

dallas conference on science and faith

Dallas Conference on Science and Faith: Bridging the Gap Between Belief and Discovery

dallas conference on science and faith has become a pivotal event that brings together scholars, theologians, scientists, and curious minds eager to explore the relationship between scientific discovery and religious belief. In a world where these two realms often seem at odds, this conference provides a unique platform for dialogue, understanding, and collaboration. Whether you are a believer, a skeptic, or simply interested in how science and faith can coexist, the Dallas conference offers valuable insights that challenge stereotypes and open new avenues for conversation.

The Purpose and Vision Behind the Dallas Conference on Science and Faith

At its core, the Dallas Conference on Science and Faith aims to foster a respectful and thought-provoking environment where questions about the origins of the universe, the nature of life, and the role of spirituality can be discussed openly. The conference organizers believe that science and faith are not mutually exclusive but rather complementary ways of seeking truth. This event attracts a diverse audience, from academic researchers to pastors and laypeople who want to deepen their understanding of how science and religion intersect.

Creating Dialogue Between Two Worlds

Science often deals with empirical evidence and testable hypotheses, while faith involves belief in the unseen and spiritual truths. The Dallas conference recognizes that both perspectives have profound value. By encouraging dialogue rather than confrontation, the conference helps attendees appreciate the nuances of each side. Presentations and panel discussions explore topics such as cosmology, evolution, bioethics, and the philosophical implications of scientific findings.

Key Themes Explored at the Conference

The Dallas Conference on Science and Faith covers a broad spectrum of topics, each designed to challenge assumptions and inspire critical thinking. Some of the recurring themes include:

1. The Origins of the Universe and Life

Discussions often start with big questions: How did the universe begin? Can science explain the origin of life entirely, or is there room for a creator? Scientists share the latest theories about the Big Bang, cosmic inflation, and abiogenesis, while theologians reflect on creation narratives and their symbolic meanings. This blend of perspectives encourages attendees to consider how scientific explanations and faith-based beliefs might coexist or even enrich one another.

2. Evolution and Its Theological Implications

Evolution remains one of the most debated topics in the science-faith dialogue. The Dallas conference invites experts to present evolutionary biology alongside interpretations of scripture, fostering a respectful environment where differing views can be examined. This approach helps dispel misconceptions, such as the idea that accepting evolution necessarily negates religious faith.

3. Ethics in Science and Technology

Advancements in genetics, artificial intelligence, and medical technology raise important ethical questions. How should faith traditions respond to cloning, gene editing, or end-of-life care? The conference encourages conversations about moral frameworks that can guide scientific progress responsibly. This intersection of ethics, science, and spirituality is crucial for navigating the challenges of modern innovation.

Why Attend the Dallas Conference on Science and Faith?

For those passionate about understanding the interface between scientific inquiry and spiritual belief, this conference offers several compelling reasons to participate.

Exposure to Expert Insights

The event features a lineup of distinguished speakers, including scientists who are also people of faith, theologians who engage deeply with scientific ideas, and philosophers who explore the foundations of knowledge. Their talks provide a rich mixture of empirical data and reflective thought, making complex subjects accessible and engaging.

Networking and Community Building

One of the most valuable aspects of the Dallas conference is the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals from diverse backgrounds. Whether you are a student, a professional, or simply an interested participant, building relationships with others who are exploring similar questions can be deeply rewarding. These connections often extend beyond the conference, fostering ongoing discussions and collaborations.

Practical Takeaways for Personal and Professional Growth

Attendees often leave the conference with new perspectives that influence their personal beliefs, teaching methods, or research approaches. For educators and pastors, the insights gained can enhance how they address science and faith in their communities. For scientists, the event offers a chance to reflect on the broader implications of their work and how it interacts with human values and spirituality.

