

# **God's Order, Man's Order and the Order of Nature Templeton Project First Quarterly Report**

**July 2009 – 9 October 2009**

**(This report includes first week in October, when academic activity began)**

## **1. Research Leadership**

Dr Eleonora Montuschi, Senior Research Fellow, began her role as Academic Co-ordinator for the project in July 2009.

## **2. Administration**

The Project Manager (Administration) has been recruited and Rebecca Robinson was in post by 14 September 2009. She has created distribution lists and established liaison with the LSE Research and Development Office and appropriate personnel at UCSD. The website for the project will be constructed during the second quarter.

## **3. London School of Economics (LSE)**

### **3.1 Discussion Groups and Meetings**

The project held two meetings during its inaugural term-time month of October.

#### **5 October 2009**

Professor Nancy Cartwright held a meeting on 5 October 2009 for the Oxford contingent of the project. Plans were laid out for discussion meetings throughout the year, aiming for roughly one meeting a month. Overall strategy was discussed as well as topics for a Spring workshop in Britain. 'Free Will' was the front runner, with Robert Bishop and John Dupre among invitees. Suggestions were solicited for additional members of the project discussion group and two very good candidates were proposed. There was also a preliminary discussion about chance, probabilistic law and mere happenstance.

Following the suggestions at this meeting, it was decided to invite Professor Andrew Pinsent, Research Director of the Ian Ramsey Centre for Religion and Science at Oxford University and Dr Shaun Henson, of St Hugh's College, Oxford University, who has completed doctoral studies on the laws of nature and theology, to contribute to the project.

#### **7 October 2009**

Dr Montuschi organised a meeting for LSE participants during which arrangements for future meetings were discussed (18 November, LSE and early December and January 2010, Oxford). The meeting on 18 November will focus on 'Free Will', the December meeting, on Nancy Cartwright's book, The Dappled World and the January meeting, Michael Redhead's new book manuscript, God, Belief and Explanation.

Peter Harrison's paper on the laws of nature and their theological origin: 'The Development of the Concept of Laws of Nature' for the 'Order' project discussion group. (from Fraser Watts (ed.), *Creation: Law and Probability* (Ashgate, 2008) was discussed as the start of the academic research on the project for the LSE group.

A decision was made to invite Dr Towfic Shomar, a philosopher of physics and Research Associate at Centre for Philosophy of Natural and Social Sciences (CPNSS), to contribute to the project.

The advertisement for next year's research fellow is scheduled for November in order to secure a competitive and appealing post.

#### **4. University of California, in San Diego (UCSD)**

In the run-up to the start of the project, Eric Watkins, leader of the Project at UCSD, submitted a proposal to UCSD's Center for the Humanities for five one-course buyouts (at 7K\$ each) over the four-year life of the project, for five different faculty members to contribute to the Templeton Project. They also requested a one quarter RA support for a graduate student for the first year (also 7K\$) so that they could fully support two graduate students, instead of just one. The request thus amounted to 42K\$, spread out over four years. Unfortunately, the request was denied.

##### **4.1 Discussion Groups and Meetings**

Professor Watkins contacted Craig Callender, leader of the Philosophy of Science Reading Group, to see if that group would be interested in pursuing Project-related articles and books. This group meets twice monthly and topics are decided on by votes, so the logistics suggest that it will be involved in the Project on an ad hoc basis. Callender will, however be participating in a separate group organized at UCSD expressly for the contemporary side of the Project.

Clinton Tolley, who runs the History of Philosophy Roundtable, has agreed that that group, which normally meets every other week, will also meet in off weeks to discuss Project-related literature.

PhD candidate, Eric Martin, will also be doing some work with Eric Watkins.