

**God's Order, Man's Order and the Order of Nature**  
**Fourth Quarterly Report**  
**1 April – 30 June 2010**

## **1. Administration**

Administration this quarter was focused on the planning and management of 'Where Free Will and Nature Meet', as detailed below, supporting the ongoing development of the project, assisting the Research Co-ordinator, in planning the forthcoming workshop at LSE: Views of Reduction, 20 July 2010 and co-ordinating the project's publications lists.

### **1.1 Research Co-ordinator**

The research co-ordinator, in consultation with LSE project director, has contributed to the organization of the Oxford Free Will conference, has planned the LSE reduction workshop, and has been shaping up, by making preliminary arrangements and invitations, the LSE workshop on the governance of nature (forthcoming October 2010).

As to her contribution to research, she has been working on two papers; one on the concept of noise in relation to order, the other on Francis Bacon's view of dominion over nature. Both papers will be pre-published in the discussion paper series, and the latter presented at the October LSE workshop.

### **1.2 Discussion Papers and Publications**

The discussion paper series will appear under the heading 'Order: God's, Man's and Nature's'. Several papers are now available to view on the website and papers will be added as they enter the series. (See Appendix 1)

Tim Mawson's book Free Will will be published by Continuum in 2010.

Editorial work has also begun on Michael Redhead's book, God, Belief and Explanation, which will be published by CPNSS in 2010.

### **1.3 Publications Repository**

A long-term initiative has been launched by the research co-ordinator, in consultation with LSE director, that will build a data base for recent/latest thinking on topics including laws, types of order, mechanisms, natural theology, powers, reduction, emergence, unity, and relation of moral to social and natural order. This is intended to become a useful consultation tool for the larger academic community and beyond. There is currently much work on these topics, from philosophy of physics to various branches of science and theology studies but it is scattered in a variety of places. By collecting as much of this work as possible, from simple references to abstracts to actual papers articles etc., the project will improve access to the broad range of work in these fields and stimulate more vigorous discussion. Individuals whose work is relevant are in the process of receiving a personal invitation to add their work to the archive.

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

### **2.1 Where Free Will and Nature Meet – 19 May 2010**

The first one-day conference hosted by the project was held at St Peter's College, Oxford. (See Appendix 2, final programme for the day). Eric Watkins was in attendance, in addition to academics from other institutions, which has widened the intellectual and communications network of the Order Project

Robert Kane unfortunately was unable to attend due to ill health (though his planned contribution to the conference will be made available as a publication in the discussion paper series), but feedback from participants was positive.

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

### **3.1 Conference 2011**

Plans for the Conference at UCSD in 2011 (March 4-6), 'Historical Perspectives on God's Order, Man's Order and the Order of Nature (working title) are well under way, with Eric Watkins having already confirmed the following speakers:

Marilyn Adams (University of North Carolina), Robert M. Adams (University of North Carolina), Karl Ameriks (University of Notre Dame), Andrew Chignell (Cornell University), Dan Garber (Princeton), Desmond Hogan (Princeton), Steve Nadler (University of Wisconsin), Donald Rutherford (UCSD), Eric Watkins (UCSD).

### **3.2 Order Project Discussion Group**

- Don Rutherford's "Malebranches' Theodicy"
- Malebranche's "Principles of Nature and Grace"
- Chapter 3 of Don Rutherford's Leibniz and the Rational Order of Nature
- Leibniz's "Discourse on Metaphysics"
- Robert Adams' "Must God Create the Best?"
- JR Milton "Laws of Nature"
- Descartes's "Principles of Philosophy"

### **3.3 Publications**

Eric Watkins and Eric Martin co-wrote an abstract for their paper "Evil and Natural Science", which will appear in a volume, Evil, to be published by Oxford University Press, ed. by Andrew Chignell.