How the Dallas Conference on Science and Faith Is Shaping the Broader Conversation

In recent years, the Dallas event has played a significant role in shifting the narrative around the science-faith relationship. Rather than framing the discussion as a battle, it promotes curiosity, humility, and mutual respect. This approach is resonating with a growing number of people who seek a more integrated understanding of reality.

Encouraging Educational Initiatives

The conference has inspired new educational programs that incorporate science and theology into curricula across schools and universities. These initiatives help students learn how to think critically about complex questions without feeling forced to choose between science and religion.

Influencing Public Discourse

By sharing conference highlights, research findings, and speaker interviews through digital media, the Dallas conference reaches a global audience. This wider dissemination helps counteract polarization in public discussions, offering a model for constructive engagement on controversial topics.

Tips for Making the Most of Your Experience at the Dallas Conference

If you're considering attending the Dallas Conference on Science and Faith, here are some helpful tips to enhance your experience:

- **Come with an open mind:** Prepare to encounter perspectives that may challenge your existing beliefs or assumptions. Openness to new ideas is key to meaningful engagement.
- **Engage actively:** Participate in Q&A sessions, workshops, and informal discussions. Asking questions and sharing your own thoughts enriches the dialogue for everyone.
- **Plan your schedule:** With multiple sessions running concurrently, review the program ahead of time to prioritize talks and panels that interest you most.
- **Network intentionally:** Take advantage of networking events to connect with speakers and fellow attendees. Building relationships can lead to future collaborations and friendships.
- **Reflect and apply:** After the conference, spend time reflecting on what you learned and how it might influence your views or work. Consider sharing insights with your community.

Attending this conference is not just about absorbing information; it's about becoming part of a vibrant community that values the pursuit of truth through both science and faith.

The Dallas Conference on Science and Faith stands as a beacon for those seeking harmony between two fields often seen as opposing forces. By encouraging dialogue, promoting understanding, and nurturing respect, it helps bridge the gap that has long divided science and spirituality. Whether you are a seasoned scholar or a curious newcomer, this event invites everyone to join the conversation and explore the profound questions that lie at the heart of human existence.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Dallas Conference on Science and Faith?

The Dallas Conference on Science and Faith is an annual event that explores the relationship between scientific discoveries and religious beliefs,

fostering dialogue between scientists, theologians, and the public.

When and where is the Dallas Conference on Science and Faith held?

The conference is typically held annually in Dallas, Texas, with dates varying each year; attendees should check the official website for the latest schedule and venue information.

Who are the typical speakers at the Dallas Conference on Science and Faith?

Speakers often include prominent scientists, theologians, philosophers, and authors who specialize in topics bridging science and faith.

What topics are covered at the Dallas Conference on Science and Faith?

Topics range from the origins of the universe and evolution to the ethical implications of scientific advancements and how faith intersects with modern science.

Is the Dallas Conference on Science and Faith suitable for people without a scientific background?

Yes, the conference is designed to be accessible to both experts and laypeople interested in the dialogue between science and faith.

How can I attend the Dallas Conference on Science and Faith?

Interested participants can register online through the conference's official website, where they can also find information on ticket prices and attendance options.

Are there opportunities for networking at the Dallas Conference on Science and Faith?

Yes, the conference provides various sessions, workshops, and social events that allow attendees to connect with like-minded individuals and experts.

Does the Dallas Conference on Science and Faith offer virtual attendance options?

In recent years, the conference has included virtual attendance options to accommodate a broader audience, but availability varies by year.

What organizations sponsor or support the Dallas Conference on Science and Faith?

The conference is often supported by academic institutions, religious organizations, and scientific societies committed to fostering dialogue between science and faith.

How does the Dallas Conference on Science and Faith contribute to the science-faith dialogue?

By bringing together experts from diverse backgrounds, the conference promotes understanding, dispels misconceptions, and encourages respectful conversations about the compatibility of science and faith.

