

THE HUMBLE APPROACH INITIATIVE

A symposium sponsored by the
John Templeton Foundation

Does Religion Contribute to Human Flourishing?

Harvard University • 29 and 30 November and 1 December 2018



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Contact: Mary Ann Meyers, Ph.D., *Senior Fellow*

“Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your

welfare.”

Jeremiah 29:4-7

Purpose

Does religion contribute to human flourishing? The premise underlying this symposium is that religion—in its various components—may have consequences for humanity at multiple levels of analysis, including the health or well-being of individuals, relationships within and among groups, the development and maintenance of social institutions (e.g., markets, educational systems, and social welfare programs), and cultural evolution (not least innovation of all kinds, scientific advance, and moral progress). But what is the quality of evidence for and against claims that religion is causally consequential—whether positively or negatively—at each of these levels? And if there are gaps in our knowledge, what kinds of theoretical and empirical research initiatives would have potential to provide definitive answers?

Other questions to be pondered include: Can we ever say that membership in faith communities is not only tethered to but also responsible for personal well-being? Has a decades-long attempt to use the tools of social science to investigate how individuals relate to God at various stages of their lives brought us any closer to understanding how religious belief and practice produce spiritual capital on which people can draw in times of exigency and crisis? Are there individual differences and environmental variables (whether related to neighborhoods or nation states) of which we need to take account? Do we have the right theoretical models and sufficient empirical work over long enough periods to examine causal influences? How can we distinguish between the proximal and the distal consequences of religion? Are there limits to the possibility of quantifying the consequences of religion? How do the methodological challenges vary in relation to the outcomes of interest to the researcher? What kinds of studies do we need to confidently assess the potential mechanisms for relationships between religion and flourishing in all—physical, psychological, spiritual, societal, and cultural—senses?

And what, if anything, do studies of religion and human flourishing risk from a theological perspective? All faith traditions claim for their systems of belief goals and intrinsic goods that can be incompatible with self-interest. Their definitions of health and wholeness may be broader than those of the secular world. Research that takes seriously uniquely religious aspects of human flourishing as desired outcomes may be needed as well as ever greater methodological rigor in future investigations of causal connections. A goal of this symposium is to consider how theological and philosophical perspectives might shape such future research as well as how such research might benefit

religious communities.

To discover possible answers, Harvard University's Program on Integrative Knowledge and Human Flourishing is collaborating with the John Templeton Foundation in bringing together researchers with expertise in psychology, sociology, anthropology, political science, economics, history, public health, evolutionary biology, and theology. The program was founded in 2016, three hundred eighty years after the establishment of Harvard College, America's oldest institution of higher learning, and is dedicated to the development and implementation of systematic approaches to the synthesis of knowledge across disciplines.



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“What the prophets call shalom . . . [is] the webbing together of God, humans, and all creation in justice, fulfillment, and delight. We call shalom ‘peace,’ but it means far more than peace of mind or ceasefire among enemies. In the Bible, ‘shalom’ means universal flourishing and delight, each created thing a wonder, each created person a source of joy.”

Cornelius Plantinga, Jr.
“Educating for Shalom”
Expositions 9.1 (2015)

Approach

The symposium is part of the John Templeton Foundation's *Humble Approach Initiative*. The goal of the initiative is to bring about the discovery of new spiritual information by furthering high-quality scientific research. The "humble approach" is inherently interdisciplinary, sensitive to nuance, and biased in favor of building linkages and connections. It assumes an openness to new ideas and a willingness to experiment. Placing high value upon patience and perseverance, it retains a sense of wondering expectation because it recognizes, in Loren Eiseley's haunting phrase, "a constant emergent novelty in nature that does not lie totally behind us, or we would not be where we are." A fundamental principle of the Foundation, in the words of its founder, is that "humility is a gateway to greater understanding and open[s] the doors to progress" in all endeavors. Sir John Templeton believed that in their quest to comprehend foundational realities, scientists, philosophers, and theologians have much to learn about and from one another. The humble approach is intended as a corrective to parochialism. It encourages discovery and seeks to accelerate its pace.



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“The righteous flourish like
the palm tree,
and grow like a cedar of
Lebanon.

They are planted in the
house of the Lord;
they will flourish in the
courts of our God.

They still bear fruit in old
age;
they are ever full of sap and
green,

to declare that the Lord is
upright;
he is my rock, and there is
no

unrighteousness in him.”

