



Strategy for Science and the Big Questions 2022 Update



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Introduction

In 2019, we launched the Strategy for Science and the Big Questions to coordinate our grant making in Humility-in-Theology around a set of common goals and objectives. We targeted specific areas of research; we committed to communicate the results of that research to non-academic audiences; and we aspired to influence the cultural norms at elite secular and religious colleges, universities, and seminaries with the best ideas in Humility-in-Theology. Our long-term goals focused on encouraging a greater openness to the relevance of religious beliefs and practices and a deeper appreciation for science as a source of spiritual progress, especially among religious audiences. While we continue to adopt new ways of pursuing them, these long-term goals remain relevant today.

In 2021, we adopted new language to describe JTF's aspirations. We seek to become a global catalyst for discoveries that contribute to human flourishing. We do this to enable people to create lives of purpose and meaning, which are integral to spiritual flourishing.

This report summarizes the investments we have made over the last three years and provides a preliminary perspective on the degree to which the work we supported has contributed to the short-term outcomes we articulated as part of our strategic plan. Since most grants are still active, there is little definite that we can say about the long-term impact of the research we funded; however, we have begun to look for signs of change within the ecosystems we hope to influence. Our Strategy for Science and the Big Questions sought to fund a more global and interdisciplinary set of scholars – including those new to JTF funding – to produce high quality research products. As we show below, the internal systems we have developed and continue to expand help us monitor and report on the people and institutions we are funding, the work products they produce, and the attention these work products are receiving from other academics and public opinion leaders.

Our Strategy for Science and the Big Questions placed a strong emphasis on engaging with opinion leaders. We wanted journalists, story tellers and content creators to know about the work that we support so that they could disseminate the results of JTF funded research to academic and non-academic audiences by 1) translating the research we supported for journalists and others; 2) increasing our outreach to journalists by pitching stories; 3) hosting opinion leader convenings and 4) running public awareness campaigns. We have included a section below describing the great progress we are making to engage opinion leaders, as well as how we continue to narrow our focus.

When the Board approved the Strategy for Science and the Big Questions in 2018, many on the Board and on the JTF team asked if this strategy was meant to extend beyond five years. I said it was a five-year strategy but the aspirations we laid out would require more than five years of investment. That's still true. While we have changed our mission and vision statement and rewritten whole sections of the strategy document approved in 2018, we remain committed to a "spiritual and religious renaissance" that recognizes the contributions that religion and spirituality make to human flourishing.

Our goal in the October 2022 Board meeting is to plan. This report reviews the investments JTF made between January 2019 and June 2022 in Humility-in-Theology and summarizes how JTF has executed the Strategy for Science and the Big Questions. I am proud of the work we have done. This report showcases our best ideas, demonstrates the value of developing strategies and reveals how we have adapted to leverage new opportunities and ideas. I want to thank the entire program team for their work and the Planning and Evaluation department for crafting this report.

Heather Templeton Dill

Overview

This report provides an update on the implementation of our 2019-2023 Strategy for Science and the Big Questions¹ (2019 Strategy), which supports Discovery, Intellectual Humility, and Public Engagement across 12 Strategic Priorities² (Priority/ies).

Due to higher-than-expected Foundation Value, we have already surpassed our original target of \$325M for grants approved within Priority (In-Priority) grantmaking by \$2M. In addition, since 2019 we have awarded \$66M to Humility-in-Theology grants outside of our Priorities (Out of Priority).

Most In-Priority grants will be active through 2025 thus we expect to provide a comprehensive report on the implementation and early results of our 2019 Strategy in 2026. Our analysis below shows that most Out of Priority grants complement our current Priorities.

As illustrated later in this report, we have developed and are expanding a sophisticated system to monitor the work products produced by our grants and to assess their impact, enabling us to aggregate and report data for each Priority. In addition, on a case-by-case basis we are evaluating specific components of individual Priorities using a combination of internal resources and external evaluators (see call-out).

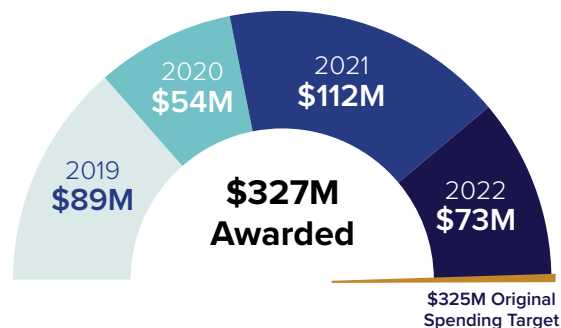
This update report on our 2019 Strategy addresses three evaluative questions:

- **Priorities:** What progress are we making?
- **Strategic Targets:** How well are we achieving targets that reflect donor intent and our overall strategic plan?
- **Discovery:** What research work products are emerging from our 2019 Strategy? How are they being received by scholarly and public audiences?

1 Our 2019 Strategy refers to Humility-in-Theology grants approved from January 2019 to December 2023.

2 Science and the Big Questions has been JTF's public-facing description of Humility-in-Theology. See our 2019 Strategy document, which includes 10 Strategic Priorities, plus a "placeholder" for Mathematical & Physical Sciences. Since then, we have restructured Global Strategies into two Priorities: Programs in Latin America and Islam, Science, & Society.

As of June 2022, we have surpassed our original spending target of \$325M.



We place a high value on formative assessment – providing actionable data useful to our grantmaking team while our Strategy is unfolding – with selective summative evaluations of Priorities to inform future grantmaking.

One such example concerns our large, multi-faceted and interdisciplinary grant to Alan Love (62220 “Agency, Directionality, and Function: Foundations for a Science of Purpose,” \$14.6M). As the major investment in our Science of Purpose Strategic Priority, it is crucial to Life Sciences Director Kevin Arnold that we have a rigorous external perspective on this project’s progress.

Working with Planning & Evaluation, Kevin developed grant 62385 (“A Sociological Analysis of the Science of Purpose Project”) to keep abreast of the epistemic contingencies involved in the intellectual integration of multiple specialties, the organizational arrangements which affect cooperative distributed projects, and the conduct of shared jurisdictions which arise when different lines of research come together.

Strategic Priorities

Nine of twelve Priorities have nearly met or have already exceeded their spending target. Programs in Latin America (LATAM) and Islam, Science & Society were severely limited by COVID-19; both required extensive travel to connect with applicants and build networks. An understaffed Philosophy & Theology department also played a role in constraining LATAM payout. In addition, while Science of Virtues will not meet their funding target, they have made significant investments in expanding research on gratitude, pursuing research on curiosity and supporting work on love.

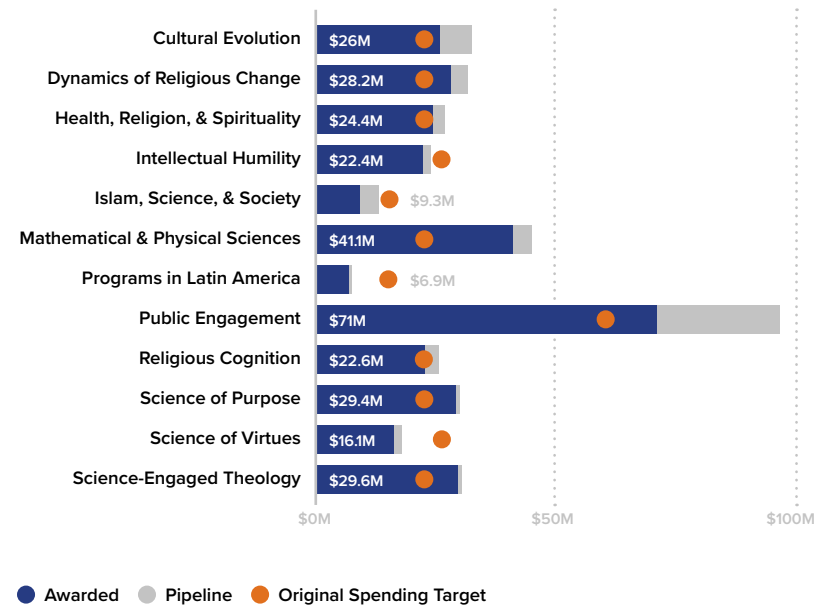
Our 2019 Strategy was designed to be adaptive—over the last three years we have refocused our strategies for four Priorities. Strategies for Islam, Science & Society, Mathematical & Physical Sciences and Public Engagement now reflect current opportunities and align with Program team member expertise. In addition, we refocused the Cultural Evolution Priority to be more future-oriented, so it can be applied to address challenges facing human society today.

Below are brief overviews of the progress we have made towards each Priority; for a full overview of each Priority’s progress, please see the appendix.

Cultural Evolution: In 2020, we revised this Priority to explore the role that humans play in shaping the future. We have made 26 grants (\$26.0M) that are encouraging cultural evolution scholars to shift their focus to contemporary issues that concern human flourishing and to understand the impact of science and technology (including environmental concerns) on human flourishing, especially in non-Western parts of the world.

Dynamics of Religious Change: This Priority seeks to better understand how religious individuals, ideas, and institutions contribute to individual and societal flourishing, at multiple scales around the world. We have awarded 18 grants (\$28.2M) to research and engage the public in important questions such as how humans identify with and change their religious identities as well as their affiliations with religious institutions.

Most Priorities are on track to meet or surpass their original spending targets.



Strategic Priorities (continued)

Health, Religion, & Spirituality (HRS): We have made 12 grants (\$24.4M), seven of which collect and analyze data on the interrelationship of religious factors and physical and mental health over time. Several of these grants leverage funding from other funders – e.g., Wellcome Trust and the National Institutes of Health.

Six of our grants aim to strengthen spiritual care – how healthcare professionals engage with religion and spirituality in practice. Spiritual care, applied grantmaking in HRS, will be our focus going forward.

Intellectual Humility (IH): We have awarded 26 grants (\$22.4M) to advance three goals. First, we have been working with a network of renowned and emerging scholars to refine and consistently apply measures of IH, including in non-Western contexts. Secondly, we have awarded several grants that are identifying the factors that enhance or inhibit IH. Having made progress on these first two goals, we are about to launch an RFP to test and integrate IH interventions into religious, educational, health, and other applied settings. Finally, we are in the early stages of collaborating with other core funders as part of the [New Pluralists Collaborative](#) to develop a funding strategy that strengthens pluralism in American society, which we believe is a way to promote intellectual humility.

Islam, Science, & Society (ISS): In 2020, we refocused our Priority on the dynamic roles that scientific learning and technological innovation can have within Islamic conceptions of human flourishing. We have awarded 27 grants (\$9.3M) with the goals of 1) Nurturing an ecosystem of scholars, 2) Producing pedagogical resources, and 3) Cultivating public intellectuality. Most of the grants funded within ISS were small grants (under \$234,800) as we made incremental investments with new grantees and pursued projects in the Muslim-majority world. Two of our small grants have led to large grants, suggesting that the seeds sown by JTF's funding for capacity-building in ISS have borne fruit, and that small grants continue to be worthwhile investments, especially outside of the West. Due to the smaller size of our grants and the limitations on travel during the COVID-19 pandemic, we may not meet our original spending target.

Spiritual Care – Applied Grantmaking in Health, Religion & Spirituality

Despite substantial JTF investment since the 1990s, significant opportunities for consolidating and expanding this work remain. The Human Sciences department is currently assessing what funding needs are most in line with donor intent and have greatest opportunity to leverage the resources and influence of other funders, institutions, and opinion leaders.

Promising initial leads include ideas about how to mainstream spiritual care within health care organizations, how to increase the competence of public health practitioners regarding religion and spirituality, and how to improve the engagement of faith communities and leaders with psychologically informed approaches to mental health. More broadly, we are commissioning a philanthropic consultant to conduct a landscape study of what other funders are doing—or might be interested to do—in this space.



Strategic Priorities (continued)

Mathematical & Physical Sciences: We have funded 28 grants (\$41.1M) to advance three provisional goals that have guided our funding since 2019: 1) Support discovery at the conceptual frontiers of physics, 2) Situate scientific research within a broader interdisciplinary inquiry into human thought and culture, and 3) Bridge disciplinary silos. The Board has recently approved a five-year strategy that sharpens and builds on our provisional goals.

Programs in Latin America: The 14 grants (\$6.9M) approved in this Priority seek to 1) Build capacity among Latin American institutions to conduct interdisciplinary research on topics in Humility-in-Theology, 2) Support Latin American philosophers of religion in their research, 3) Counter the “warfare narrative” between science and religion, and 4) Stimulate interest in new research in analytic philosophy of religion. Because the Philosophy & Theology department was understaffed in late 2019 and 2020, and because grantmaking in Latin America is quite labor-intensive, we are not likely to meet our original spending target. Looking ahead, we hope to support more research projects that exhibit a distinctively Latin American approach, as opposed to projects that export debates from Anglophone/Western European communities to Latin America. For instance, grant [62101](#), “Expanding the Philosophy of Religion by Engaging with Afro-Brazilian Traditions,” will mine the traditions of Candomblé and Umbanda for insights, lessons, and arguments to enrich methodological, epistemological, and metaphysical debates in the philosophy of religion.

Public Engagement: To date, we have awarded 74 grants (\$70.9M) to accomplish three goals. First, 47 grants sought to develop content to reach “Engaged Intellectuals,” and to engage the “Practicing Religious” across faith traditions. Second, seven grants aimed to help scholars communicate with public audiences and partner with established opinion leaders. Third, 14 grants intend to influence the key institutions at which future generations of secular and religious opinion leaders are being trained.