Additional Resources

Dallas Conference on Science and Faith: Bridging the Divide Between Belief and Empiricism

dallas conference on science and faith has emerged as a pivotal event that seeks to explore the complex relationship between scientific inquiry and religious belief. In an era where discussions about the compatibility or conflict between science and faith often dominate cultural and academic discourse, this conference provides a unique platform for scholars, theologians, scientists, and laypersons to engage in thoughtful dialogue. The event is notable not only for its interdisciplinary approach but also for its commitment to fostering mutual understanding between two realms that are frequently perceived as oppositional.

The Intersection of Science and Faith: A Historical Context

The relationship between science and faith has long been characterized by both tension and cooperation. Historically, figures such as Galileo Galilei and Isaac Newton embodied the intricate interplay between scientific discovery and religious worldview. Yet, in modern times, debates surrounding evolution, cosmology, and bioethics have reignited discussions about whether science and religion can coexist harmoniously.

The dallas conference on science and faith stands within this broader historical dialogue, aiming to dispel misconceptions and examine evidence from both perspectives. Unlike forums that seek to prioritize one viewpoint over another, the conference encourages a nuanced investigation of how scientific methods and theological beliefs inform human understanding of existence.

Key Themes and Topics Explored at the Conference

At the core of the dallas conference on science and faith are several recurring themes that reflect contemporary challenges and opportunities at the intersection of these fields.

Reconciling Evolutionary Theory and Religious Doctrine

One of the most debated topics remains the relationship between the theory of evolution and religious creation narratives. The conference presents diverse viewpoints, ranging from young-Earth creationism to theistic evolution, where faith traditions interpret evolutionary processes as part of a divine plan. Presenters offer scientific data alongside theological exegesis, enabling a balanced examination of where these perspectives converge or diverge.

Cosmology and the Origins of the Universe

Discussions on cosmology often highlight how scientific models like the Big Bang theory intersect with religious conceptions of creation. Speakers at the dallas conference on science and faith delve into questions about the origin of the universe, the nature of time, and the possibility of a creator, blending astrophysical insights with philosophical and theological reflections.

Ethical Implications of Scientific Advancements

Beyond theoretical discourse, the conference addresses pragmatic issues such as bioethics, genetic engineering, and artificial intelligence. These discussions consider how faith-based ethical frameworks can inform scientific practice and policy-making, especially in areas where technological progress raises profound moral questions.

Structure and Format of the Dallas Conference on Science and Faith

The conference is typically structured to maximize interdisciplinary engagement and audience participation. It includes keynote presentations by leading experts, panel discussions, and breakout sessions that allow for

deeper dives into specialized topics. Workshops and Q&A sessions further encourage dialogue and critical thinking.

Notable Presenters and Contributors

Renowned scientists, theologians, and philosophers frequently participate in the dallas conference on science and faith, bringing credibility and diversity to the conversation. Their expertise spans fields such as molecular biology, quantum physics, systematic theology, and metaphysics. This diversity ensures a broad range of perspectives and fosters respectful debate.

Audience and Community Impact

The conference attracts a heterogeneous audience that includes academics, clergy, students, and interested members of the public. This inclusivity helps to democratize complex discussions and promotes science literacy alongside theological education. Additionally, the event often leads to ongoing community engagement initiatives, such as study groups, publications, and collaborative research projects.

Comparative Analysis: Dallas Conference vs. Other Science and Faith Forums

When compared to other events in the domain of science and religion, the dallas conference distinguishes itself through its emphasis on balanced discourse rather than advocacy. Unlike conferences that may lean heavily toward apologetics or secularism, Dallas aims to create a middle ground characterized by mutual respect and intellectual rigor.

- **Interdisciplinary Approach:** Integrates scientific research, theological interpretation, and philosophical inquiry.
- **Accessibility:** Designed for both experts and lay audiences, fostering wider participation.
- **Focus on Contemporary Issues:** Tackles modern scientific developments and their ethical and spiritual implications.

This approach contrasts with more specialized gatherings that may focus exclusively on either scientific skepticism of religion or religious apologetics.