Psalm 92: 12-15

Chair

The John L. Loeb and Frances Lehman Loeb Professor of Epidemiology at the T. H. Chan School of Public Health at Harvard University, **Tyler J. VanderWeele** is the founding director of Harvard’s Program for Integrative Knowledge and Human Flourishing. His research concerns methodology for distinguishing between association and causation in observational studies and the use of statistical and counterfactual ideas to formulate and advance epidemiological theory and methods. His empirical work spans psychiatric, perinatal, and social epidemiology, the science of happiness and flourishing, and the study of religion and health, including both the effects of religious communities on population health and the role of religion and spirituality in end-of-life care. Dr. VanderWeele serves as co-director of Harvard’s Initiative on Religion and Spirituality and as a faculty affiliate of its Institute for Quantitative Social Science, as well as a member of the Dana Farber/Harvard Cancer Center. Educated at St. John’s College, Oxford, where he earned first-class honors in mathematics and also completed a baccalaureate degree in philosophy and theology, he received a master’s degree in finance and applied economics from the University of Pennsylvania, where he completed coursework and the qualifying examination for a doctorate in finance at Penn’s Wharton School, before moving on to Harvard where he was awarded a Ph.D. in biostatistics in 2006. Dr. VanderWeele began his teaching career as an assistant professor of biostatistics at the University of Chicago and returned to Harvard as an associate professor of epidemiology and biostatistics in 2009. He was promoted to full professor in 2013 and named to his present position last January. His contributions to the statistics profession were recognized with the 2017 COPSS Award given by the Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies. He is also the recipient of the 2017 John Snow Award of the American Public Health Association as well as its Mortimer Spiegelman Award, the Causality in Statistics Education Award given by the American Statistical Association (ASA), and Texas A&M University’s Raymond Carroll Young Investigator Award. He was elected a fellow of the ASA in 2014 and is a former member of the Board of Advisors of the John Templeton Foundation. The co-founder and editor-in-chief of *Epidemiological Methods*, Dr. VanderWeele also serves on the editorial boards of *Epidemiology* and *Sociological Methods and Research*. He is the author of more than 250 papers published in scientific journals and of *Explanation in Causal Inference: Methods for Mediation and Interaction*, which was published in 2015 by Oxford University Press. A new book (with Kenneth J.

Rothman, Sander Greenland, Timothy L. Lash, and Sonia Hernández-Dias), *Modern Epidemiology* (4th edition), will be published by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins next year. How philosophy and theology might inform empirical statistical research in the social and behavioral sciences and vice versa is a focus of his ongoing investigations.



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Harvey Whitehouse

Adam B. Cohen, a professor of psychology at Arizona State University

(ASU), fuses cultural, social, and personality psychology in work that looks at how religious differences function as cultural differences, affecting domains that include, among others, religious identity and motivation, well-being, and moral judgment. His research suggests that religion is profoundly influential in shaping self-construal and strongly affects inter-group relations. A *summa cum laude* graduate of Dickinson College where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Dr. Cohen studied biopsychology at Cornell University as a Sage Fellow and went on to earn a Ph.D. in psychology at the University of Pennsylvania. He was a postdoctoral fellow at Penn's Solomon Asch Center for the Study of Ethnopolitical Conflict and at the Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development and the Center for Theology, Spirituality, and Health at Duke University Medical Center. He worked as an assistant specialist at the Institute for Personality and Social Research at the University of California, Berkeley, and, in 2005, was appointed an assistant professor of psychology in the School of Science and Health at Philadelphia University. The next year Dr. Cohen joined the ASU faculty as an assistant professor and was promoted to his present position last year. He has been a visiting scholar at Northwestern University. A fellow of the Artis Institute, the Society of Personality and Social Psychology, and the Society of Experimental Psychology, he is the recipient of the Godin Prize given by the International Association for the Psychology of Religion, ASU's Gumby Award, and the Margaret Gorman Award of the American Psychological Association (APA). He is an associate editor of the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology: Personality Processes and Individual Differences* and serves on the editorial boards of *The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, and *Religion, Brain, and Behavior*. His research has been reported in some ninety papers published in scientific journals and volumes of collected works, and he is the editor of *Culture Reexamined: Broadening Our Understanding of Social and Evolutionary Influences*, which was published in 2014 by the APA. He is the author (with Carolyn M. Warner, Ramazan Kilinc, and Christopher W. Hale) of *Generating Generosity in Catholicism and Islam: Beliefs, Institutions, and Public Good Provision*, a new study, published earlier this year by Cambridge University Press, that uses an innovative methodological approach, combining field experiments, case studies, and statistical analyses, to explore how religious beliefs and institutions prompt Catholics and Muslims to be generous with their times and resources.