TEX Fellowship

The [Templeton TEX Fellowship](#) will provide two-year fellowships for approximately ten Ph.D. students studying fundamental physics, astronomy, or cosmology who are primarily theorists or experimentalists to conduct research on the other side of the theoretical/experimental divide. In what we hope will be a highly competitive program, our goal is to increase the Fellows’ capacity and skills for bridging methodological divides across theory and experiment and thereby to push the conceptual frontiers at the foundations of these fields, and to seed integrated, multidisciplinary research programs in basic science.

Religious Cognition: Our Priority is focused on discovery regarding the measurement and development of religious cognition and religious experiences, and in building capacity for the scientific study of religion within psychology departments at research-intensive universities. We have made 15 grants (\$22.6M) to advance our goals of 1) Conceptual progress on the nature of religious cognition, 2) Measure development, 3) Mainstreaming within target subdisciplines (i.e., developmental and cognitive neuroscience), and 4) Building capacity for scientific study in R1 and international institutions. To free up additional payout for applied programs in the Health, Religion, & Spirituality Priority, we will slow our consideration of new open submission and proactive projects in this Priority with a particular focus on ongoing critical work necessary to measure religious belief and efforts necessary to build—and sustain—nascent enthusiasm among leading research institutions for the scientific study of religious beliefs and experiences.



Strategic Priorities (continued)

Science of Purpose: We have made 16 grants (\$29.4M), across three goals. First, 14 of our grants aimed to create or discover empirically salient concepts of purpose in nature via an internal “Ideas Challenge” prize – while this approach did not produce truly novel project ideas, the quality of these projects were better than those we typically receive from open submission inquiries. We believe that 15 grants have the potential to yield new discoveries on key concepts related to purpose and eight grants could plausibly identify new hypotheses leading to the creation of viable science-of-purpose initiatives. Finally, our investment in a large-scale interdisciplinary project led by Alan Love at the University of Minnesota ([62220](#)) “Agency, Directionality, and Function: Foundations for a Science of Purpose,” \$14.6M) is well on its way towards developing a robust community/network of more than 120 philosophers, theoreticians, and experimentalists working collaboratively across the world.

Science of Virtues: We have made 12 grants (\$16.1M) to advance our goals of 1) Establishing a community of scholars with active research programs on the nature and development of curiosity, 2) Identifying and supporting scholars in psychology, philosophy, and theology to further our conceptual understanding of unlimited love, 3) Incentivizing cross-cultural and/or developmental research on gratitude, and 4) Establishing research programs on topics at the interface of virtues and religion. Though the grants are high-quality and are advancing research in curiosity, love, gratitude, and the interface of virtues and religion, we will not meet our original spending target. In 2023 this Priority will focus on the topic of love, especially loving across divides. We plan to host a meeting as well as consider next steps for the Divine Love project, for which we already have a series of papers from a 2020 request for information.

Love is critically important to advancing JTF’s mission to support human flourishing. In the 2019 Strategy, we seek to strengthen the conceptual and empirical work on love with philosophers, psychologists, and theologians. Our funding to this point has primarily focused on establishing a clear, empirically assessable concept of love that closely aligns with Sir John’s views. Our key work in this area has included funding Sara Algoe to establish the interdisciplinary Love Consortium to landscape and network current work being conducted in love-adjacent areas ([61280](#)), and to identify and assess the unique aspects of loving experiences ([62199](#)). Where Algoe is looking at love in individual, moment-to-moment experiences, Tyler VanderWeele and his interdisciplinary team is taking a long-term view, seeking to capture and assess an individual’s disposition to give and receive love in different types of interpersonal relationships ([62022](#), [62731](#)).

Additionally, as many areas of our world have wrestled with increased polarization, several prominent scholars and practitioners have publicly championed the notion that loving our enemies may be a critical component for our conflicted societies. The Character Virtue Development department is planning a two-day workshop with a mix of social scientists, philosophers, theologians, and practitioners to identify key components involved with “loving our enemies” and identify the most pressing research and practice questions that will form the basis of a future request for proposals. The Philosophy & Theology department is also considering developing a project on Loving Our Enemies with a group of theologians from Baylor University, Ukraine, and Russia.



Strategic Priorities (continued)

Science-Engaged Theology: We have awarded 30 grants (\$29.6M) to encourage theologians to engage more with the results and methods of empirical science, with the hope of helping them to enrich their conceptions of spiritual realities, and perhaps even reveal new information about such realities. We are currently working with Planning & Evaluation to assess the results and inform our future direction.

Spiritual Yearning Research Initiative (SYRI)

Since grantmaking in Science-Engaged Theology (SET) began in earnest four years ago, many of the large SET grants we made at first have closed, or will close soon, and we are beginning to map out a plan for evaluating the impact of those projects on the disciplines of philosophy and theology. At the same time, we are thinking about next steps and we want to encourage more research on the shape, strengths, and weaknesses of religion as it's practiced by individuals and communities in everyday life. To begin this work, the Philosophy & Theology department launched a funding competition called the [Spiritual Yearning Research Initiative](#). This initiative asks how those who experience a deep yearning for a meaningful spiritual life, but find traditional religion unsatisfying, can fulfill that yearning. We hope to engage spiritually curious but nonreligious individuals and communities with this work by supporting theoretical and philosophical investigation as well as empirical and data gathering research to understand the nature of spiritual yearning. In one sense, this initiative is a response to the rise of the religious nones, and we think it speaks to a current cultural stance toward spirituality that can help us understand where people are finding purpose and meaning in the 21st century. We anticipate supporting a set of small grants totaling just over \$2M through this funding competition.



Strategic Targets

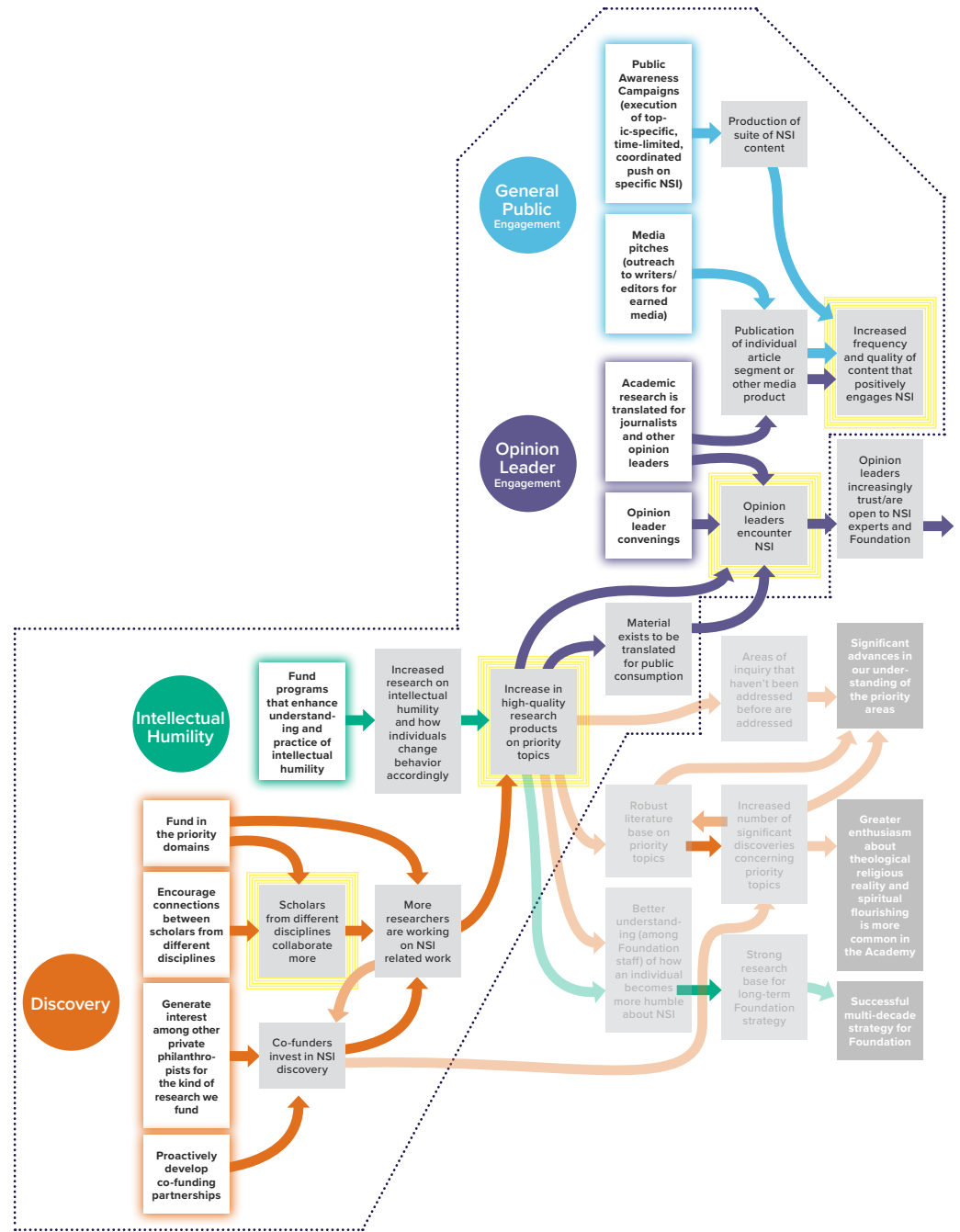
Our 2019 Strategy provides a picture – a theory of change – for how our Priorities can work together to *inspire a “spiritual and religious renaissance” where religious belief, religious practice and spiritual perspectives are a topic of serious consideration in the academy, and where people of faith see science as a source of spiritual growth and progress in ways that serve to supplement “their wonderful ancient scriptures.”*³

The following pages illustrate how well we are achieving the strategic targets of our 2019 Strategy. It’s important to note that we do not expect individual Priorities to meet every target from year to year; rather, these targets help calibrate our sense of overall direction for the goals and objectives articulated in our Strategy and our mission.

THE PATHWAY MODEL

To visualize the Strategy for Science and the Big Questions, we developed a Pathway Model. The Pathway Model is designed to show how different sets of activities will precipitate downstream short-, medium-, and long-term changes. Each box on the model represents an activity or outcome, and each arrow represents a line of causal influence. The Pathway Model demonstrates how we think the strategy will work.

Once we set the Pathway Model, we identified how to focus our work over the first three to five years. The dotted line represents our Evaluation Scope – the portion of the plan that we intend to track and evaluate over the next three to five years, and the yellow boxes indicate the short-term outcomes that are most important as we seek to achieve our long-term objectives.



³ Strategy for Science and the Big Questions, pg. 6

Strategic Targets (continued)

Balance Encouraging New Ideas with a 100-fold Increase in New Spiritual Information

“We think that the most promising path to increasing new spiritual information (NSI) is found not by casting our seed broadly but instead by carefully cultivating a garden of active projects focused on themes that are most likely to lead to new discoveries and meaningfully impact the audiences we seek to reach...We recognize, however, that Sir John had an enduring interest in leaving the door open for ideas to be proposed from any direction. As a result, while 80% of our research investments will be focused in the Priorities described below, 20% will be reserved for ideas that, while they do not fit within Priorities, still advance Sir John’s broader vision.”⁴

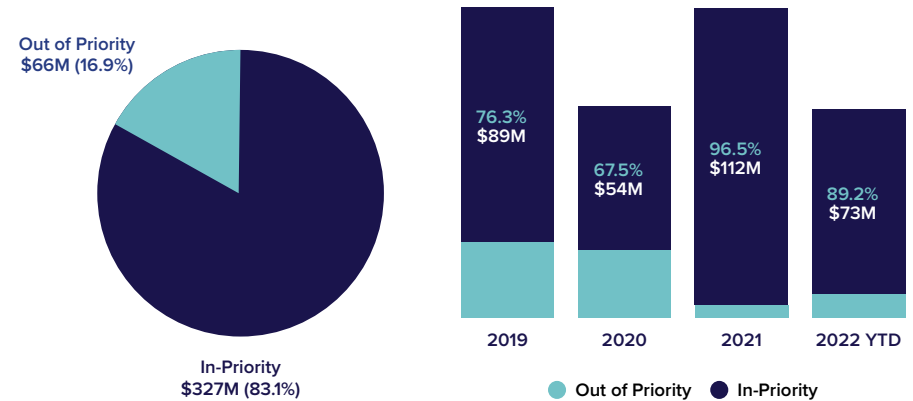
Our 2019 Strategy was based in part on the idea that we could make more progress by focusing on a smaller set of funding initiatives. At the same time, we wanted to support projects that were submitted via our annual open submission window in equal proportion to projects developed more proactively by the Program team.

The data below shows that while we are achieving our target of allocating 80% of grant dollars awarded to In-Priority, we are not achieving our target of awarding half of grant dollars to open submission proposals. We attribute the latter to our decision to limit Online Funding Inquiries (OFIs) in 2020⁵ due to stock market uncertainty associated with COVID-19. After we reopened the OFI cycle in 2021 we have seen an increase in the percentage of open submission grant dollars awarded. Moreover, we have increased our use of focused competitions within our funding areas, which has raised the number of high-quality, In-Priority proposals coming from applicants with no prior experience with JTF.

