

# **God's Order, Man's Order and the Order of Nature**

## **Second Quarterly Report**

### **10 October – 31 December 2009**

## **1. Administration**

### **1.1 The 'Order' Project Website and Logo**

The construction of the Templeton Project website is underway and the site will be live, in its initial format, by February 2010 with a home page, background to the project and details of the research team. At the time of this report, these first pages for the website were being finalised. Pages related to Project Publications, Events and News, and Meeting Reports will follow.

A brief for the Order project logo was given to the LSE design team.

### **1.2 Discussion Papers**

The administrator, in consultation with the project co-ordinator, opened discussion with the British Library with a view to allocating an ISSN number for the forthcoming Order Discussion paper series.

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

### **2.1 Expansion of the Research Team**

Formal letters of invitation to join the project were issued by Eleonora Montuschi and Nancy Cartwright to Professor Towfic Shomar, (Director of Schniller Centre for Educational Training, Theodor Schniller School, Jordan and Research Associate at CPNSS, LSE), Dr Andrew Pinsent (Director of the Ian Ramsey Centre for Religion and Science at Oxford University) and Dr Shaun Henson (Chaplain of St Hugh's College, Oxford).

#### **2.1.1 Research Officer**

A research officer's post for the Templeton project, to commence in September 2010, was advertised internationally in the philosophical, theological and scientific academic communities. An appointment will be made in February 2010.

### **2.2 Discussion Groups and Meetings**

#### **2.2.1**

The two discussion groups (LSE and Oxford) have continued in the programme of meetings where material relevant to the project research agenda is offered for discussion

It had been decided to invite graduate students in the Department of Philosophy to attend these discussion meetings, both at LSE and in Oxford, and the project has welcomed several students to meetings.

### **2.2.2 16 December 2009**

A meeting was held at St Peter's College, Oxford, which focused on a discussion of a selection of chapters from The Dappled World, by Nancy Cartwright, who also gave a presentation to the group on project relevant issues on causation.

### **2.2.3 Day Conference – 'Where Free Will and Nature Meet'**

The project's first conference is planned for 19 May 2010. It will be held at an Oxford venue and speakers confirmed for this event are Robert Bishop (Associate Professor in the Physics Department at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois), Robert Kane (Distinguished Teaching Professor at the University of Texas at Austin) and John Dupre (Director of Egenis and Professor of Philosophy of Science, University of Exeter).

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

### **3.1 Expansion of the Research Team**

#### **3.1.1 Eric Martin**

The project hired Eric Martin, a PhD candidate, to begin work on the Templeton project on 1 January 2010. His contribution is likely to include a paper on 'Evil and Natural Science'. He will also be part of the UCSD reading group.

A second graduate student is due to begin work on the project in the third UCSD academic quarter.

### **3.2 Publications in Preparation**

Eric Watkins, leader of the project, finished a draft of a paper (co-authored with Kim Brewer, a former student) titled "Kant on Theological Determinism", which will be revised and submitted for publication under the title: 'A Difficulty Still Awaits: Kant, Spinoza and the Threat of Theological Determinism'. Relating to the historical side of the project, the paper will explore how modern figures (such as Kant) understand the relation between God and creation. The question in this paper is whether God's creative act is compatible with human freedom according to Kant. The view is that it is, but this then places constraints on how to understand God.

### **3.3 Roundtable Discussions**

The History of Philosophy Roundtable discussed a paper by Marcy Lascano (California State University Long Beach) titled "Kant on Leibnizian Emanation, Creation, and God's Freedom".

## **Appendices:**

### **I New Participants in the Templeton Project (UK)**

## **Appendix I**

Those invited to contribute to the Project during the second quarter.

### **Shaun Henson**

Shaun Henson is the Chaplain of St Hugh's College, Oxford, and teaches in the Faculty of Theology. At Oxford, he became the first doctoral student to work with the initial Andreas Idreos Professor of Science and Religion, John Hedley Brooke. His academic disciplines are philosophy and theology, and he has strong interests in the sciences, particularly physics and physical cosmology. He is also a priest in the Church of England.

### **Andrew Pinsent**

Andrew Pinsent is Research Director of the Ian Ramsey Centre for Religion and Science at Oxford University, a Research Fellow of Harris-Manchester College and a member of the Faculty of Theology at Oxford. He is a priest of the diocese of Arundel and Brighton. He has a doctorate in particle physics (Oxon), a degree in theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and a doctorate in philosophy from St Louis University.

### **Towfic Shomar**

Towfic Shomar is Director of Schniller Centre for Educational Training at the Theodor Schniller School, Jordan, a Research Associate in the Philosophy of Science at the Centre for the Philosophy of Natural and Social Sciences (CPNSS) at the London School of Economics and Head of Humanities and Assistant Professor at the University of Philadelphia. He is also a member of the Queen Rania Centre for Entrepreneurship in Jordan.