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A professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame where she serves as

the inaugural director of the Center for Theology, Science and Human Flourishing, **Celia Deane-Drummond** will move to Oxford University next year as senior research fellow and the inaugural director of *Laudato Si'* Institute at Campion Hall. Her research, writing, and teaching focus on constructive systematic theology informed by Roman Catholic contemporary and historical sources in its relationship with creation and the natural world as understood by the biological and human sciences. She has made distinguished contributions to the new discipline of ecotheology, reflecting her early interest in botany as well as her later concentration on Christian theological studies, and she also has written searchingly about the theological and ethical implications of new developments in genetics. Never far from the center of her concern are our responsibilities as human agents. Dr. Deane-Drummond did her first baccalaureate degree at Girton College, Cambridge, and took honors in natural sciences. She went on to earn a Ph.D. in plant physiology at Reading University in 1980 and to do post-doctoral research in botany, first at the University of British Columbia and then at Cambridge. Upon changing fields, she received a postgraduate diploma in Christian studies from Canada's Regent College in 1983, a baccalaureate degree with honors in theology from Trinity College, Bristol, in 1989, and a Ph.D. in theological studies from the University of Manchester in 1992. Dr. Deane-Drummond began her teaching career as a lecturer in botany at Durham University. She became involved with theological education through her curricular design work with the International Consultancy for Religion, Education and Culture from 1991 to 1994 at the same time she was also a visiting lecturer in theological studies at the University of Manchester. After obtaining a postgraduate certificate in education in religious studies and science from Metropolitan University in 1994, she joined the theology and religious studies faculty at the University of Chester where she was promoted to professor in 2000 and named the founding director of the Centre for Religion and the Biosciences two years later. She accepted her present position in 2011, and she currently serves as a fellow of Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, Eck Institute for Global Health, and John Reilly Center for Science, Technology, and Values. An elected honorary professor in theology and science at Durham since 2012, Dr. Deane-Drummond formerly chaired the European Forum for the Study of Religion and the Environment and is a founding fellow of the International Society for Science and Religion, where she presently serves as a trustee and on its executive committee, a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and Commerce, and an honorary fellow of the Gladstone Library. She also serves on the editorial boards of the Peter Lang book series *New International Studies in Applied Ethics* and the T&T Clark book series *Religion and the University*, as well as on the editorial boards of *Theology and Science*, *Zygon*, *Horizon*, and the *Journal of Roman Catholic Social Thought*. She is an editor of *Philosophy*, *Theology and the Sciences* and a consulting editor of the *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture*. As a consultant to the Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, as well as a long-standing member of the theological reference group of the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), she helped to shape Church policy on environmental issues. The author of more than two hundred papers published

in scientific and scholarly journals and in volumes of collected works, she is the editor or co-editor of eleven books, most recently: (with David Clough and Rebecca Artinian-Kaiser) *Animals as Religious Subjects: Transdisciplinary Perspectives* (2013), (with Ernst Conradie, Sigurd Bergmann, and Denis Edwards) *Christian Faith and the Earth: Current Paths and Emerging Horizons* (2014), (with Sigurd Bergmann and Bronislaw Szerszynski) *Technofutures, Nature, and the Sacred: Transdisciplinary Perspectives* (2016), and two volumes published in 2017: (with Agustin Fuentes) *The Evolution of Human Wisdom*, which was published by Lexington Press, and (with Sigurd Bergmann and Markus Vogt) *Religion in the Anthropocene*, which was published by Wipf and Stock. Dr. Deane-Drummond is also the author or co-author of seven other monographs, including *Creation through Wisdom* (2000), *Genetics and Christian Ethics* (2006), *Christ and Evolution: Wonder and Wisdom* (2009), and a work on theological anthropology in the light of science, *The Wisdom of the Liminal: Evolution and Other Animals in Human Becoming*, which was published by Wm. B. Eerdmans in 2014. She is writing a three-volume series of books on *The Evolution of Wisdom* for Oxford University Press (OUP) of which the first volume, *Theological Ethics through a Multi-Species Lens*, will be published in 2019. A new edited work, (with Rebecca Artinian-Kaiser) *On Care for Our Common Home: Theology and Ecology Across the Disciplines*, will be published by Bloomsbury later this year and another (with Agustin Fuentes), *Humility, Wisdom and Grace*, has been accepted for publication by OUP next year. In addition, she has written ten books for general audiences.

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Christopher G. Ellison is the Dean's Distinguished Professor of Social

Science and a professor of sociology at The University of Texas at San Antonio. His research and writing has focused on the role of religious involvement in mental and physical health and well-being, religion and family life, and the role of religion in the lives of African Americans and Latino Americans. A graduate of Duke University, where he received a baccalaureate degree *magna cum laude* and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, he went on to earn a Ph.D. in sociology at Duke in 1991. He then joined the sociology faculty of The University of Texas at Austin as an assistant professor and was promoted to full professor in 2001 when he also was named the Elsie and Stanley E. Adams Sr. Centennial Professor of Liberal Arts. Dr. Ellison accepted his present position in 2010. He has been a visiting research scientist at Baylor University, where he is currently a Distinguished Senior Fellow at Baylor's Institute for Studies of Religion, and he is also a non-resident fellow at the Center for Theology, Spirituality, and Health at Duke University Medical Center. The former chair of the Sociology of Religion Section of the American Sociological Association, he is a past president of the Southern Sociological Society and the Association for the Sociology of Religion. Dr. Ellison was recognized in 2004 as a highly cited author in the social sciences by the Institute for Scientific Information. He serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Social Science Research*, *Society and Mental Health*, *The American Sociologist*, and *Sociological Inquiry*. The author of more than 200 papers published in academic journals and as chapters in volumes of collected works, he is the co-editor of the Springer book series *Religion, Spirituality, and Health: Social Science Perspectives* and editor (with W. Allen Martin) of *Race and Ethnic Relations in the United States: Readings for the 21st Century* (1999) and (with Robert A. Hummer) of *Religion, Families, and Health: Population-based Research in the United States*, which was published in 2010 by Rutgers University Press.