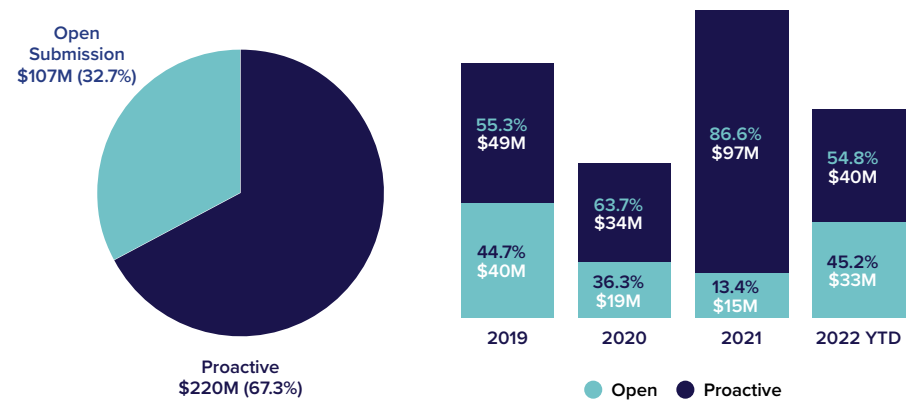
⁴ Strategy for Science and the Big Questions, pg. 2

⁵ OFIs were limited to our Mathematical & Physical Sciences and Global Strategies Priorities.

We have met our goal of directing 80% of IV.A funds to In-Priority grants.



About two-thirds of our In-Priority funding has gone toward proactive grants, falling short of our goal for a 50/50 split.

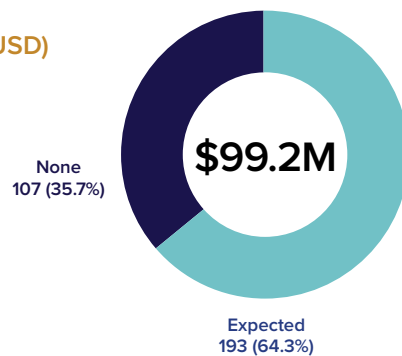


Strategic Targets (continued)

Increase Enthusiasm from other Funders for New Spiritual Information

Our 2019 Strategy and JTF Charter recognize the importance of collaborating with other funders. To date, about two-thirds of our In-Priority grants anticipate receiving co-funding at a value of \$99.2 million, \$92.8 million of which has already been secured.

Anticipated Cofunding (USD)



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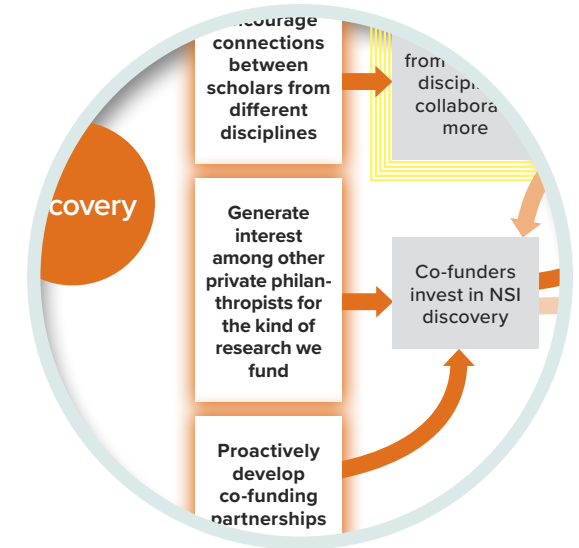
grants anticipate receiving more than 25% of total funding from other sources

Secured Cofunders

FUNDER	ADDITIONAL FUNDING (USD)
Pew Charitable Trusts	\$9,977,457
Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation	\$8,076,012
Wellcome Trust	\$7,030,149
World Science Foundation	\$5,071,688
Lilly Endowment Inc.	\$4,319,847
National Institutes of Health	\$4,015,068
ALSPAC	\$3,861,642
University of Notre Dame	\$1,824,792
Kuhn Foundation	\$1,750,000
Rutgers University	\$1,599,179
TOTAL	\$92,759,768

“Encourage the world to spend at least one-tenth as much resources on research for new spiritual information as the world spends on all science research.”

JTF CHARTER



Following the Black Hole Initiative’s (BHI) success in developing a new and richly interdisciplinary approach to astrophysics research ([60477](#), \$7.2M), the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation awarded matching grants to support Phase II ([61497](#)), contributing \$3.7M, and Phase III ([62286](#)), contributing \$4.4M. Under the detailed co-funding arrangement, JTF and Moore share responsibility for covering partial salaries for senior investigators; full salaries for post-docs, graduate students, and a BHI coordinator; as well as stipends for visiting scholars, publication costs, conference travel and special events, film production, and computer and equipment purchases.

Recently we built on our relationship with Moore to establish a [Small-Scale Experimental Collaborative](#) with the Moore, Simons, and Sloan Foundations. The collaborative aims to fund several laboratory-sized experiments designed to explore fundamental questions in physics, particularly those that have traditionally been explored by much larger experiments (e.g., multi-billion dollar telescopes, particle accelerators, etc.). The initiative builds on JTF’s long standing interest in ‘contrarian’ experiments aimed at fulfilling Sir John’s goals of discovering the laws and constituents of nature of reality, while also amplifying our impact by collaborating with other foundations. The program will aim to support several experiments, with a total budget of \$20M over 5 years (\$5M per foundation).

Strategic Targets (continued)

Cultivate Diverse Perspectives

Diverse, Non-Western Perspectives

Seven Priorities place an emphasis on funding research outside of the Western world. Each of the Discovery-focused Priorities have awarded at least one grant expecting to conduct research in a non-Western context. It may not be surprising that the Priorities with specific goals in international and non-Western grantmaking (Islam, Science, & Society, Programs in Latin America, and Cultural Evolution) have awarded the greatest share of their funding to grants studying or engaging non-Western populations. Additionally, Dynamics of Religious Change has awarded more than three-quarters of its funding to grants studying or engaging non-Western populations; although this Priority does not have cross-cultural research as a stated goal, it emphasizes interdisciplinary and global efforts to achieve its goals.

The Adoption of New Religious Rituals

MOYA & TUMI QUISPE, [62696](#)

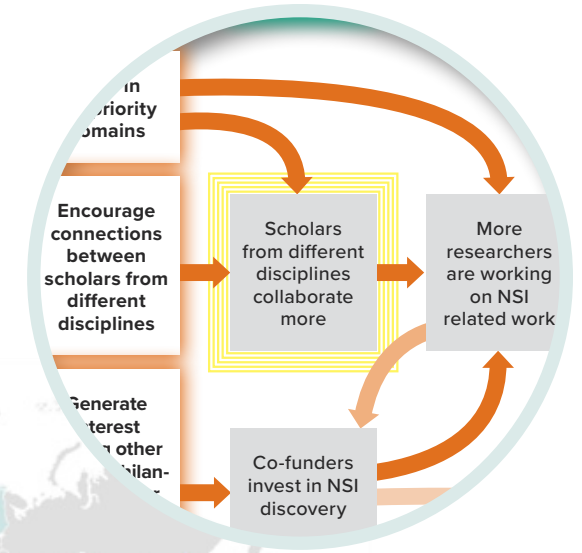
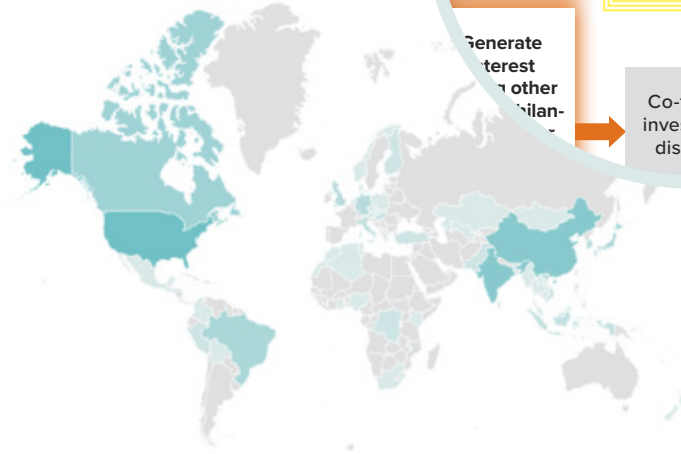
This project in the Dynamics of Religious Change Priority takes advantage of a rare opportunity to study the development of a new religious ritual site in the Peruvian Altiplano where people began worshipping an apparition of Jesus, along with traditional Andean figures such as a stone toad, in 2014. It will explore how individuals with access to essentially the same information can disagree about an object's religious meaning and can respond differently.

Virtuous AI?: Artificial Intelligence, Cultural Evolution, and Virtue

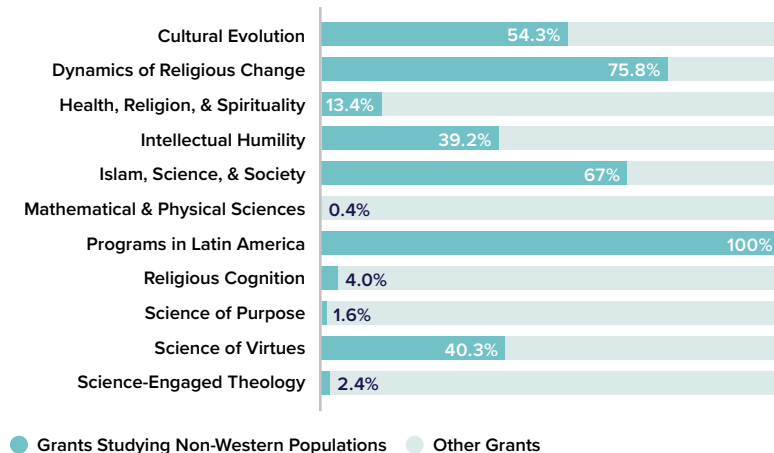
RUSSELL, [62282](#)

This grant in the Cultural Evolution Priority will use a series of online public research conferences to bring together AI scientists and scholars from diverse cultures, religions, and philosophies to learn to conceptualize AI technology interacting with culture and virtue. The project plans to engage audiences across cultures. In the West, these include the US, UK, Austria, and Denmark, plus audiences in Asia (China, Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) and Africa (Nigeria).

Research grants will draw study populations from 57 countries



Four Priorities have awarded more than 50% of their funding to grants studying non-Western populations.

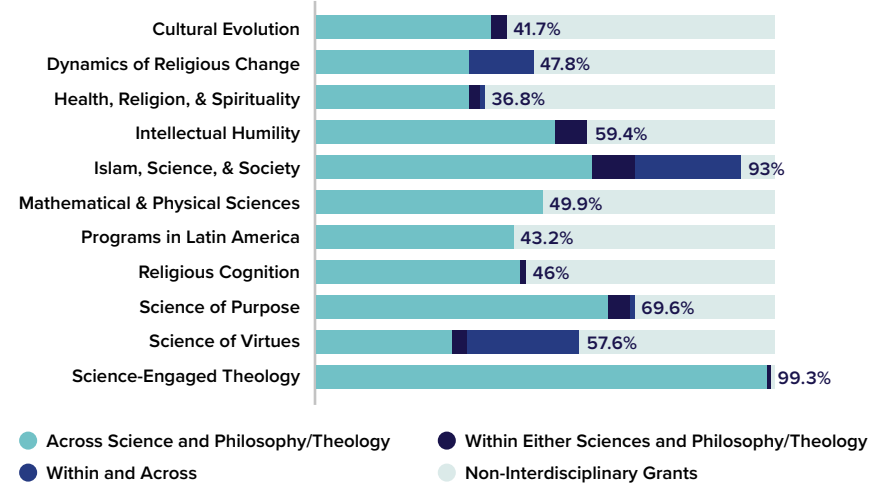


Strategic Targets (continued)

Diverse, Interdisciplinary Perspectives

Each of our Discovery-focused Strategic Priorities aims to support interdisciplinary research, whether across science and philosophy/theology, within either sciences or philosophy/theology, or both. To date, we have funded 134 grants supporting interdisciplinary work. Each Strategic Priority has awarded at least five interdisciplinary grants. Science-Engaged Theology (99.3%, \$29.4M); Islam, Science, & Society (93.0%, \$8.6M); and Science of Purpose (69.6%, \$20.5M) have awarded the greatest share of their funding to grants supporting interdisciplinary work.

Five Priorities have awarded more than half of their funding to interdisciplinary grants.



What is Metrology if Quantum Measurements Participate in Making Reality?

FUCHS & PIENAAR, [62424](#)

Metrology is the science of precisely measuring physical quantities. It enables us to build experiments to explore the extreme reaches of the universe. Philosophers have traditionally assumed, following classical physics, that measurements reveal pre-existing “true values.” However, numerous results of quantum theory strongly indicate that this cannot be the case: outcomes do not exist independently of measurements. This Mathematical & Physical Sciences project would fortify and extend an existing multi-disciplinary collaboration between theoretical and experimental physicists and analytic and phenomenological philosophers through monthly seminars, developing a shared bibliography, sharing videos and articles of relevant topics, and in-person meetings with collaborators. The grant will facilitate interdisciplinary work between the sciences and philosophy.

