those modes of inquiry and understanding generally found within the domains of theology, religious studies, and philosophy.
2. Does the project show an open and exploratory approach to the engagement of the sciences and those modes of inquiry associated with theology, religious studies, and philosophy.
3. Do the research topics and lectures envision exhibit originality and creativity?
4. Does the proposal present a reasonable plan for the selection of fellows to give the annual lectures resulting in publications?
5. Is the composition of the oversight committee truly interdisciplinary and are its members appropriately accomplished?
6. Does the interdisciplinary committee have a formal meeting schedule and program of study?
7. Does the application present a plan to maximize audience attendance and participation at all public events?
8. Is there a clear strategy for media outreach within and beyond the university community to promote the public events and disseminate the work of the

interdisciplinary committee?

9. Are there planned activities that complement the lectures series and other public events that engage students, faculty, and the community with the ideas expressed?
10. Does the application leverage other funds and resources?

Application Procedures

Prospective host institutions will be invited to submit proposals for the three-year grant. The proposal deadlines for the applications are:

- January 1, 2006, Third Selection by March 31, 2006
- January 1, 2007, Fourth Selection by March 31, 2007

The application should come from an interdisciplinary committee at the university, which would also be charged with overseeing the project. A single individual should be named as the committee chair for the purposes of making this application and charged with managerial responsibilities for the oversight of the interdisciplinary committee and the annual Templeton Research Lectures. Two institutions will be selected per year for these three-year grants. A university not selected in one application round can resubmit the proposal with or without modification in subsequent years for reconsideration.

This project is administrated by the Metanexus Institute on behalf of the John Templeton Foundation. Applicants are invited to discuss their proposals with the project director prior to submitting their proposals. All inquiries should be directed to:

Dr. William Grassie, Executive Director
Metanexus Institute on Religion and Science
3624 Market Street, Suite 301
Philadelphia, PA 19104
Voice: 215.789.2200
FAX: 215.789.2222
Email: lectures@metanexus.net
URL: <http://www.metanexus.net/lectures>

Please submit seven printed copies of the following material and one electronic copy in MS Word format on CD ROM:

1. a cover letter signed by the chair of the interdisciplinary committee who will serve also as grant recipient;
2. a proposal abstract not more than 800 words;
3. a one-page hypothesis statement or statements to be explored each year with additional questions as necessary;
4. four-to-ten page proposal narrative specifying the thematic focus of the project and how the work will proceed (not to exceed ten pages);

5. a two-to-ten page “syllabus” outlining the meeting schedule and program of study for the interdisciplinary committee’s own work with appropriate readings listed and its own publication initiatives;
6. a budget with appropriate justifications;
7. 200-word biography of each member of the interdisciplinary oversight committee;
8. 400-word biography of each Templeton Research Fellow envisioned in the proposal (Note bene: it is not expected that the proposed Fellows will have been contact in advance and have agreed to participate. The proposed Fellows are listed to be suggestive of the Interdisciplinary Committee’s intentions and is not contractual, so a longer list of potential fellows is preferred).;
9. documentation of commitment for matching funds of \$20,000 or more in order to release \$20,000 of additional funding (if applicable);
10. a letter from the university's president, provost, dean or other appropriate administrative officer supporting the application; and
11. a single copy of supplemental material relevant to the application, including full curricula vitae, examples of previous publications and institutional promotional material are also welcome.
12. For unranked research universities outside of the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada, please submit documentation regarding the university’s doctoral programs in the sciences and other fields, its research funding, and its faculty credentials and achievements. See the project website for more details.

Send Applications to:

Dr. William Grassie, Executive Director
Metanexus Institute, 3624 Market Street, Suite 301, Philadelphia, PA 19104 USA
Voice: 215.789.2200
FAX: 215.789.2222
Email: grassie@metanexus.net
URL: <http://www.metanexus.net/lectures>
The applications must be received by the first workday following the January 1, 2004 and subsequent years.

Metanexus Institute

The Metanexus Institute advances research, education and outreach on the constructive engagement of science and religion. We seek to foster an enduring intellectual and social movement by collaborating with persons and communities from diverse religious

traditions and scientific disciplines. In a spirit of humility and with a deep concern for intellectual rigor, the Metanexus Institute promotes a balanced and exploratory dialogue between science and religion. While mindful of the complexities of this endeavor, we work to develop integrative approaches that enrich the domains of both science and religion.

Metanexus Institute manages over 300 projects in 36 countries. Metanexus publishes an online magazine that receives 20,000 page views per week and has over 7000 subscribers from 57 different countries. Metanexus runs a number of other projects, including the Local Societies Initiative, the Spiritual Transformation Scientific Research Project, Spiritual Capital, Foundational Questions in Physics and Cosmology, and organizes a variety of conferences and events exploring the constructive engagement of science and religion. For more information on Metanexus Institute, go to <http://www.metanexus.net>.

The John Templeton Foundation

The mission of the John Templeton Foundation is to pursue new insights at the boundary between theology and science through a rigorous, open-minded and empirically focused methodology, drawing together talented representatives from a wide spectrum of fields of expertise. Using "the humble approach," the Foundation typically seeks to focus the methods and resources of scientific inquiry on topical areas that have spiritual and theological significance ranging across the disciplines from cosmology to healthcare. For more information about the Templeton Foundation, go to <http://www.templeton.org>.

"How little we know, how eager to learn." - Sir John Templeton

About Sir John Templeton

"How little we know; how eager to learn."

Sir John Templeton graduated from Yale University in 1934 as president of Phi Beta Kappa and was a Rhodes Scholar at Balliol College, Oxford University. As a leader in both financial investments and spiritual endeavors, John Marks Templeton has spent a lifetime encouraging research discovery and open-mindedness. He is universally regarded as a pioneer in the development of high-yield globally diversified mutual funds, founding the highly successful Templeton Growth Fund and Templeton World Fund.

Born in Winchester, Tennessee, John Templeton once dreamed of a career in full time religious service. His first major philanthropic endeavor was in 1972 through the establishment of the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion. Today, the Templeton Prize is the world's largest monetary award for roughly \$1 million.

In 1987, John Templeton was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II for his philanthropic efforts including his endowment of Templeton College, Oxford. After selling the Templeton Group of mutual funds in 1992, Sir John focused his talents on pioneering new ways of encouraging science methods toward discovering over 100 fold more about spiritual realities such as love and prayer and creativity. Since then, he has authored and edited a dozen books. One of his most recent books, *Wisdom From World Religions – Pathways Toward Heaven on Earth* is a collection of 200 eternal spiritual principles drawn from the works of essayists and philosophers ranging from Socrates to Benjamin Franklin. Another is *Possibilities for Over 100 Fold More Spiritual Information – The Humble Approach in Theology and Science*.