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Professor of economics and founding director of the Institute for the Study of

Religion, Economics and Society (IRES) at Chapman University, **Laurence R. Iannaccone** has been a pioneer in the economics of religion. His publications apply economic and sociological insights to the study of church attendance, religious giving, conversion, extremism, fertility, belief formation, denominational success, international trends, and other aspects of religion and spirituality. Working with many co-authors, he has also explored the social and economic functions of beliefs, identity, and culture. His current research includes experiment-based studies of superstitious behavior and a survey-based estimate of global religious trends. A graduate of Stanford University, Dr. Iannaccone went on to the University of Chicago, where he earned a master's degree in mathematics followed by a Ph.D. in economics in 1984. He then joined the faculty of Santa Clara University as an assistant professor of economics and was promoted to full professor in 1996. He was named Koch Professor of Economics at George Mason University in 2002, and during his tenure there, he established a Center for the Economic Study of Religion and founded the Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture (ASREC). He accepted his present position in 2009. Dr. Iannaccone has been a National Fellow and visiting scholar at Stanford's Hoover Institution, as well as a visiting scholar at Harvard University and Baylor University. He currently serves as president of the ASREC and co-director of the IRES. The recipient of numerous teaching awards, he is the author of more than sixty papers published in academic journals or as chapters in volumes of collected works. He is completing two books on the economics of religion.

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Sriya Iyer is the Janeway Fellow in Economics at Cambridge University

where she is also an affiliated lecturer in the Faculty of Economics, a Bibby Fellow and college lecturer at St. Catharine's College, and an affiliated senior research fellow at the Cambridge-INET Institute, a partnership between economists at Cambridge and the New York-based Institute for New Economic Thinking. Her scholarly interests include development economics, economics of religion, economic demography, and education. Studies she has conducted look at the role of religion compared with other socioeconomic factors in fertility rates and two of its determinants, the age at marriage and contraceptives choices, among Hindu and Muslim women in South India. She also has applied theories from management, marketing, and the media to examine the behavior and operations of religious organizations. She argues that among the benefits of an economic approach to religion are ideas about maximization and preferences as well as notions of equilibrium that it brings to the table. Educated at St. Stephen's College in Delhi where she took first-class honors, Dr. Iyer earned a second baccalaureate degree with first-class honors in economics at Newnham College, Cambridge, and went to receive a Ph.D. in economics from Cambridge in 2000 when she was appointed to her present positions at St. Catharine's College. She subsequently held a postdoctoral fellowship awarded by the British Academy and was a visiting scholar in economics at Harvard University and a visiting scholar at the National Bureau of Economic Research. She also has been a visiting faculty member at The University of Texas at Austin. Appointed the Isaac Newton Trust Affiliated Lecturer at Cambridge in 2007, she was named the Janeway Fellow last year. Recipient of Cambridge's Pilkington Prize for Excellence in University Teaching in 2014, Dr. Iyer serves on the board of directors of the Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture and holds honorary appointments as a research fellow at the Institute for Labor Economics, as a faculty research fellow at Cambridge's Center for Research in Microeconomics, and as a distinguished scholar at the U.S. India Policy Institute. In addition to papers published in scholarly journals, she is the author of two books that use the tools of economics to offer insights into one of the most religiously diverse countries in the world: *Demography and Religion in India* (2002) and *The Economics of Religion in India*, which was published this year by Harvard University Press and explores how growth, inequality, education, technology, and social trends both affect and are affected by religious groups—and illustrates the power of economics to illuminate some of the deepest beliefs and dynamics of diverse societies. She edited, with Jean-Paul Carvalho and Jared Rubin, *Advances in the Economics of Religion*, which was published this year in the International Economics Association series by Palgrave-Macmillan.