Project Disciplinary Scope: Astronomy; Mathematics; Philosophy; Physics

Islamic Public Value: Theory, Theology, and Practice of Indigenous Cooperative Governance Institutions

DRESHLER & KATTEL, [62654](#)

This project will examine historical and modern Islamic models of governance and administration, most of which developed historically out of serious, mainstream Muslim social theology. By working with a diverse set of researchers dedicated to unearthing the “deep structure” of Muslim theo-cultural institutions, we will learn more about different modes of living-together, the insights from which can be used to discover little-understood behaviors and beliefs which can help further human flourishing. The grant will facilitate interdisciplinary work between the sciences, theology, and other humanities disciplines.

Project Disciplinary Scope: Political science; Psychology; Sociology; Theology; Other

Biocultural Evolution and Theological Anthropology

BURDETT & LYONS, [62619](#)

This Science-Engaged Theology grant will use recent findings in evolutionary biology to clarify the “biocultural” character of human beings in theological anthropology. The primary investigators will develop mentoring relationships with practicing scientists to support their investigations into three themes in this area – morality, purposiveness, and aesthetics. The project will chart new pathways in science-engaged theological anthropology and contribute to bringing the field up to date in terms of its engagement with current evolutionary thinking. A workshop and an open access journal special issue will bring a wider network of researchers into the project to treat themes in theological anthropology that are related to, but extend beyond, the three foci of the PIs. The grant will facilitate interdisciplinary work between the sciences, philosophy, and theology.

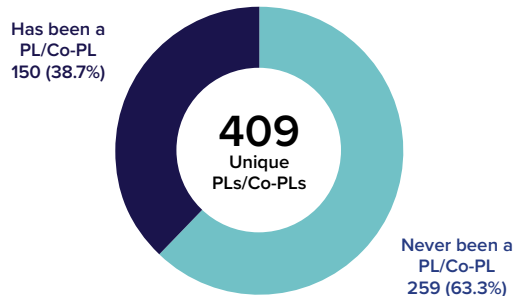
Project Disciplinary Scope: Anthropology; Biology; Philosophy; Theology

Strategic Targets (continued)

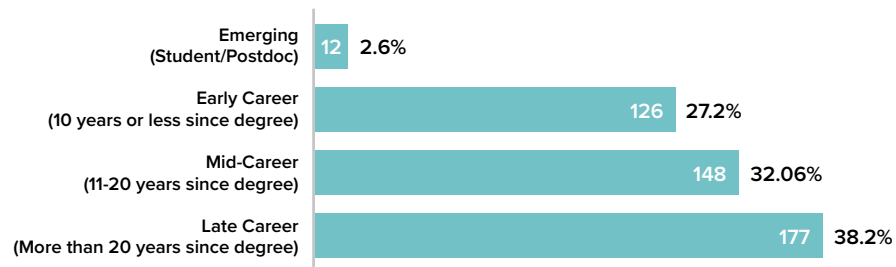
Build Enthusiasm and Capacity for Researching New Spiritual Information

We continue to expand upon what we know about those who serve as project leaders⁷ or as project team members on research grants. To assess diversity in our grantmaking practices, we currently track the assumed gender of grantees, whether grantees have led previous grants from JTF, the career stage and disciplinary expertise of our grantees, and the type of institutions we support. These data provide the Board and management with details that will help us evaluate our grantmaking practices and consider changes in the future.

Nearly two-thirds of Leaders are leading a JTF grant for the first time.



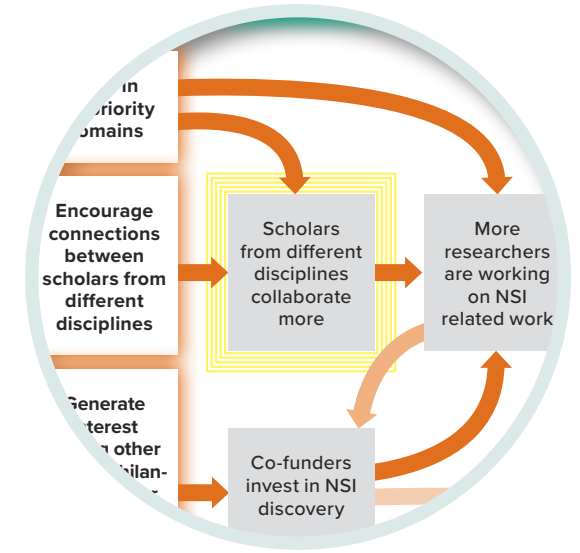
Less than one-third of Leaders are in the emerging or early career stage.



⁷ For the purposes of these analyses, Project Leaders and Co-Leaders are considered together as "Leaders."

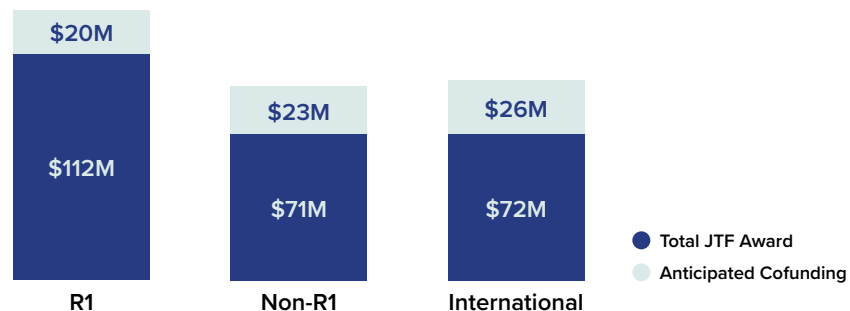
More researchers are working on developing New Spiritual Information (NSI) related work

2019 STRATEGY

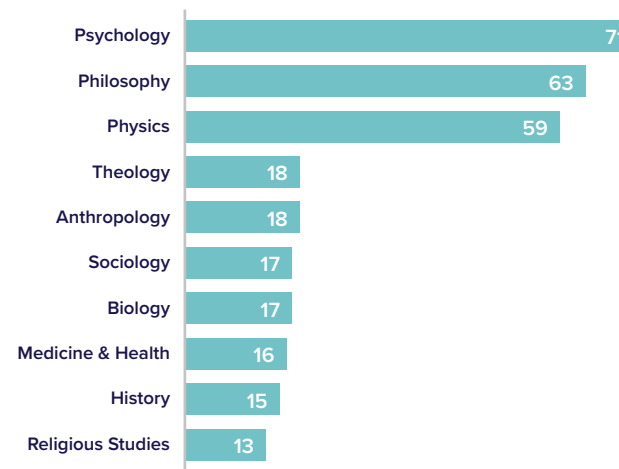


Strategic Targets (continued)

R1 Universities have received slightly more research funding than non-R1 and international institutions.



Leaders are most frequently trained in the disciplines of psychology, philosophy, and physics.



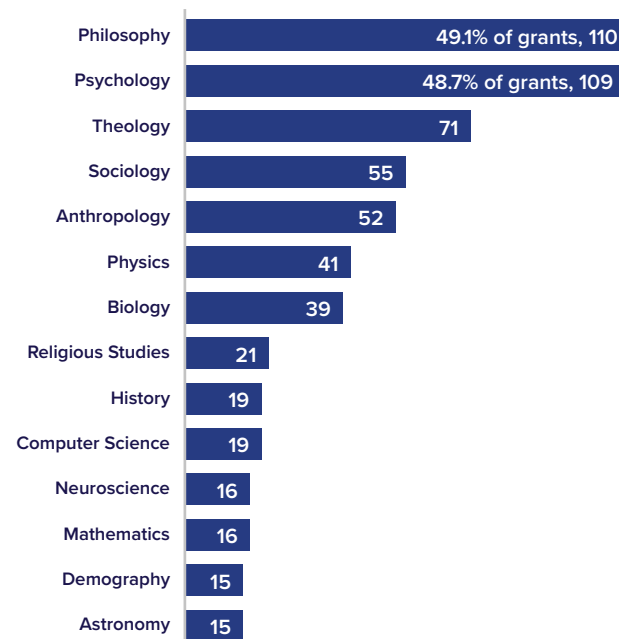
Organizations receiving the most funding

TOP R1 UNIVERSITIES	# In-Priority Research Grant	Award Amount
University of Minnesota	2	\$14.8M
Harvard University	6	\$13.0M
University of California, Riverside	2	\$10.1M

TOP NON-R1 US ORGANIZATIONS	# In-Priority Research Grant	Award Amount
Rubin Observatory	1	\$7.0M
Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago	1	\$6.3M
Biola University	3	\$5.4M

TOP INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES	# In-Priority Research Grant	Award Amount
University of Bristol	3	\$12.1M
The Samy Maroun Center for Space, Time and the Quantum	2	\$6.8M
University of Birmingham	2	\$4.3M

Nearly half of grants made under the Discovery-oriented Priorities have philosophy or psychology within their project scope.



Strategic Targets (continued)

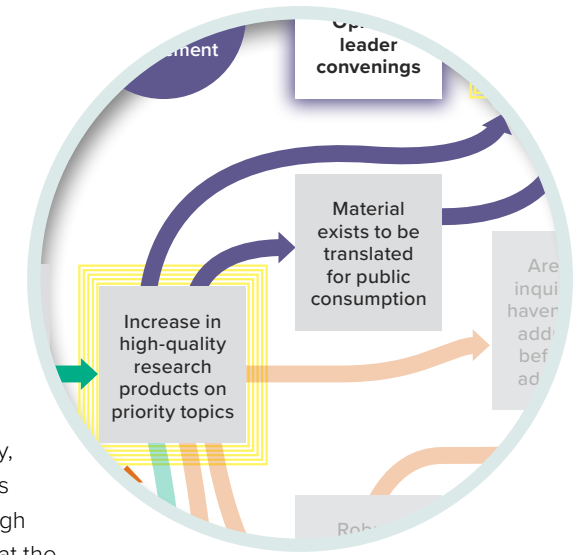
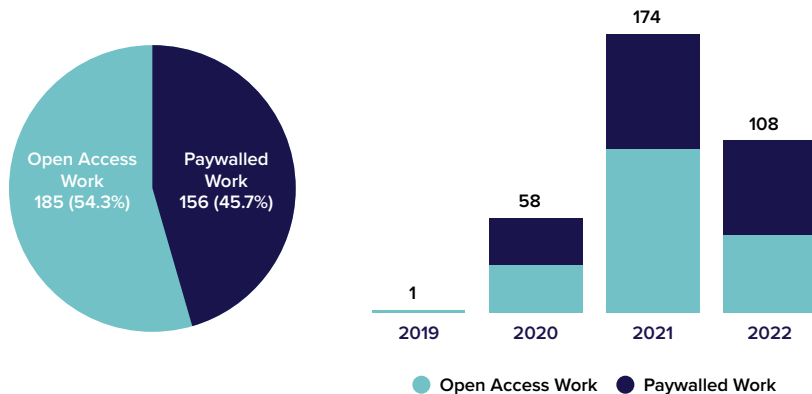
Discovery: What Do We Know So Far?

Increase in high-quality research products on In-Priority topics

Academic work products are a tangible way to track productivity of research grants, with the citations of those work products allowing us to see how and why the work is used by others. Although it is too early to measure the full productivity of our Priorities, our automated systems have identified 341 journal articles, books, chapters, or pre-prints produced by In-Priority research grants.

Most of these publications have been produced by grants under the Mathematical & Physical Sciences (201 publications) and Science of Purpose (56 publications) Priorities. Research in the natural and life sciences typically takes less time to publish after the start of a grant than social sciences research; we expect to see the number of publications in the philosophy/theology and social sciences funding areas increase over time.

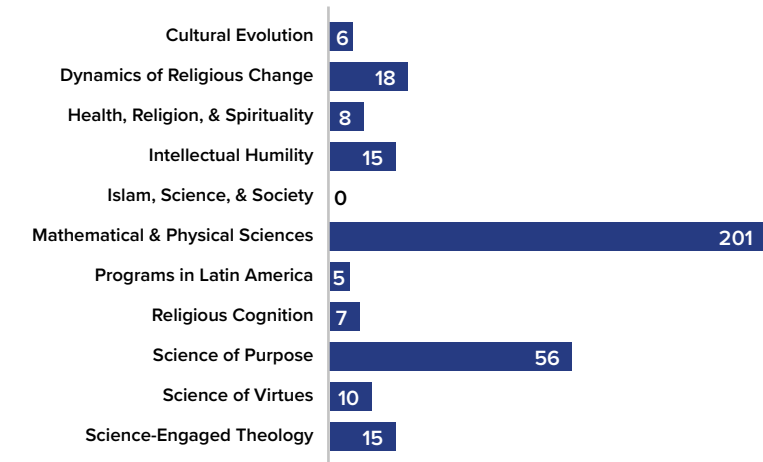
To date, Discovery-focused priority grants have produced 341 publications, more than half of which are open access.



In the coming years we will have more to say about the quality and influence of these publications on the academy. Perhaps most notably, more than half of these publications (54.3%) have been published through open access channels, ensuring that the knowledge gained by JTF-funded research is more widely available to scholars and the public alike.

We continue to invest in our systems and the open access movement to widen our understanding of work products, including for public engagement grants.

Priorities primarily focused on natural and life sciences disciplines have produced the most publications to date.