Pros and Cons of the Dallas Conference on Science and Faith

An analytical perspective on the dallas conference on science and faith reveals several strengths and challenges inherent to such an interdisciplinary event.

Pros

1. **Encourages Dialogue:** Provides a rare platform where opposing viewpoints can be discussed openly.
2. **Educational Value:** Enhances understanding of both scientific concepts and theological doctrines.
3. **Community Building:** Fosters connections among individuals interested in the science-faith interface.
4. **Relevance:** Addresses cutting-edge scientific topics alongside enduring spiritual questions.

Cons

1. **Potential for Polarization:** Despite intentions, debates can sometimes reinforce existing biases.
2. **Complexity:** The interdisciplinary nature may overwhelm participants unfamiliar with either domain.
3. **Limited Scope:** While broad, some niche topics within science or theology may receive insufficient attention.

Such pros and cons illustrate the inherent difficulty in bridging two deeply complex and often contentious fields.

Impact on the Broader Dialogue Between Science

and Religion

The dallas conference on science and faith contributes significantly to ongoing conversations about how science and religion coexist in society. By promoting informed and respectful exchanges, it challenges the often simplistic narrative of inevitable conflict. Instead, it highlights areas of complementarity and shared inquiry.

This impact extends beyond the conference itself. Academic publications, media coverage, and social media discussions stemming from the event help disseminate nuanced perspectives to a wider audience. Furthermore, the conference's emphasis on ethical considerations resonates with policymakers and educators seeking to navigate the moral landscape shaped by scientific progress.

In sum, the dallas conference on science and faith acts as a microcosm of the broader effort to reconcile empirical knowledge with spiritual meaning, offering a model for constructive engagement in a polarized cultural climate.

Dallas Conference On Science And Faith

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dallas conference on science and faith: A Star out of Jacob Martha Carver Harris, 2020-11-24 Faye is an overweight Sunday school teacher of Persian extraction with a dog walking business and no self-esteem. Mysterious dreams play on her ancestral links to the Parthian Empire and an elite priestly class known as the magi. Faye is, in fact, a link to the ancient group of men who followed the Star to Bethlehem. But she ignores that and doggedly pursues modern-day progressive causes like animal rights and climate change. Quite by accident she meets Sebastian, an intelligent and irresistible Jew who, like Faye, has a serious side. Together they explore the scientific underpinnings of Intelligent Design, ancient astrology, apocalyptic theories, and the Big Bang. A romance develops. But a fatal disease leads Faye to abandon Sebastian and discover the full story of her Parthian forebears. Heavenly personages explain her mystic connection to a child who traveled with the Wise Men. Through them, she discovers the startling synchrony between movements of the cosmos and the Truth revealed in Bethlehem.

dallas conference on science and faith: Discovering God in Science Charles E. Steele, 2009-07 Did the Big Bang create the universe? Did life start by chance, all without a cause? Does God exist? New discoveries in science are now pointing to the need for a Creator to explain the unexplainable. Science is observing that many features of our universe could not have happened purely by chance. Despite the academic dominance of philosophical naturalism and materialism, many scientists are bravely putting forth the God Hypothesis as an alternate theory to the origin of the universe. Yet many students are being bombarded by unbiblical theories when they go to school, and they are thus losing their faith in God. In events like these, it is important to know how to

articulate a Christian worldview. If you are interested in a cutting-edge debate between science and religion, then *Discovering God in Science* is a must-read. Join new author Charles E. Steele as he offers insight into this ongoing debate. *Discovering God in Science* is sure to equip, encourage, and guide students of all ages in their faith in the Creator. Charles E. Steele has had a lifelong interest in astronomy and science. He graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a B.S. in industrial design. In 1969 he joined the U.S. Air Force, where he was stationed at Ramstein A.B., West Germany. His interest in science and technology has allowed him to be awarded 11 U.S. Patents. He has been listed in *Who's Who in the Midwest*. He currently lives in Michigan with his wife and mother, where he remains semi-active as a design consultant.