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Distinguished Professor of the Social Sciences and professor of sociology at

Baylor University, **Byron R. Johnson** is the founding director of Baylor's Institute for Studies of Religion. He is a leading authority on the scientific study of religion, the efficacy of faith-based organizations, domestic violence, and criminal justice. Recent publications have examined the role of faith and service in helping addicts remain sober as well as evaluating the impact of faith-based programs on the rehabilitation of juveniles accused of committing public offenses, recidivism reduction, and the reentry of offenders into society. In addition to his academic and administrative roles at Baylor, Dr. Johnson serves as a senior advisor to the Religious Freedom Research Project at the Berkeley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs at Georgetown University and is also a non-resident faculty scholar at the Center for Theology, Spirituality, and Health at Duke University Medical Center, a senior research fellow in the Religion and Civil Society Program at the Witherspoon Institute in Princeton, New Jersey, a senior fellow at the Sagamore Institute for Policy Research in Indianapolis, Indiana, a senior fellow at the Austin Institute for the Study of Family and Culture in Austin, Texas, and chief advisor to the Center for the Study of Chinese Religion and Society at Peking University. A graduate of Minot State University in North Dakota, he holds two master's degree—in sociology from Middle Tennessee University and in criminology from the University of Tennessee—and earned a Ph.D. in criminology at Florida State University in 1984. He became an assistant professor of criminal justice at Dayton University, then an assistant professor in criminology at the University of Memphis. He moved on to Morehead State University in 1991 as an associate professor of sociology and director of its Institute for Correctional Research and Training and was promoted to full professor in 1994. The next year he accepted appointment as a professor of sociology at Lamar University and director of its Center for Justice Research and Education. Dr. Johnson was named a senior fellow and director of the Center for Crime and Justice Policy at Vanderbilt University in 1998 and became a senior scholar at the Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies in 2000. He moved to the University of Pennsylvania that same year as a Distinguished Fellow in the Robert A. Fox Leadership Program and an adjunct professor of sociology, becoming director of Penn's Center for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Policy in 2001. Dr. Johnson accepted his present academic and administrative appointments at Baylor in 2004 and was named a distinguished professor five years later. He has been a faculty advisor to the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C. for the past six years and is a former member of the board of advisors of the John Templeton Foundation. Dr. Johnson serves on the editorial boards of *Public Discourse: Ethics, Law, and the Common Good*, the *Journal of Family and Community Ministries*, and the *International Journal of Criminology and Sociology*. In addition to some 140 papers published in academic journals or in volumes of collected works, he is the co-editor of two books and the author of three others: *More God, Less Crime: Why Religion Matters and How It Could Matter More* (2011), (with Michael Hallett, Joshua Hays, Sung Joon Jang, and Grant Duwe) *The Angola Prison Seminary: Effects of Faith-Based Ministry on Health Transformation, Desistance, and Rehabilitation* (2016), and, most recently, (with Perry Glanzer and Jonathan Hill) *The Quest for Purpose: The Collegiate Search for a Meaningful Life*, a study

published by SUNY Press in 2017 that identifies important social, educational, and cultural influences that shape students' journeys and the answers they find along the way.



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Dominic D. P. Johnson is the Alastair Buchan Professor and chair of

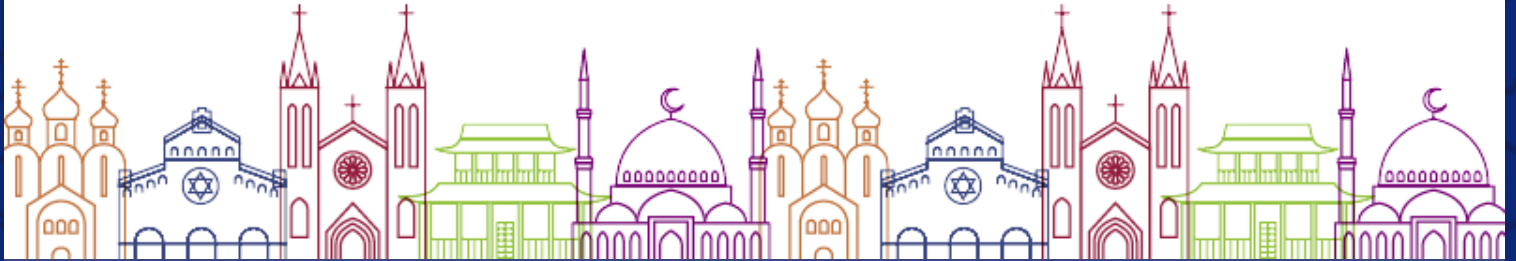
International Relations at Oxford University. His work draws on insights from the life sciences to advance understanding of how evolution, biology, and human nature are challenging theories of international relations. Dr. Johnson's current research is focused on the role of cognitive psychology, evolutionary dynamics, and religion in human conflict and cooperation. A first-class honors graduate of the University of Derby, he earned a master's degree with distinction in biosciences and, in 2001, a D.Phil. in evolutionary biology at Oxford University before going on to study political science at the University of Geneva, where he received a Ph.D. in 2004 and was awarded a prize for the best doctoral dissertation that year by the Swiss Political Science Association. While completing his second doctorate, he was a National Security Fellow at the Olin Institute for Strategic Studies at Harvard University and a science fellow at the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University. He was subsequently a visiting fellow at the International Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles, a Cotsen-Wilson Fellow at Princeton University, and a Branco Weiss Fellow at ETH Zurich. Dr. Johnson was appointed a lecturer in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton in 2004 and a lecturer in politics and international relations at the University of Edinburgh in 2007. He was promoted to reader in 2009 and, in 2011, received the Chancellor's Rising Star Award. In 2012, he was named professor of international relations at Oxford, where he also serves as co-director of the Oxford Martin School's Natural Governance Program, which utilizes evolutionary insights in seeking to nurture cooperation in the protection of Earth's resources among individuals and nations. In 2012-13, he served as a co-leader, with Celia Deane-Drummond, of a John Templeton Foundation-funded residential research team of twelve scholars working on a year-long "religion and human nature" theme at the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton. The author of numerous papers published in academic journals and as chapters in volumes of collected works, he is also the author of four books: *Overconfidence and War: The Havoc and Glory of Positive Illusions* (2004), which was named a New Jersey Council for the Humanities Honor Book; (with Dominic R. Tierney) *Failing to Win: Perspectives of Victory and Defeat in International Politics* (2006), which was named the Best Book in International Relations by the International Studies Association; *God's Watching You: How the Fear of God Makes Us Human*, an examination of the role of religion in the evolution of cooperation that considers how cross-culturally ubiquitous and ancient beliefs in supernatural punishment have helped to overcome major challenges in human society, which was published by Oxford University Press in 2015; and *Strategic Instincts: The Adaptive Advantages of Psychological Biases in International Relations*, which is forthcoming from Princeton University Press.