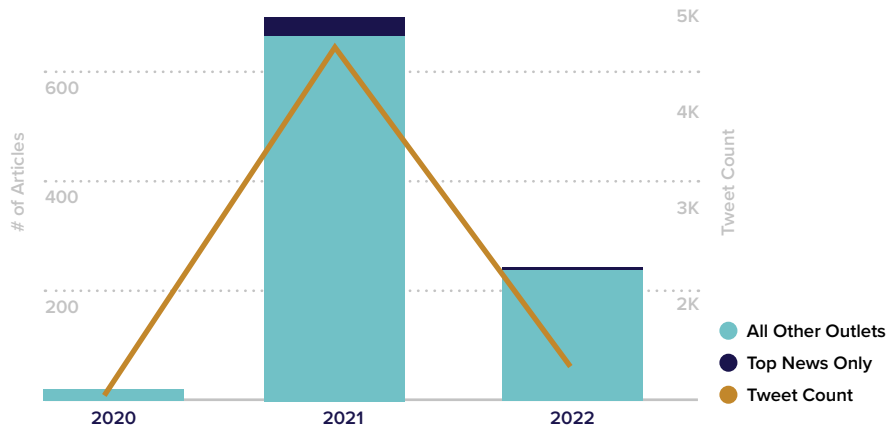


Strategic Targets (continued)

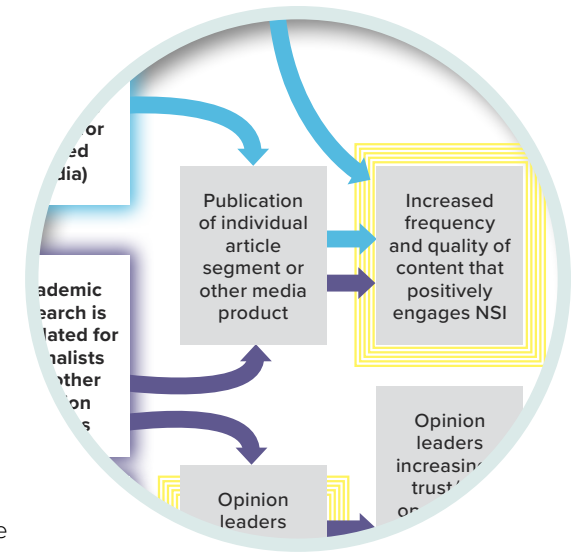
Increased frequency and quality of content that positively engages New Spiritual Information (NSI)

Outside of academia, JTF-funded research has been written about in 962 news articles and 7,319 tweets. The most widely reported publication produced by one of our grants is [Borchering et al. \(2021\)](#), credited to Science of Purpose grant [61780](#) (“Toward a teleology of complex networks”). The article, originally published in the CDC’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, presents a mathematical model of future COVID-19 cases and received coverage in 222 news articles, including nine separate articles in the New York Times, one in the Washington Post, and one on Vox.com. [Rathjé et al. \(2021\)](#)’s publication on the relationship between out-group animosity and social media engagement, credited to Intellectual Humility grant [61378](#) (“Social virtue epistemology: What does it take to be an intellectually humble Socratic gadfly?”), also received media attention soon after it was published in the Proceedings of the National Academies of Science. More than 100 articles, including those in top outlets like the Washington Post, BBC News, and The Guardian cited this work.

38 publications representing 18 grants have been mentioned by 962 news stories and 7,319 tweets.



Notably, both of these examples seem to share two key components that likely make them appealing to news outlets: they relate directly to lived experiences (i.e., the disruptions to life resulting from COVID-19 and the content seen on social media, respectively), and the research was published in reputable avenues that are publicly available (CDC and the National Academies of Science, respectively).



Strategic Engagement

Since the launch of our 2019 Strategy, our Public Engagement and other public-facing departments have changed markedly. Within the umbrella of Strategic Engagement, we have launched an exciting new brand that emphasizes how our mission helps people create lives of meaning and purpose. Moreover, we are gradually coordinating and integrating the strategy and work of Public Engagement, Communications, and Strategic Alliances to catalyze conversations that inspire awe and wonder.

As described below, the approaches originally outlined in our Public Engagement strategy are now shared across our Communications and Public Engagement teams.

Cultivating and Supporting Opinion Leaders

Public Engagement has made seven grants to help intellectual and religious scholars become opinion leaders and JTF-funded researchers with key influencers. Projects that aim to train intellectual and religious scholars include the Beyond the Ivory Tower Writer's Workshop ([62203](#)) which trains researchers to write for the public. Recently, we supported PRX in developing and launching four new podcasts from new voices ([62248](#)). This grant will offer participants training in how to create a podcast and produce the first two seasons of their show. We plan to emulate this strategy in our future funding in this area.

We have made over 1,000 pitches to journalists and other prominent opinion leaders over the course of our 2019 Strategy. Tracking those pitches each year, about 7% of the pitches directly resulted in earned media, including some of the most prestigious media outlets (see, for example, [Arthur Brooks'](#) Atlantic column distinguishing between hope and optimism, the subject of [Michael Milona's](#) white paper). More importantly, though, JTF received replies to nearly 40% of the pitches we made to members of the media, developing relationships with over 150 opinion leaders in that time. By interacting with them in person and online, we created a more favorable impression of JTF and the research we support.

We thought we could improve our approach to developing relationships with opinion leaders in two ways. First, we have been developing relationships that

result in content for JTF's [Templeton Ideas](#) – this has been a great platform for both journalists and grantees to tell robust stories related to our grant-funded research. We have been delighted by what our writers have produced. For instance, we had no idea that one of the world's most famous mathematicians, Kurt Gödel, wrote an [ontological proof for God's existence](#), but never published it. We hope that Templeton Ideas will be a platform in which today's prominent thinkers can share their unorthodox ideas. Second, we have focused on higher quality earned media such that JTF takes a more prominent place in the stories than previous pitches (e.g., [Frank Wilczek's LA Times](#) interview).

Academic Ideas in the Public Sphere: Teaching Scientists and Philosophers How to Communicate with the Public

DESTENO & BARRETT, [62203](#)

Our most successful venture into thought leadership is the Beyond the Ivory Tower workshops at Northeastern University. The project offers researchers training on public writing. The project's success is primarily due to the opportunity to publish in the New York Times (and other outlets). Under previous grants, scholars like Clay Routledge, Agnes Callard, and Adam Mastroianni have regularly published content after participating in the workshop. Callard has a column at The Point, and Mastroianni started a widely-regarded Substack.



Strategic Engagement (continued)

In addition, our Communications department now coordinates digital opinion leader gatherings, attracting prominent writers, editors, and producers. Since 2018, we have hosted 17 gatherings, both in-person and virtually, covering topics in Character Virtue Development, Human Sciences, Life Sciences, Mathematical & Physical Sciences, and Philosophy & Theology. Each gathering featured a notable JTF grantee, as well as charismatic moderators like Janice Kaplan, Ross Anderson, and Jamie Ryerson. Collectively, these events have enabled us to interact with over 250 different opinion leaders, many of whom stay in regular contact with JTF. And while these events aren't specifically designed to generate earned media, it has happened organically.⁸ Our recent event with grantee Michael Levin has cemented our relationship with elite science writer [Philip Ball](#), who is going to embark on a major journalistic project with us around the topic of agency in biology.

Developing Content

The Public Engagement department has made 47 grants to support the creation and distribution of mission-aligned content for the general public. These projects intend to increase the public's comprehension of Humility-in-Theology and its benefits by supporting trusted voices, from religious leaders to seasoned science journalists. Such efforts include The World Science Festival's Big Idea Series ([62375](#)), Radiolab's Big Questions podcasts ([62216](#)), and our partnership with Word on Fire Catholic Ministries ([61289](#)).

While our Communications department now focuses on producing content for Templeton platforms, such as Templeton Ideas, Communications continues to selectively produce stand-alone syntheses of JTF-funded research. Over five years we have created 30 such research syntheses. While we have not pursued public awareness campaigns, which was part of our 2019 Strategy, our investments in translating research funded by JTF, reaching out to opinion leaders, and developing our own content for distribution has created an engagement platform that far exceeds what we thought possible in just three short years.

Next month, we will publish the first installment of a monthly newsletter that will facilitate consistent engagement with our rolodex of nearly 1,000 media contacts. It will not only share our best content from Templeton Ideas with them, but it will also invite them to interact with us by writing stories and attending our future events.

Influencing Key Institutions

Public Engagement has made 14 grants intended to influence the key institutions at which future generations of secular and religious opinion leaders are being trained. With respect to future religious leaders, we have primarily targeted seminarians currently undergoing ministerial formation. With respect to future secular opinion leaders, we have focused on undergraduates at elite liberal arts colleges and research universities. A recent big bet in this space is our grant to expand Yale's successful Life Worth Living undergraduate course to 45 new campuses. ([62735](#), [61968](#)). We have also funded efforts at seminaries like the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary ([61985](#)) which utilizes annual multi-day interdisciplinary workshops and a scholar in residence program, a mentorship program, and annual conferences to model how respectful dialogue between science and faith can occur.

Growing the Life Worth Living Network in Higher Education

VOLF & CROASMUN, [62735](#)

Designed to remedy a lack of personal, authentic engagement with questions of meaning in higher ed, the Life Worth Living approach equips students, educators, and the public for the lifelong process of discerning, articulating, and pursuing flourishing life. To accelerate the growth of the network to new college campuses, this project will support course development and teacher formation through sub-granting and training programs. This growing network will be supported by robust digital media offerings and shared assessment protocols.

⁸ For example, see articles by Jennifer Wallace in the [Wall Street Journal](#) and [Washington Post](#) and an article by [Sarah Bailey](#).

Conclusion

- Nearly all Priorities have met or are on track to meet their spending targets. With one and a half years left in the 2019 Strategy, which was slated to end December 2023, we have surpassed our original spending target of \$325M. As of June 2022, seven priorities have met or surpassed their original spending targets and 11 of 12 are on-track with the quality and quantity of their grantmaking with only Programs in Latin America not expecting to meet its goals.
- Cultivating high-quality OFIs remains a challenge. About two-thirds of funds awarded in Humility-in-Theology since January 2019 have supported proactive projects. In 2022, JTF approved a larger number of projects that were submitted to JTF via the open submission process, and 45 percent of In-Priority grants went to proposals submitted via open submission.
- We have met our goal of awarding at least 80% of Humility-in-Theology funding to In-Priority grants. Most Out of Priority grants are Priority Adjacent, meaning they do not fit squarely within a current Priority but are connected to or support a Priority or are of carryover interest from a previous strategic plan or funding.
- We are finding new scholars to lead JTF-funded research. Five in eight project leaders in Discovery-focused Priorities are leading their first JTF grant.
- JTF funding is supporting non-Western research. Each of the Discovery-focused Priorities have awarded at least one grant expecting to conduct research in a non-Western context. Research grants will draw upon study populations from 57 separate countries, 43 of which are non-Western.
- We are actively encouraging scholars from different disciplines to collaborate on research. Each of the Discovery-focused Strategic Priorities has awarded at least five interdisciplinary grants. To date we have funded 134 grants that include interdisciplinary work (59.0%).
- We are beginning to see research on Science and the Big Questions disseminated in the academy and to the public. Of the 341 publications that have been produced by grants under the Discovery-focused Priorities, more than half (54.3%) have been published through open access channels, ensuring that the knowledge gained by JTF-funded research is more widely available to scholars and the general public alike. Outside of academia, JTF-funded research has been written about in 962 news articles and featured in 7,319 tweets.

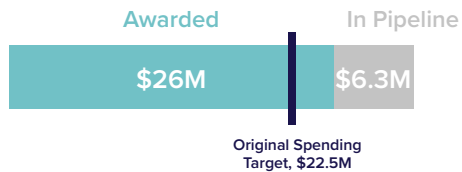


Appendix

- [A-2](#) CULTURAL EVOLUTION
- [A-3](#) DYNAMICS OF RELIGIOUS CHANGE
- [A-4](#) HEALTH, RELIGION, & SPIRITUALITY
- [A-5](#) INTELLECTUAL HUMILITY
- [A-6](#) ISLAM, SCIENCE, & SOCIETY
- [A-8](#) MATHEMATICAL & PHYSICAL SCIENCES
- [A-9](#) PROGRAMS IN LATIN AMERICA
- [A-10](#) PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
- [A-11](#) RELIGIOUS COGNITION
- [A-12](#) SCIENCE OF PURPOSE
- [A-13](#) SCIENCE OF VIRTUES
- [A-14](#) SCIENCE-ENGAGED THEOLOGY



CULTURAL EVOLUTION



Cultural Evolution Goals

WITH # OF GRANTS CONTRIBUTING TO GOALS

Draw from the world's cultures to enhance scientific progress.



Understand how science and technology affect human self-conceptions.



Develop cultural possibilities for common human flourishing.



● Awarded ● Pipeline

Sir John believed that through culture humans play a causal role in our own evolution, thereby becoming co-creators with God. In this he was much influenced by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, who used his study of paleontology to form a grand vision of cosmic evolution, in which humans become increasingly capable of shaping a future for themselves and the planet. This Strategic Priority employs an evolutionary framework to understand the cultural paths our human-shaped future might take. The specific aim is to support research on cultural evolution that will improve our understanding of how humans have shaped the world and may better shape the future.