dallas conference on science and faith: *Creation: "Behold, it was very good."* Richard Schaefer, 2019-10-28 Author Richard A. Schaefer was a lifelong communicator, fascinated by stories and, like any good journalist, dug for the facts and verified sources, exploring nagging questions such as Is creation or evolution more credible, based on science and expert opinions? This book truly represented a personal passion of looking at all sides of the CREATION vs. EVOLUTION issue. He called on many experts and theorists-including Charles Darwin himself. Surprisingly, Darwin was far more skeptical of his own theories than are many PhDs today, and admitted to significant holes in his logic. Read for yourself, as great thinkers explore the pros and cons of both theories and their variants.

dallas conference on science and faith: *For a Greater Purpose* Robert J. Marks II, William A. Dembski, 2020-09-02 Walter Bradley made a deal with God: he would unashamedly share his faith with students and faculty, and he would not let academic ambition prevent him from giving his faith and family the time they deserve. The day he could no longer keep that deal, he would leave the academy. He never had to. From his days as a determined graduate assistant sharing his love for Jesus with his first class, to becoming one of the most respected engineering professors in academia, Walter Bradley remained a man of integrity, dedicated to truth and love. He's made a difference in myriad ways from leading a small Bible study for students in his home to defending intelligent design before large crowds of his academic peers. He's equally comfortable performing ground-breaking research for NASA, serving as an expert witness in the courtroom, or empowering people in Africa with appropriate technologies. Through it all, one thing has remained true: Walter Bradley made a crucial difference for good in countless lives. In *For a Greater Purpose: The Life and Legacy of Walter Bradley*, authors Robert Marks and William Dembski detail the story of this remarkable man whose passion for God, science, higher education, and human empowerment provides an excellent model of someone who integrates faith and learning.

dallas conference on science and faith: *The Case for a Creator* Lee Strobel, 2009-05-18 Discover the astonishing evidence for intelligent design in this New York Times bestselling book by award-winning journalist Lee Strobel. My road to atheism was paved by science . . . but, ironically, so was my later journey to God, Strobel says. During his academic years, Lee Strobel became convinced that God was obsolete, a belief that colored his journalism career. Science had made the idea of a Creator irrelevant--or so Strobel thought. But today science points in a different direction. A diverse and impressive body of research has increasingly supported the conclusion that the universe was intelligently designed. At the same time, Darwinism has faltered in the face of concrete facts and hard reason. Has science discovered God? At the very least, it's giving faith an immense boost, as new findings emerge about the incredible complexity of our universe. Join Strobel as he reexamines the theories that once led him away from God. Through his compelling and highly readable account, you'll encounter the mind-stretching discoveries from cosmology, cellular biology, DNA research, astronomy, physics, and human consciousness that present compelling evidence in *The Case for a Creator*. Also available: *The Case for a Creator* small group video study and study guide, Spanish edition, kids' edition, student edition, and more.

dallas conference on science and faith: *Book of Mormon Onomasticon & Theological Word Study* Robert F. Smith, 2024-12-31 Complete list of Book of Mormon words and names (and their variants), with likely etymologies offered -- including theological words and concepts.

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highlights the scientific achievements of Hispanics, Asians, Native Americans, Blacks and other U.S. minorities and has as its goal to increase the number of students among underrepresented groups who pursue careers in science.

dallas conference on science and faith: The Intelligent Design Debate and the Temptation of Scientism Erkki Vesa Rope Kojonen, 2016-04-28 The controversy over Intelligent Design (ID) has now continued for over two decades, with no signs of ending. For its defenders, ID is revolutionary new science, and its opposition is merely ideological. For its critics, ID is both bad science and bad theology. But the polemical nature of the debate makes it difficult to understand the nature of the arguments on all sides. A balanced and deep analysis of a controversial debate, this volume argues that beliefs about the purposiveness or non-purposiveness of nature should not be based merely on science. Rather, the philosophical and theological nature of such questions should be openly acknowledged.