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Harvey Whitehouse

A professor of psychology at Hope College where he has taught for half a

century, David G. Myers is the author of a best-selling introductory psychology text, recently published in its 12th edition, that appears in various adaptations and languages. Dr. Myers graduated from Whitworth College and earned a Ph.D. in psychology at the University of Iowa in 1967, the year he joined the Hope faculty. Named a full professor in 1975, he held the John Dirk Werkman Professorship from 1983 to 2007. Dr. Myers has been a visiting scholar at the University of Mannheim and at the University of St. Andrews. He is a fellow of the American Psychological Association (APA), the Association for Psychological Science, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Winner of the APA's Gordon Allport Intergroup Relations Prize and a service award from the Society of Personality and Social Psychology, he has received honorary degrees from Northwestern College, Whitworth College, and Central College and is an honorary trustee of the American Psychological Foundation. Dr. Myers is also the recipient of numerous teaching, public service, and hearing advocacy awards. He is a trustee and a former member of the board of advisors of the John Templeton Foundation and a trustee of the Templeton World Charity Foundation. His social psychological scholarship, which was supported by National Science Foundation fellowships and grants, has appeared in three dozen academic periodicals. He has digested psychological research for the public through articles in many magazines, from *Scientific American* to *The Christian Century*, and through seventeen books, including general interest books on happiness, intuition, hearing loss, and sexual orientation. The most recent among his books that relate psychological science and faith is *A Friendly Letter to Skeptics and Atheists: Musings on Why God is Good and Faith Isn't Evil*, which was published by Wiley in 2006 and aims to help both secular and religious readers appreciate their common ground based on a commitment to reason, evidence, and critical thinking.

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Jonathan Rowson, a chess Grandmaster from Scotland, is the co-founder

and the director of Perspectiva, a new research institute seeking to highlight the importance of the connections between systems, souls, and society in a range of complex problems. He was formerly the director of the Royal Society of the Arts' Social Brain Center, where, over the course of six years, he published a range of influential reports on behavior change, climate change, and spirituality. Educated at the Aberdeen Grammar School, Dr. Rowson traveled widely as a chess professional for a year before going to Keble College, Oxford, and earning a first-class degree in politics, philosophy, and economics. He spent three more years as a chess professional before going on to Harvard University's Graduate School of Education as a master's student studying mind, brain, and education. He returned to the United Kingdom to complete a Ph.D. in the social sciences at Bristol University in 2008, with a thesis on the concept of wisdom. While working on his doctorate, he won the British Chess Championship in three consecutive years (2004-6). He is currently in the middle of an Open Society Fellowship, for which he is contextualizing the perceived crisis in human rights violations within the broader and deeper 'meta-crisis' of liberal democracy, as, in his view, the broadly liberal, rational, and materialist perspectives from which we construct our idea of crisis often confound our capacity to address spiritual root causes that exist within, between, and beyond those perspectives. He is also a research fellow at the Centre for the Understanding of Sustainable Prosperity at the University of Surrey, where he supports their meanings and moral framings strand of inquiry. The author of three books on chess, his most recent book, *Spiritualise: Cultivating Spiritual Sensibility to Address 21st Century Challenges*, was published by RSA/Perspectiva in 2016. Dr. Rowson's has two books forthcoming in 2019: *The Seven Dimensions of Climate Change: Rethinking the World's Toughest Problem* (Palgrave Macmillan) and *The Moves that Matter: A Chess Grandmaster on the Game of Life* (Bloomsbury).