We have made a total of 28 grants in Cultural Evolution since 2019. Twelve of these (43%) fit the earlier plan and 26 (or 92%) fit the revised plan. Based on a project's stated goals and on a review of outputs and outcomes, grants approved previously align well with our revised plan (only two, [61812](#) Pomeroy, "From this world to the next? Novel perspectives on Neanderthal death" and [61853](#) Hawks, "Investigating mortuary practices in Homo naledi, a window into the roots of human culture" don't fit any of the new Priority themes), so we continue to be on-track for achieving our new goals:

- We have made 21 grants that contributed to developing cultural possibilities for common human flourishing. New grants this year include projects such as [62643](#) ("Rural Turkish Farmers: Challenges in the Age of Industrialized Farming and Climate Change") that represent experiments in fostering cultural changes toward human flourishing. Although it is likely that many in the scholarly community remain skeptical, we do get quality projects that push in this direction, including two PFI-based projects in the pipeline. If the work we fund inspires others, that would be a second level of progress.
- We have made ten grants that will draw from the world's cultures to enhance scientific progress. In part because of the nature of the field of cultural evolution – already attuned to the

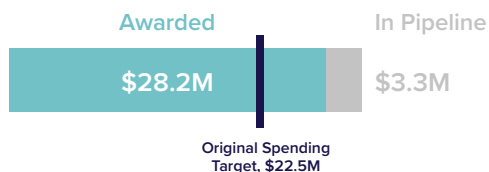
importance of the world's cultures for any research question – we have made significant progress on this goal via projects with other goals as well. Rachel Kendal's grant ([61913](#), "[Transforming The Field Of Cultural Evolution And Its Application To Human Futures](#)"), a subgrant program of the Cultural Evolution Society was very successful in its promise to find, and fund, scholars from outside the West. They received inquiries from 70 countries, and eventually invited 40 proposals for 16 possible grants. Of those 70% would involve on the ground research outside N. America, Western Europe, Australia or New Zealand, and 100% included research personnel from the countries in which the research will be conducted. Investigators among the invited proposals represent 21 disciplines. They expect to announce the sub-grants at the CES meeting in late September.

- We have made 11 grants to help us understand how science and technology affect human self-conceptions. We also held a special call for the regular August OFI deadline on "Information, Disinformation, and Cultural Authority: New Social Media and the Evolution of Social Learning," from which we invited five full proposals. The first to be funded is that of Alberto Acerbi ([62432](#), "Changing the perspective on social media interventions: improving engagement with true news") who hypothesizes that interventions that increase, even minimally, credibility and spread of true news are likely to have a bigger effect than interventions that directly address misinformation.

Looking ahead, the Culture and Global Perspectives department proposes to build on CE and ISS with continuing emphasis on the challenge of supporting more scholars who can bring non-Western, or non-WEIRD perspectives to the core questions of these themes. In addition, we plan a series of small-scale regional planning workshops (the first scheduled for Istanbul in November 2022) to help us identify topics for future program development.



DYNAMICS OF RELIGIOUS CHANGE



Dynamics of Religious Change Goals

WITH # OF GRANTS CONTRIBUTING TO GOALS

Support theory development.



Support discovery.



Support capacity-building.



Support public engagement about DRC.



● Awarded ● Pipeline

Sir John was interested in religious change at multiple scales—innovation in religious ideas, change in religious practices and beliefs across the lifespan, and competition among religious groups. Our grantmaking in this Priority is aimed at supporting theory development, discovery, capacity-building, and public engagement at each of these levels, with a particular emphasis on interdisciplinary and global efforts. We are interested in the contributions that religious individuals, ideas, and institutions make to individual and societal flourishing.

The Human Sciences department is on-track in developing and recommending high-quality grants with the potential to realize several of the aspirations described in the strategic plan. For example:

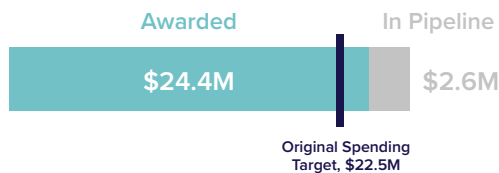
- We are supporting discovery and theory development of religious change from perspectives that cross-cut the social, behavioral, and cognitive sciences. This includes sociological approaches to understanding innovation among religious institutions and their changing congregations ([61348](#), “Modernization, Mega Churches, and the Urban Face of Christianity in the Global South”; [62630](#), “Measuring and Assessing Multiple Religious Identities, Affiliations and Congregational Memberships”), the economic consequences of access to emerging religious beliefs and practices (e.g., [61484](#), “Religion as a Source of Social and Moral Development: Evidence from the Pentecostal Revolution in Africa”), anthropological perspectives on the appearance of new religious rituals ([62696](#) “The adoption of new religious rituals”), and multidisciplinary research projects examining patterns of religious change ([61074](#), “Modeling Religious Change”; [61928](#), “Explaining Atheism: The Causal Origins of Individual and Societal Nonbelief”).

- A majority of grants in this portfolio involve significant data collection efforts in non-Western countries (e.g. [61951](#), “Global East Religiosity and Changing Religious Landscapes”). Research supported in this Priority is taking place in more than 40 countries around the globe and is studying people of many faith traditions and none.
- We are increasingly requiring grantees to make the products of their research discoverable and accessible through partnering with the JTF-funded Association of Religion Data Archives ([ARDA](#)) and the implementation of open science best practices (e.g. [62287](#) “Pew-Templeton Global Religious Futures Project Phase VII”).
- Several projects have robust public engagement components targeting how journalists write about religious and non-religious practices, beliefs, and identities (e.g., [62287](#) “Pew-Templeton Global Religious Futures Project Phase VII”; [61928](#) “Explaining Atheism”), capitalizing on existing dissemination efforts.

Looking ahead, to free up additional payout for applied programs in the Health, Religion, & Spirituality Priority, the Human Sciences department will focus future grantmaking in the Dynamics of Religious Change Priority on projects that leverage the work and interests of key funding partners (e.g., Pew Research Center, the Lilly Endowment, Templeton Religion Trust).



HEALTH, RELIGION, & SPIRITUALITY



Health, Religion, & Spirituality Goals

WITH # OF GRANTS CONTRIBUTING TO GOALS

Track 1: Basic Science –Testing for causal relationships between religion/spirituality and health.



Track 2: Application – Engaging religious and spiritual resources in the practice of health care.



● Awarded ● Pipeline

Sir John identified the relationship between spirituality and health as a particularly promising area to conduct research on “the benefits of religion,” one of three main areas for future research that he recommends in The Humble Approach (pp. 130-133). Our grantmaking in this Priority is aimed at two themes: testing the evidence for causal relationships between religion/spirituality and health; and improving engagement with religious and spiritual resources in the practice of health care.

The Human Sciences department is on-track in developing and recommending high-quality grants with the potential to realize the aspirations described in the strategic plan. For example:

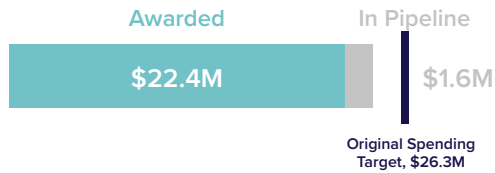
- We have awarded several grants to collect and analyze data on the interrelationship of religious factors and physical and mental health over time (e.g., Shields [62016](#), “Investigating the impact of multiple dimensions of religion and spirituality on risk of CVD across diverse racial/ethnic communities;” Ironson [61430](#), “Landmark Spirituality and Health Survey follow-up: Prediction to mortality, mental, and physical health outcomes;” Boylan [61460](#), “Multidimensional religion/spirituality in relation to health: 20-years of data from the Midlife in the United States (MIDUS) national sample”; Way [61803](#), “Main and stress buffering effects of adolescent religious involvement on longitudinal changes in cortisol”). Several of these leverage the investments of other funders (e.g., NIH, Wellcome Trust); all are targeted at producing rigorous publications that may attract the interest of funders and researchers who are currently uninvested in these questions, a necessary pathway in our goal of accelerating progress towards satisfying Sir John’s challenge to establish the benefits of religion for health.
- We have made a major investment in strengthening training and practice of mental health professionals (psychologists, counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists) to engage with religious and spiritual issues and resources

(Currier et al. [62033](#), “Catalyzing a cultural shift toward integrating religious and spiritual competencies in mental health care through training and systems-level change”); we have also awarded a similar program aimed at physicians and nurses (Puchalski & Ferrell [62259](#), “Advancing spiritual care: Spiritual health in everyday clinical practice”). We have made several major donations that advance applied work in spiritual care (e.g., the [National Alliance on Mental Illness \(NAMI\) FaithNet program](#)) and supported pilot projects addressing systems-level integration of spiritual health into medical care (Mosley [61442](#), “Integrating the religiosity and spirituality of patients within the Electronic Medical Records of an in-patient medical system in the Mid-South”) and programs to develop partnerships between faith communities and health systems (e.g., Desai [61847](#), “The choir preaches back: Addressing mental health and toxic isolation through church-based participatory research and practice”).

Looking ahead, the Human Science department will reallocate payout from other Strategic Priority areas to allow additional grantmaking on applied programs within the Health, Religion, & Spirituality Priority. Despite substantial JTF investment since the 1990s, significant opportunities for consolidating and expanding this work still remain. We are currently assessing what funding needs are most in line with donor intent and have greatest opportunity to leverage the resources and influence of other funders, institutions, and opinion leaders. Promising initial leads include ideas about how to mainstream spiritual care within health care organizations, how to increase the competence of public health practitioners regarding religion and spirituality, and how to improve the engagement of faith communities and leaders with psychologically informed approaches to mental health. More broadly, we are commissioning a philanthropic consultant to conduct a landscape study of what other funders are doing—or might be interested to do—in this space.



INTELLECTUAL HUMILITY



Intellectual Humility Goals

WITH # OF GRANTS CONTRIBUTING TO GOALS

Support work aimed at consolidating and otherwise improving theoretical and empirical treatments of IH.

14 1

Fund research that aims to discover more about the factors that enhance and inhibit intellectual humility.

10 1

Fund research that identifies practices and interventions that foster such humility.

7 2

● Awarded ● Pipeline

Promoting Intellectual Humility (IH) through research and application is a central element of JTF’s Strategy – it is at the heart of Sir John’s vision, has the potential to help humans from diverse perspectives embrace what Rabbi Sacks called the “dignity of difference,” and is highly interdisciplinary. We are making the following progress on the goals of the IH Priority:

- Related to Goal 1, we have made several grants to renowned and emerging scholars to consolidate and improve theoretical treatments of IH. We are now supporting a network of scholars to contextualize our core set of IH “anchor measures” and consistently apply them (e.g., measurements that focus on the influences of a) metacognitive abilities, b) a sense of security and threats to meaning and values, c) self-evaluations, and d) situational primes or nudges). We are also supporting cross-cultural research efforts to develop measures of IH in non-WEIRD populations. Our collaboration with Public Engagement to develop a [synthesis of IH research](#) (“The Psychology of Intellectual Humility”) has been instrumental to the high-quality nature of the open funding inquiries we have received. We have made two grants to study (a) the role of IH in the advancement of the sciences, and (b) how IH might be enhanced among scientists. We have made one grant to investigate whether mainstream conceptions of IH are suitable for study given variations in social position and access to power.

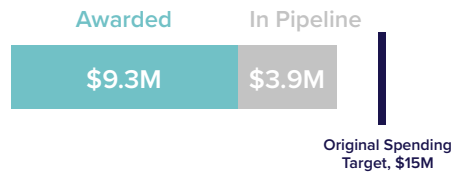
- Related to Goals 2 and 3, we have made several grants to identify factors that enhance or inhibit IH. We supported the formation of an interdisciplinary virtual research network comprised of fourteen researchers focused on the developmental trajectory of IH within childhood and adolescence, resulting in a white paper that has shaped JTF’s current call for proposals on intellectual humility in childhood and adolescence. We supported a large Request for Proposals (RFP) to test and integrate IH interventions into religious, educational, health, and other applied settings. The RFP should launch in the second half of 2022. We supported a proposal focused on intellectual humility and social media, specifically on how the structure of social media environments may incentivize or disincentivize intellectual humility. We invited a proposal focused on how scientists can embody intellectual humility when engaging with the public.

Finally, we are in the early planning stages of an intellectual humility ideas lab, where we will invite 30 scholars and thought leaders to brainstorm with us how we can fund projects that will build towards the creation of a culture of intellectual humility. Additionally, we continue our work as a core funder¹ of the [New Pluralists Collaborative](#) to help “Americans recognize our shared humanity, embrace our differences, and solve challenges together.” We are applying our grantees’ findings to our work in the New Pluralists Collaborative, where we are co-shaping a funding strategy to encourage IH throughout American society.

¹ Because JTF is involved in some of the decision-making processes, JTF allocated \$3 million over three years to this initiative via a donation that is categorized as an Internal Expense.



ISLAM, SCIENCE, & SOCIETY



Islam, Science, & Society Goals

WITH # OF GRANTS CONTRIBUTING TO GOALS

Nurture an ecosystem of scholars.



Produce pedagogical resources.



Cultivate public intellectuality.



