

God's Order, Man's Order and the Order of Nature
Third Quarterly Report
1 January – 31 March 2010

1. Administration

1.1 The Order Project Website and Logo

The logo for the project has now been designed and is available for use in a variety of contexts (see Appendix 1). The Order Project website is now live and can be viewed via:

www2.lse.ac.uk/orderProject

1.2 Discussion Papers

The discussion paper series will appear under the heading 'Order: God's, Man's and Nature's'. The first discussion paper, **The Causal Autonomy of the Special Sciences** by Peter Menzies and Christian List, has been posted on the website.

2. London School of Economics (LSE)

2.1 Expansion of the Research Team

2.1.1 Research Officer

The selection committee interviewed four candidates for the research officer post, each of whom gave a presentation prior to formal interview. Eric Martin, Ph D candidate at UCSD, who has been working as a graduate assistant on the project since 1 January, has been made an offer of appointment, subject to the attainment of his doctorate. He will join the Order Project team in London as a research officer in September 2010.

2.2 Discussion Groups and Meetings

2.2.1 27 January 2010

A meeting was held at St Peter's College, Oxford, which discussed chapters on the philosophy of religion from Michael Redhead and Sam Groom's proposed new book, God, Belief and Explanation. Sam Groom presented three chapters from the manuscript, which was then open for discussion. Guests included Prof Richard Swinburne and Prof John Lucas.

2.2.2 Meetings at CPNSS, LSE

19 January 2010, Roman Frigg led a discussion of a paper in preparation 'Who's Afraid of Nagelian Reduction?' by Foad Dizadji-Bahmani, Roman Frigg, Stephan Hartmann.

3 February 2010 Convention, by David Lewis.

10 March, 2010 'What is an Institution?' by John R Searle.

12 March 2010 As part of the CPNSS Celebration Day, Nancy Cartwright gave an overview of the origins, aims and research scope of the Order project: 'What Kind of God Creates the Hodge-Podge of Nature?'

2.2.5 Where Free Will and Nature Meet – 19 May 2010

The administrator and Tim Mawson are organising a day-long conference, which will be held at St Peter's College, Oxford. Speakers confirmed for the day: Tim Mawson, John Dupre, Robert Kane and Robert Bishop.

The invitation list has resulted in many academics in a variety of institutions wishing to be kept apprised of the progress of the project and related events. Further details of the event and the attendants' list will be reported in the June 2010 quarterly report. (See Appendix II for an agenda.)

3. University of California, San Diego (UCSD)

3.1 Order Project Discussion Group

17 February 2010

Ron Giere -- from Science without Laws
Chapter 4: Naturalism and realism
Chapter 5: Science without laws of nature

Ron Giere -- from Scientific Perspectivism
Chapter 4: Scientific theorizing

19 February 2010

The Order Project convened during Nancy Cartwright's visit to California. Future conferences to be held at LSE dealing with laws of nature were discussed, as well as a separate conference to be held at UCSD on the history of philosophy.

There was also discussion of how Bill Bechtel's interests in mechanistic explanation might be relevant to the project, especially insofar as such mechanistic explanations now figure as an important contrast to law-based explanations.

Eric Martin and Eric Watkins will jointly be working on a paper on evil in nature and evil's relationship with natural laws.

3 March 2010

John Dupre -- from The Disorder of Things
Introduction
Chapter 4: Reductionism and materialism
Chapter 10: The disunity of science

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 Order Project on 1 January 2010. His contribution is likely to include a paper on 'Evil and Natural Science'. He is also to 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.

Appendices:

I Order Project Logo

II Speakers' Agenda, Where Free Will and Nature Meet

Appendix 1 – Order Project Logo