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The Canada 150 Research Chair in Moral Psychology at the University of

British Columbia (UBC), **Azim F. Shariff** is also an associate professor of psychology and the director of the Center for Applied Moral Psychology (CAMP) at UBC. His work focuses on the intersection of morality with religion, cultural attitudes, and economics. He is interested in how people's feelings about right and wrong shape and are shaped by social institutions and group behaviors. A major goal of his research is to advance a scientific approach grounded in empirical data to address longstanding questions about religion's impact on moral behavior. Another rapidly expanding part of his work looks at human technology interactions and the ethics of automation, including self-driving cars. A graduate of the University of Toronto where he earned an honors baccalaureate degree with distinction, Dr. Shariff held a Michael Smith Memorial Fellowship at UBC while completing a Ph.D. in psychology, which he was awarded in 2010 and won awards from UBC and the Canadian Psychological Association for his dissertation. He then moved to the University of Oregon as an assistant professor of psychology. He joined the faculty of the University of California, Irvine, as an assistant professor of psychology and social behavior in 2016 and there directed the CAMP, which he took with him on his return to UBC. He was promoted to associate professor at UC, Irvine, in 2017 and accepted his present position in July. He is presently co-teaching a MOOC (Massively Open Online Course) on The Science of Religion through edX. A fellow of the Society for Experimental Social Psychology, he was named a Rising Star by the Association for Psychological Sciences. Dr. Shariff is also the recipient of a Margaret Gorman Early Career Award given by Division 36 (Psychology of Religion and Spirituality) of the American Psychological Association. He has published more than forty papers in scientific journals and writes about his work for *The New York Times* and *Scientific American* as well as appearing frequently on National Public Radio science programs.

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Ann Taves, Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies at the University of

California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), is a prize-winning author who writes about religious experience and revelatory events. Over time her research has shifted from exploring historical questions about religion to using historical and ethnographic sources to determine how people make sense of ambiguous events and experiences that reside in an indeterminate space between imagination and reality. Her focus has been increasingly on the processes whereby individuals and members of groups come to perceive some things as extra-ordinary (or not), judge such perceptions, and use them in the construction of alternate realities through texts, networks, movements, and organizations. Working comparatively, she addresses questions in the study of religion using the perspectives of the humanities and the social and natural sciences. A graduate with distinction in religion of Pomona College, Dr. Taves earned a Ph.D. with distinction at The Divinity School of the University of Chicago in 1983. She then began her teaching career as an instructor in American religious history at the Claremont School of Theology, where she became an assistant professor and was promoted to associate professor in 1986, and, in 1993, to professor of the history of Christianity and American religion as well as to professor of religion at the Claremont Graduate University. She served as acting dean of the Claremont School of Theology in 1996 before moving on to UCSB in 2005 as the Virgil Cordano, OFM, Professor of Catholic Studies and professor of religious studies. She was named to her current position in 2017. Dr. Taves has been a visiting professor in the Department of Religion and a research scholar at the Center for the Study of American Religion at Princeton University as well as a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study of the Behavioral Sciences in Palo Alto, California. She is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship. Currently president of the International Association for Cognitive Science and Religion, she is a former president of the American Academy of Religion and of the California American Studies Association and has served as a vice president of the American Catholic Historical Association and on the executive committees of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and the North American Society for the Study of Religion. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and was named the 2012 Alumna of the Year by The Divinity School of the University of Chicago. In addition to some fifty papers published in academic journals, she is the editor of two books, *Religion and Domestic Violence in Early New England* (1989) and (with Courtney Bender) *What Matters? Ethnographies of Value in the Not So Secular Age* (2012) and the author of four other books: *The Household of Faith: Roman Catholic Devotions in Mid-Nineteenth Century America* (1985); *Fits, Trances and Visions: Experiencing Religion and Explaining Experience from Wesley to James* (1999), which won the Association of American Publishers Award for the Best Professional/Scholarly Book in Philosophy and Religion and was named an Outstanding Academic Book by Choice; *Religious Experience Reconsidered: A Building Block Approach to the Study of Religion and Other Special Things* (2009); and, most recently, *Revelatory Events: Three Case Studies of the Emergence of New Spiritual Paths*, an interdisciplinary examination of claims that otherworldly powers are active in human affairs, which was published in 2016 by Princeton University Press.