● Awarded ● Pipeline

The new Islam, Science, & Society (ISS) strategic plan (formerly Global Strategies-Islam) was approved in Dec 2020. The aim of this Strategic Priority is to support constructive Muslim thinking at the intersection of Islam, science, and society. Sir John expected to find enduring wisdom in Islam, for he recognized that this faith had successfully survived the vagaries of history by adapting to difficult circumstances in an environment of competition. He also encouraged Muslims, along with people of other faiths, to continue learning, especially through scientific methods, about the relationship of humans to God and to each other. Accordingly, the focus of this Priority will be on the dynamic roles that scientific learning and technological innovation can have within Islamic conceptions of human flourishing. What will be the contours of the Muslim spiritual future as humans continue to develop sciences that feed their own creative powers? Will it be one of insularity, insecurity, passivity, and self-satisfaction with a bygone “golden age?” Or will it be one of humility, curiosity, future-mindedness, and an active, purpose-driven engagement with God’s ever-unfolding self-disclosure?

Small grants are often highly effective in ISS target populations for a few reasons. For one, in many Muslim-majority countries, the dollar goes quite far, and there is no need to bloat projects unnecessarily. But secondly, many Muslim educational institutions are quite new and still lack administrative staff, English skills, and familiarity with grant processes that are common to Western organizations like JTF. This is not to say that such institutions inherently lack the ability to become capable of attracting and handling large grants, but only that we have to take time to understand their capacities and maintain relationships with them in order to monitor their grants closely. Thus, nineteen of our 22 active grants in ISS are small grants totaling to \$4.4 million. We have only three large active grants (approximately \$3.8 million combined), two of which grew out of prior small grants. From our experience so far, we can conclude

that the seeds sown by JTF’s funding for capacity-building in ISS have borne fruit, and that small grants continue to be worthwhile investments, especially outside of the West.

A brief update on our three goals:

- A number of grants that have been approved and/or are starting this year will be bringing together scholars across disciplines from around the world in their respective areas of focus. Padela [61863](#) (Bioscience and Islam; “Fostering Connections between Science and Theology for Medical Track Muslim Students”) brings together Muslim pre-medical students for a series of intensive seminars on issues at the intersection of Islam and science. Spevack 62642 (“ASIPT Verification and Renewal Curriculum: Convening Experts, Developing Solutions, Deploying Curricula”) addresses the need for renewed philosophy curricula in Islamic studies departments and in universities and madrasas across the Muslim world. Drechsler 62654 (“Islamic Public Value: Theory, Theology, and Practice of Indigenous Cooperative Governance Institutions”) will have political scientists, anthropologists, sociologists and Muslim theologians synthesizing a new academic field which they call “Islamic Public Administration.” In so doing, they hope to offer an alternative vision of what a “well-ordered society” might look like in non-Western Muslim-majority communities. Küçükural [62663](#) (“ADAB in dialogue: Developing argumentative virtues in a divided world”) will bring argumentation scholars and Muslim scholars together to revitalize the indigenous Muslim tradition of munazara, or working across aisles to seek truth.
- Pedagogical resource production in ISS topics is a felt need in both Western and Muslim educational institutions. Western philosophy departments, for instance, often lack any decent and accessible material on Islamic philosophy despite a big desire to diversify their offerings. Muslim educational institutions (whether



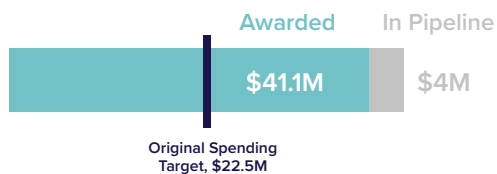
Islam, Science, & Society (continued)

madrasas or universities) have largely failed to incorporate Islamic philosophical thought into how they teach various disciplines of knowledge, often preferring textual studies like Qur'anic exegesis, hadith verification, etc. Since 2019, ISS has supported 14 grants which focus on the production of pedagogical resources.

- A culture of public intellectualism and debate is still in its infancy in anglophone Muslim discourse. A number of our grants this year have public engagement outputs. Küçükural [62663](#) is working on munazara, the indigenous Islamic notion of disputation/debate/argument, roughly translating to “shared inquiry.” It is different from Western notions of parliamentary debate but has been largely ignored over the past several centuries. The project team, following excavatory research, will develop a prototype munazara procedural manual for real-world application. This manual will then be field-tested through the seeding of “munazara leagues” in a few university partners. It is hoped that the work done by this team can help heal divides in polarized Muslim societies and communities on Big Questions. Interestingly, this is a small grant, but it packs a big punch. If it bears fruit, it can provide a potentially fertile area for further investment.

Lastly, the Culture and Global Perspectives department is planning a series of three overseas workshops in 2022 and 2023 which will serve as listening sessions for which Big Questions are of greatest relevance in areas outside of the West. We will be paying especially close attention to those questions which pertain to human flourishing as it is understood in these contexts, and how that can contribute to a global repository of human thinking on the subject. Our first meeting is planned for November 2022 in Istanbul, Turkey, and will have ISS as its main focus. Further meetings are tentatively planned in East Asia and Africa.

MATHEMATICAL & PHYSICAL SCIENCES



Mathematical & Physical Sciences Goals

WITH # OF GRANTS CONTRIBUTING TO GOALS

Support discovery at the conceptual frontiers of physics.



Situate scientific research within a broader interdisciplinary inquiry into human thought and culture.



Cultivate dynamic collaborations that break down walls between research teams, disciplines, and institutions.



● Awarded ● Pipeline

In February 2022 the Board approved a new strategic plan for the Mathematical & Physical Sciences (MPS) Priority. The plan adopts five goals; (i) advancing the frontiers of scientific understanding, (ii) expanding and refining the foundations of human reasoning, (iii) reawakening awe and wonder, (iv) understanding MPS research as a cultural phenomenon, and (v) establishing interdisciplinary capacity among scientists and other scholars. Each of these goals is rooted in longstanding values and purposes that the Foundation has pursued in its past MPS programming. Together, the five goals encompass but sharpen the three provisional goals that guided MPS between 2019 and 2022, namely (1) supporting discovery at the conceptual frontiers of physics (2) situating scientific research within a broader interdisciplinary inquiry into human thought and culture and (3) bridging disciplinary silos. Going forward, our intention is to cultivate a portfolio – or an ecosystem of projects – in which we facilitate creative synergy across the goals and among the projects and teams that we fund.

The Mathematical & Physical Sciences department is on track to achieve the Priority’s goals:

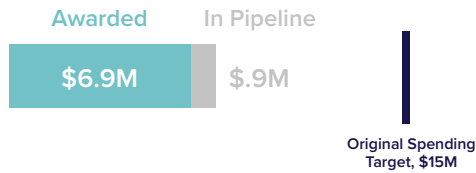
- Since the beginning of 2019, we have made 27 grants to support discovery at the conceptual frontiers of physics. We expect all of them to be of very high scientific quality, as they were developed as PFIs or carefully selected from competitive OFI pools. Twenty-four of the 27 fall within one of the three disciplinary subtopics prioritized in the plan (cosmology, quantum foundations, and complexity/emergence), with several bridging multiple subfields or techniques. We note that a targeted call in 2020 yielded an exceptional pool of OFI applicants in the area of many-body physics, which resulted in four grants.

- Twelve of the grants have a major interdisciplinary component outside of the sciences. Eight of these engage the foundations of human reasoning directly, and six engage questions of culture. The latest slate of MPS grants will be piloting several mechanisms that foster this type of interdisciplinary cross-pollination. For example, Fuchs (62424, “What is Metrology if Quantum Measurements Participate in Making Reality?”) is creating a collaboration of theoretical and experimental physicists, as well as analytic and continental philosophers, to address deep questions about the philosophy and science of measurement in the context of quantum indeterminacy.

Looking forward, we anticipate pursuing several grantmaking initiatives aimed at furthering the above goals. In particular, we are currently pursuing three program innovations: piloting a graduate fellowship in “theory-experiment cross training” ([TEX Fellowships](#)), collaborating with three other foundations on a funding program in [small-scale experimental physics](#), and scouting international partners in the global South and East.



PROGRAMS IN LATIN AMERICA



Programs in Latin America Goals

WITH # OF GRANTS CONTRIBUTING TO GOALS

Build capacity among Latin American institutions to conduct interdisciplinary research on topics in Humility-in-Theology.



Support Latin American philosophers of religion in their research.



Counter the “warfare narrative” between science and religion.



Stimulate interest in new research in analytic philosophy of religion.



● Awarded ● Pipeline

Sir John showed clear interest in engaging religious traditions and groups worldwide in the process of discovering and appreciating new spiritual information that draws on the intellectual and cultural resources beyond the West.

Because Philosophy and Theology was understaffed in late 2019 and 2020, and because grantmaking in Latin America is quite labor-intensive, the number of grants made in this Priority has not met expectations; however, the grants that have been made are of high quality:

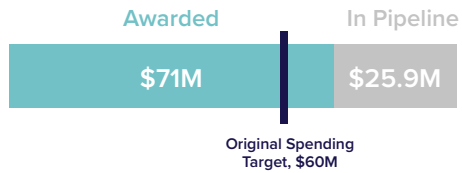
- We have made ten grants to support Latin American philosophers of religion in their research. For example, the funding competitions in grant [61613](#) (“The Global Philosophy of Religion Project”) may uncover scholars and scholar networks that are currently unknown to the Foundation and have the interest and capacity to work on topics of interest to the Templeton philanthropies. We are also considering a small grant project that would translate more recent work in Anglophone philosophy of religion into Spanish, as well as stimulate original research in philosophy of religion to be published in Spanish.
- We have made eight grants to build capacity among scholars in Latin America to conduct interdisciplinary research on HiT topics. The De Brigard project ([61923](#), “Forgetting and Forgiving: Exploring the Connections between Memory and Forgiveness”) will explore the relationship between memory and forgiveness both empirically and theoretically from the perspective of philosophers, psychologists, economists, and neuroscientists; the participation of scholars from Colombia is integral to this project.

- We have awarded six grants to stimulate interest in new research in analytic philosophy of religion and four grants to counter the “warfare narrative” between science and religion, with a special focus on the burgeoning population of evangelical Christians in Brazil.
- We awarded one grant (62693, “How emotions inform religion: integrating Christian theology and cognitive affective neuroscience”) to support psychological science cross-training for theologians (broadly construed) in Latin America.

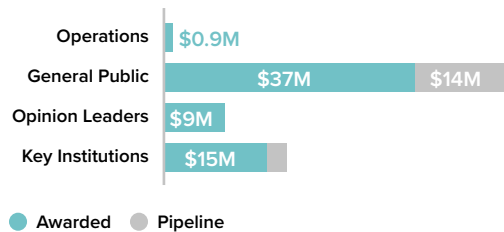
Looking ahead in the short term, we will focus on support for research as opposed to support for capacity-building. A ratio of ≈\$3 for research per \$1 for capacity-building seems appropriate. We also hope to support more research projects that exhibit some distinctively Latin American “twist” or emphasis, projects that take a specifically Latin American angle to some perennial Big Question, as opposed to projects that aim to export debates from Anglophone/Western European communities to Latin America. Finally, Latin America offers a unique context in which to support cross-cultural research on a variety of Templetonian subjects, so we hope to exploit some of our Latin American platforms for this purpose. Allied with this, we hope to continue forging cross-hemisphere collaborations. One potential theme here is cross-cultural research on character virtues, for which there seems to be some latent demand in our networks in Latin America.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



Modality



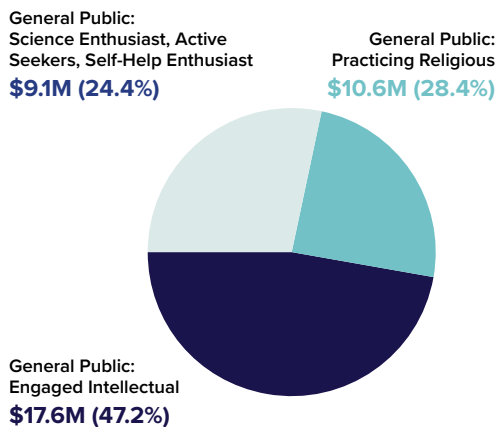
The Public Engagement department's objective is to increase mankind's comprehension of Humility-in-Theology and its benefits. Public Engagement has aspired to achieve this goal by focusing its grant-making activities on reaching Engaged Intellectuals and the Practicing Religious across faith traditions and prioritizing work in North America. A secondary goal for Public Engagement has been to reach opinion leaders by working directly with opinion leaders who reach Engaged Intellectuals and Practicing Religious. Finally, we have sought to encourage institutions that educate future opinion leaders to engage with Humility-in-Theology and the principles that undergird Sir John's philanthropic mission. We accomplish this through the use of the following three modalities:

We have made 47 grants to support the creation and distribution of mission-aligned content for the median member of two primary audiences (Practicing Religious and Engaged Intellectual) and three secondary audiences (Active Seeker, Science Enthusiast, and Self-Improvement Enthusiast). These projects intend to increase the public's comprehension of Humility-in-Theology and its benefits by supporting trusted voices, from religious leaders to seasoned science journalists. Such efforts include The World Science Festival's Big Idea Series (62375), Radiolab's Big Questions podcasts (62216), and our partnership with Word on Fire Catholic Ministries (61289).

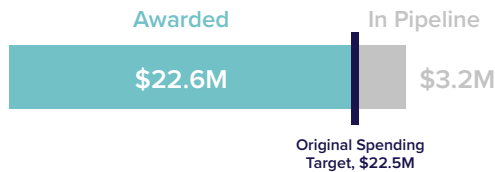
We have made seven grants to support efforts to help both intellectual and religious scholars become opinion leaders in their own right and to partner JTF-funded researchers with key influencers. Projects that aim to train intellectual and religious scholars include the Beyond the Ivory Tower Writer's Workshop (62203) which trains researchers to write for the public. Recently, we supported PRX in developing and launching four new podcasts from new voices (62248). This grant will offer participants training in how to create a podcast and produce the first two seasons of their show. We plan to emulate this strategy in our future funding in this area.

