

# Practicing Science: Virtues, Values, and the Good Life

Funded by the Templeton Religion Trust  
Led by Celia Deane-Drummond, Darcia Narvaez and Tom Stapleford  
Run through the Center for Theology, Science and Human Flourishing

9–12 August 2018  
University of Notre Dame London Gateway  
London, UK

## Call for Papers

Over the last several decades, virtue has attracted increased attention from philosophers, theologians, and psychologists. However, little of this research on virtue has attended to the development and function of virtue within scientific research and practice.

This lacuna is surprising for science has been linked with virtue for much of its history. For example, philosophers from ancient Greece through the medieval period saw the study of the natural world as a means to develop particular intellectual and moral virtues. Indeed, though the conception of science changed dramatically during the early modern period, scholars continued to see such ties well into the nineteenth century: the study and practice of scientific research was understood both to *demand* certain virtues and simultaneously to *cultivate* those virtues. Though the language of virtue largely disappeared from discussions of science in the twentieth century, closer inspection reveals that moral dispositions and judgments continue to play a significant role in scientific practice (though perhaps in quite different ways), and indeed that scientists continue to value specific cognitive and behavioral dispositions.

Since 2016, a multi-disciplinary research team at the University of Notre Dame, and funded by the Templeton Religion Trust, has been exploring the relationship between virtue and scientific practice with a particular focus on laboratory research in biology ([project website](#)). As that project draws to a close, we invite other interested scholars to join us for a conference on *Practicing Science: Virtues, Values, and the Good Life* to be held 9–12 August at the University of Notre Dame Gateway in London, UK. The project team welcomes proposals for contributed papers addressing any aspect of the conference theme. Potential research questions include:

- How can the language of virtue enrich, change, or challenge our understanding of science?
- Does the contemporary practice of scientific research require or bolster certain virtues (or vices)?
- How can ideas drawn from virtue ethics or virtue epistemology illuminate (and perhaps improve) the training and mentoring of scientists?

Paper presentations will be 15 minutes, with an additional 10 minutes for discussion.

Confirmed keynote speakers, panelists, invited guests include:

### **Public Lectures**

*Prof. Kristján Kristjánsson, Deputy Director*  
Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues, University of Birmingham  
(<http://www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/362/about/steering-group/professor-kristj-n-kristj-nsson>)

*Dr. Andrew Pinsent, Research Director*  
Ian Ramsey Centre for Science & Religion, University of Oxford  
(<http://www.ianramseycentre.info/personnel/dr-andrew-pinsent.html>)

*Prof. Matthew Stanley*  
Gallatin School of Individualized Study, New York University  
(<https://gallatin.nyu.edu/people/faculty/ms5100.html>)

### **Keynote Address**

*Prof. Michael Spezio, Associate Professor of Psychology*  
Scripps College  
(<http://www.scrippscollege.edu/academics/faculty/profile/michael-spezio>)

### **Panelists & Discussants**

*Dr. Anna Abram, Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology*

*Dr. Markus Christen, University of Zurich*

*Prof. Oliver Davies, King's College London*

*Dr. Fern Elsdon Baker, Newman University*

*The Most Revd. Dr. Antje Jackelén, Lutheran Archbishop of Uppsala in Sweden and Primate of the Church of Sweden*

*Prof. Darcia Narvaez, University of Notre Dame*

*Prof. Tom Stapleford, University of Notre Dame*

*Prof. Michael Welker, Ruprecht Karl University of Heidelberg*

The registration fee (\$100 faculty / \$50 postdoctoral fellows / \$25 students) will include all lunches and evening receptions, as well as an opportunity to attend a three dimensional show of Hildegard of Bingen's cosmology directed by Professor Margot Fassler at the London Planetarium on August 10th.

To submit a proposal, please send a title, abstract (no more than 250 words), and short c.v. to [Christina.M.LebLang.6@nd.edu](mailto:Christina.M.LebLang.6@nd.edu) by February 15, 2018. Decisions about contributed proposals will be communicated to applicants by March 15, 2018. Further details of the conference program will be published in due course.