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Henry B. Wright Professor of Systematic Theology at the Yale Divinity

School, **Miroslav Volf** is the founding director of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture (YCFC), a collection of people and programs dedicated to examining and promoting practices of faith that advance human flourishing and the global common good. Dr. Volf is celebrated for bringing Christian theology to bear on various realms of public life, including economics and politics, and for exploring and promoting dialogue between different groups whether denominations, faith traditions, or ethnic communities. The relationship between Christianity and Islam has been a particularly important focus. Born in Croatia, when it was part of communist Yugoslavia, and growing up in a small Pentecostal community in Serbia, Dr. Volf was the only openly Christian student in his high school. He went on to study philosophy and Greek at the University of Zagreb and theology at Zagreb's Evangelical-Theological Seminary where he received a baccalaureate degree *summa cum laude*. He took an M.A. at Fuller Theological Seminary and, studying with Jürgen Moltmann, received both his Ph.D. in theology and his post-doctoral habilitation with highest honors from the University of Tübingen in 1986 and 1994, respectively. After beginning his teaching career as a lecturer in systematic theology at the Evangelical-Theological Seminary in Croatia, he served as co-editor and then editor of *Izvor*, a Croatian Christian magazine. He was appointed professor of systematic theology at the Evangelical-Theological Seminary in 1984, a post he held until moving to Fuller as an associate professor of systematic theology seven years later. He was promoted to full professor in 1997, and in 1998, he was named to the Wright chair at Yale Divinity School. He founded the YCFC in 2003. A former fellow at the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton, Dr. Volf has held a Pew Evangelical Research Fellowship and a grant from the Lilly program for Sustaining Pastoral Excellence. He is an ongoing participant in the Building Bridges Seminar, a gathering of Christian and Muslim scholars who come together for study at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs at Georgetown University. He holds honorary degrees from the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Croatia and Regis College in Toronto. In addition to some one hundred papers published in academic journals or in volumes of collected works, he is the editor of eight books and the author of fourteen others. Among the most influential are: *Exclusion and Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness and Reconciliation* (1996), winner of the 1996 *Christianity Today* book award and the 2002 Grawemeyer Award for Religion; *Free of Charge: Giving and Forgiving in a Culture Stripped of Grace* (2005), which was chosen as the Archbishop of Canterbury's 2006 Lent Book; *The End of Memory: Remembering Rightly in a Violent World* (2006), winner of a 2007 *Christianity Today* book award; *Allab: A Christian Response* (2011); *A Public Faith: How Followers of Christ Should Serve the Common Good* (2011); and, most recently, *Flourishing: Why We Need Religion in a Globalized World*, an analysis of how we can have peaceful religious pluralism together with healthy globalization, which was published by Yale University Press in 2016. His current project, supported by the John Templeton Foundation, is a study of "Joy and the Good Life."



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Harvey Whitehouse is a statutory chair of social anthropology and the

director of the Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology at Oxford University, where he is also a professorial fellow of Magdalen College. His research focuses on the evolution of social complexity. One of the founders of the interdisciplinary cognitive science of religion field, he is widely known for his theory of “modes of religiosity” that seeks to explain how the frequency and emotional intensity of collective rituals influence the scale and structure of religious organizations. In recent years, his work has expanded beyond religion to examine the role of rituals of all kinds in binding groups together and motivating inter-group competition, including warfare. He is a founding fellow of Oxford’s Center for the Resolution of Intractable Conflict at Harris Manchester College and a founding editor of Seshat: Global History Databank, which systematically collects what is currently known about the social and political organization of human societies and the evolution of civilizations. A graduate of the London School of Economics where he received a bachelor’s degree with first-class honors, Dr. Whitehouse spent a year at the University of Rochester as a Lewis Henry Morgan Fellow and went on to earn a Ph.D. in social anthropology at Cambridge University in 1990. For the next three years, he was a research fellow and director of studies in archaeology and anthropology at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, before moving to Queen’s University Belfast (QUB) as a lecturer in anthropology. Promoted to full professor in 2001, he founded and directed the Institute of Cognition and Culture at QUB and served as director of postgraduate studies in its Faculty of Humanities. Dr. Whitehouse was elected to his present chair at Oxford in 2006. He has headed the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology and the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography at Oxford, and he continues to serve as founding director of its Centre for Anthropology and Mind and as a co-director of the Oxford Martin School’s Natural Governance Program, which utilizes evolutionary insights in seeking to nurture cooperation for the common good among individuals and nations. A current member of the governing board of Magdalen College and of the scientific advisory board of the Evolution Institute, a U.S.-based think tank that formulates public policy from an evolutionary perspective, he holds an honorary professorship at QUB and is an affiliated researcher in the behavioral science department at the Center for Experimental Research in the Social Sciences at Hokkaido University in Japan. He serves on the advisory boards of *Emotions: History, Culture, and Society* and of the *Journal of Cognition and Culture*. The author of some 120 papers published in scientific journals or in volumes of collected works, Dr. Whitehouse is the editor of eight books and the author of a trilogy outlining his theory of modes of religiosity: *Inside the Cult: Religious Innovation and Transmission in Papua New Guinea* (1995), *Arguments and Icons: Divergent Modes of Religiosity* (2000), and *Modes of Religiosity: A Cognitive Theory of Religious Transmission* (2004). His most recent book, *Ritual, Community and Conflict*, under contract with Oxford University Press, will be submitted later this year.