We have made 14 grants intended to influence the key institutions at which future generations of secular and religious opinion leaders are being trained. With respect to future religious leaders, we have targeted seminarians currently undergoing ministerial formation. With respect to future secular opinion leaders, we have focused on undergraduates at elite liberal arts colleges and research universities. A recent big bet in this space is our grant to expand Yale's successful Life Worth Living undergraduate course to 45 new campuses (62735, 61968). We have also funded efforts at individual seminaries like the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (61985).

General Public Audiences



RELIGIOUS COGNITION



Religious Cognition Goals

WITH # OF GRANTS CONTRIBUTING TO GOALS

Conceptual progress on the nature of religious cognition.



Measure development.



Main streaming within target subdisciplines (i.e., developmental and cognitive neuroscience).



Building capacity for scientific study of religion in R1 and international institutions.



● Awarded ● Pipeline

Sir John was enthusiastic about using the tools of scientific inquiry to increase understanding of the nature of religious belief and experience—not least in the hope that such increased understanding would lead people to bigger concepts of God. Our grantmaking in this Priority is particularly focused on discovery regarding the measurement and development of religious cognition and religious experiences, and in building capacity for the scientific study of religion within psychology departments at research-intensive universities.

We have so far made many of the grants that are described as next steps in this Priority’s strategic plan:

- Through an external consultancy to Jonathan Jong (Coventry University), we convened a series of virtual meetings with psychologists and philosophers to consider the nature of belief and belief-like states. This led to a productive interdisciplinary planning grant (Jong [62244](#), “What is Belief?”) that has confirmed that considerable foundational work is needed by philosophers and psychologists to investigate how to measure beliefs and belief change and how beliefs impact behavior. This need has been affirmed by practitioners in applied contexts (e.g., psychologists concerned with how to address rampant science denial in contemporary culture).
- We have launched a major competitive program to advance neuroscientific study of how people relate to God (Grafman & McNamara [62034](#), “[The Cognitive Neuroscience Of Religious Cognition](#)”).
- We have supported a suite of projects to advance our understanding of religious experience, including a planning grant to develop an expansion and modernization of the Alister Hardy Archive (Wildman [61303](#), “[Building The Alister Hardy Archive 2.0 : Planning Phase](#)”), an interdisciplinary initiative involving philosophers, psychologists, and anthropologists

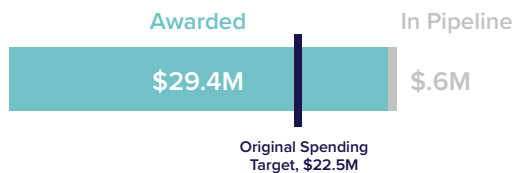
to provide conceptual and empirical advances into religious experience (Zimmerman & Luhrmann 62703, “Perceiving Divine Presences: Conceptual Foundations and Empirical Advances”), conceptual work to explore the potential of psychedelics to advance understandings of mystical experience (Lyon 62681, “Mystical Entropy: The development of a new theoretical framework for the scientific study of mystical experience”), and measurement development work in Brazil (Fischer 62651, “Non-ordinary experiences and mental health in Brazil: the role of appraisal processes”).

- We have implemented a global network of cross-cultural field sites suitable for studying the development of religious beliefs and behaviors (Richert & Corriveau 61542, “Developing Belief: The Development and Diversity of Religious Cognition and Behavior: Phase 1”);
- We have supported a mini-RFP on Priority topics in religious cognition in Brazil (Ladd 61302, “The Scientific Study of Religious Cognition in Brazil”).

Looking ahead, to free up additional payout for applied programs in the Health, Religion, & Spirituality Priority, the Human Sciences department will slow its consideration of new open submission and proactive projects in the Religious Cognition Priority. If funding is available, we will consider ongoing critical work necessary to measure religious belief (we liken this to 17th Century efforts to establish measures of temperature) and efforts necessary to build—and sustain—nascent enthusiasm among leading research institutions for the scientific study of religious beliefs and experiences.



SCIENCE OF PURPOSE



Science of Purpose Goals

WITH # OF GRANTS CONTRIBUTING TO GOALS

Catalyze the formation of new and sustainable interdisciplinary working groups on the science of purpose.

2

Create or discover empirically salient (and functionally distinct) concepts of Purpose in Nature.

14 3

Identify plausible hypotheses leading to the creation of viable Purpose in Nature initiatives.

8 1

Fund grants with the potential to yield new discoveries on key concepts of the science of purpose.

15 3

Create robust research communities interested in purpose.

1

● Awarded ● Pipeline

Both Sir John and several major religious traditions affirm that nature is purposeful in two senses: it has extrinsic purpose as a vehicle through which God’s aims for creation are realized, and it has intrinsic purpose because individual creatures have been given the power to follow specific developmental or behavioral goal-oriented trajectories to allow them to flourish.

The Life Sciences department’s emphasis for this Priority has been on academic capacity building, where our “build a community to reach a community” approach addresses three core challenges to the formation of a dynamic scholarly network: definitional clarity, scholarly capacity, and interdisciplinary coordination. We are focused on increasing the conceptual rigor surrounding three key concepts related to goal-directed phenomena (agency, function, and direction) through both theoretical and empirical research. In addition, we have expanded the conceptual space through programs including a novel prize program, an international RFI targeted to young scholars both in and out of academia, and a consultation with [Knowinnovation](#) in 2021 to create a “fail fast” Ideas Lab at the interface of artificial life, physics, and biological chemistry in 2022. This effort is supported via the proactive Stephen Freeland grant ([61925, “A Workshop To Integrate Three Disciplines Relevant To Goal Directedness In Abiogenesis”](#)), and we expect upwards of \$3-4 million in requested JTF funds from the Ideas lab participants.

In summary:

- We have made 14 grants to create or discover empirically salient concepts of purpose in nature. These efforts were developed internally via an Ideas Challenge prize as well as an international call for applications. We are more enthusiastic about the quality

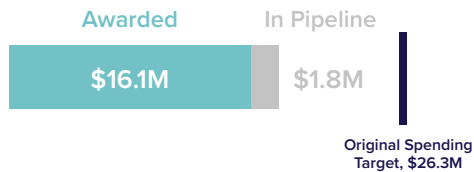
of these projects than those we’ve traditionally received through open submission. We remain hopeful that the cohort model will yield new insights that may enhance and transform the exploration of purpose in nature. All of these studies directly address the aforementioned goals of this Priority, and they synergize topically with our other major investments in this space (see below). Their collective impact should become apparent beginning in 2025, and we expect to evaluate our investments thereafter.

- We have made 15 grants that have potential to yield new discoveries on key concepts related to purpose and eight grants that will identify plausible new hypotheses leading to the creation of viable science-of-purpose initiatives.

Our signature grant in this Priority was to create a robust research community interested in purpose and catalyze the formation of new and sustainable interdisciplinary working groups on the science of purpose. The program being run by Alan Love ([62220, “Agency, Directionality, And Function: Foundations For A Science Of Purpose”](#)) is testing an incubator model which will coordinate more than 120 philosophers, theoreticians, and experimentalists working in the life sciences across the world. We also created a sociology-of-science research project run by Jim Griesemer and Elihu Gerson ([62385, “A Sociological Analysis of the Science of Purpose Project”](#)) that will use both qualitative and quantitative research methods to trace the evolution of ideas and collaborations in this interdisciplinary context, in which novel insights on scientific knowledge are expected to emerge.



SCIENCE OF VIRTUES



Science of Virtues Goals

WITH # OF GRANTS CONTRIBUTING TO GOALS

Establish a community of scholars with active research programs on the nature and development of curiosity.

2 1

Identify and support scholars in psychology, philosophy, and theology to further our conceptual understanding of unlimited love.

6 1

Incentivize cross-cultural and/or developmental research on gratitude.

2

Establish empirical research programs on topics at the interface of virtues and religion.

2

● Awarded ● Pipeline

Character virtues such as curiosity, gratitude, and love are central to Sir John’s vision, and, along with intellectual humility, provide critical pathways toward spiritual progress and human flourishing.

Though we will not meet the original spending target for this Priority, especially given recent budgetary changes, the three departments working in this Priority are on-track for the quality and quantity of grants necessary to achieve the Priority’s goals:

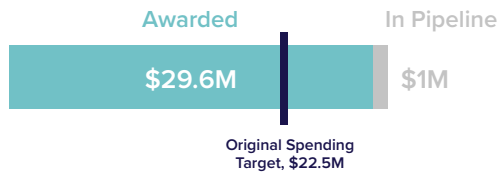
- We have made six grants to further our conceptual understanding of unlimited love, including complementary grants to Sara Algoe ([62199](#), “Validation and Unification of Love Measurement”) and Tyler VanderWeele ([62731](#), “The Construct and Assessment of Interpersonal Love”), which will develop scales and build multidisciplinary networks of collaborators to accelerate the scientific study of love.
- We have made two grants (Gopnik, [61475](#), “[The Development Of Curiosity In Childhood](#)” and Heiphetz, [61808](#), “[Children’s And Adults’ Responses To People Who Seek To Learn About Religion](#)”) to establish a community of scholars with active research programs on the nature and development of curiosity, and we have a third under review.

- We have supported two large grants on the cross-cultural study of gratitude, one among adults (McCullough et al., [62295](#), “[Uncovering The Cognitive And Cultural Foundations Of Gratitude](#)”) and another among children (Vaish & Kumar, 62641, “The Development of Gratitude Across Cultures”).
- We have made two major investments in RFP competitions aiming to establish research programs on topics at the intersection of virtues and religion: one supports psychological, philosophical, and theological study of [gratitude to God](#) (Hill & Emmons, [61513](#), “[Gratitude To God, Phase 2: Psychological, Philosophical, And Theological Investigations](#)”); the second will support how and when people experience forgiveness from God (Fincham, 61927, “Psychological Perspectives on Divine Forgiveness”).

Looking into the future, this Priority will focus on the topic of love, especially loving across divides. In 2023, we plan to host a meeting, tentatively titled “Love Across Divides.” We will also consider next steps for the Divine Love project, for which we already have a series of papers from a 2020 request for information.



SCIENCE-ENGAGED THEOLOGY



Science-Engaged Theology Goals

WITH # OF GRANTS CONTRIBUTING TO GOALS

Increase interest in science-engaged theological research within guild theology, especially when it comes to work in theological anthropology that engages with empirical psychology.



Increase interest in science-engaged theological research within philosophy of religion, especially (but not only) in theological anthropology that engages with empirical psychology and work on the existence, nature, and activity of God that engages with the biological and physical sciences.



Increase interest among scientists in conducting research in science-engaged theology or theology-engaged science.



● Awarded ● Pipeline

A chief aim of the John Templeton Foundation is to encourage theologians to engage more with the results and methods of empirical science; the hope is that this will help theologians enrich their conceptions of spiritual realities, and perhaps even reveal new information about such realities. The Science-Engaged Theology Priority area is where this aim is pursued.

The Philosophy & Theology (P&T) department is on-track for the quality and quantity of grants necessary to achieve the Priority's goals as currently framed. As of the end of 2021:

- We have made 18 grants to support increasing interest within theology narrowly construed (that is, theology as it's done in divinity and theology faculties) for science-engaged theological research. P&T's grantmaking efforts to reach guild theologians have far outpaced its efforts to reach philosophers of religion or scientists because theologians based in divinity and theology faculty seem, on average, to be less interested in science-engaged theology than philosophers of religion.
- We have made 15 grants to support increasing interest within philosophy of religion for science-engaged theological research. The main activity has been funding a series of small grants by promising early-career philosophers of religion who have significant interest in engaging empirical science.
- We have also made nine grants to support increasing interest among scientists in conducting research in science-engaged theology or theology-engaged science. One major investment was [61651 \("Supporting Structures: Innovative Partnerships To Enhance Bench Science At CCCU Member Institutions"\)](#) to PLs Stan Rosenberg and Peter Jordan, a project that aims to help CCCU schools train early-career science faculty on issues in science, religion, and society.

- The Psychological Science Cross-training for Christian Theologians RFP came to a successful conclusion in June 2022, when the Board approved 6 full proposals to support cross-training programs in Latin America, the UK, the US, and German-speaking Europe. The RFP's objective was to help theologians, philosophers of religion, and scholars in religious studies better position themselves to conduct research in conversation and collaboration with scientists on topics at the intersection of Christian theology (broadly construed) and the psychological sciences by way of soliciting proposals for science cross-training programs for theologians. These proposals stand a good chance of covering various regions, disciplinary backgrounds, and confessional traditions that make up theology.

Looking ahead, we are working with Planning and Evaluation to assess the impact of JTF's funding in SET on the practice of academic theology. We are exploring whether we should pursue cross-Abrahamic religion collaborations in SET and we are shifting our focus to research on the shape, strengths, and weaknesses of lived religion. The Spiritual Yearning Research Initiative exemplifies the latter kind of research and is an opportunity to reframe JTF's work in theology around topics that are particularly relevant in the 21st century.