dallas conference on science and faith: A Journey into Prayer Bill Sweet, 2003-10-24 Prayer is a constant mental input into our world. Do we pray for what we need or what we want? Do we pray to heal or to hurt? Terrorists pray. Healers pray. Millions pray. Motivations for prayer are investigated by the Spindrift researchers. One discovery was that non goal-directed prayer--Thy will be done--produced different test results than goal-directed prayer. A Journey Into Prayer explores the struggles, triumphs, and persecutions of two spiritual healers, Bruce and John Klingbeil, who developed scientific laboratory tests to investigate the effectiveness of prayer. This father and son team added to the centuries old anecdotal evidence the modern day standard of proof demanded by science and medicine. Spindrift translated some spiritual experiences and religious language into the scientific language and experiments of our times. Spindrift isolated positive and negative effects of prayer. Spindrift ignited spiritual dynamite by asking, What can we know about prayer scientifically? Author Bill Sweet weaves with a rare sense of humor this Spindrift adventure and the outrage it sparked. ABOUT A JOURNEY INTO PRAYER One of the most predictable consequences of exploring the bridge between science and religion is that the simple act of questioning authority, on either side of that bridge, is guaranteed to evoke furious emotions in those who believe they already know the truth. Bill Sweet's Journey into Prayer is the story of a father and son who courageously risked everything to explore the power of prayer, an overview of what they discovered, and a poignant reminder of the risks faced by all true pioneers. --Dean Radin, Ph.D., Senior Scientist, Institute of Noetic Sciences, Author of The Conscious Universe and Entangled Minds, interviewed in the movie What the Bleep: Down the Rabbit Hole The name Spindrift is synonymous with what at first seems an oxymoron--the scientific study of prayer. This group's ground-breaking work, which has been part of an enormous shift in consciousness, was brought forth at great personal cost--the apparent suicides of the father-son research team. Bill Sweet's meticulous account reads like a mystery--one that may never be solved. But regardless of the tragedy, the Spindrift research is an important part of the bridge between science and Spirit. May all the good these researchers have done return to them as an enduring blessing of peace. --Joan Borysenko, Ph.D., Author, Seven Paths to God and A Woman's Journey to God cofounder and former Director of the Mind-Body Clinic, Harvard Medical School This book describes the work of some original thinkers, supported by over 20 years of meticulous experimental and analytical research of ingenious design. It bears on the nature of prayer and of healing, and of powers of the human mind little appreciated by most people. Because the philosophical background and the experimental work differs from the mainstream, the research and its important implications for all of us has been largely overlooked. Bill Sweet's homely and disarming writing style presents the material in a personal way that is easily accessible to readers of all backgrounds. Read it, enjoy it, and save your judgment until you have finished and pondered it a while. --Theodore Rockwell, nuclear engineer and Author of The Rickover Effect and Creating The New World

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dallas conference on science and faith: Religion Index One: 1970-1974 Ruth F. Frazer, 1985

dallas conference on science and faith: The Divine Sabotage Dan Lioy, 2008-08-18 The concept of the divine sabotage is the starting point for this expository journey through *Ecclesiastes*. Dan Lioy notes that on the one hand, God has set eternity in the human heart (*Eccl* 3:11a). Yet on the other hand, no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end (*Eccl* 3:11b). God has imposed limitations on the human race that undermine human efforts to look beyond the present-especially to understand the past or probe into the future. Expressed differently, because people are creatures of time, their heavenly imposed finitude subverts their ability to fathom the eternal plan of God. The preceding observations help pinpoint why existence often seems vague, incongruous, and antithetical. People are left feeling confused, powerless, and frustrated. And somewhere along the way, they begin to ask what life is really all about. Solomon, who was Israel's wisest and most powerful king, also wrestled with these issues, and he recorded his observations and conclusions in the book of *Ecclesiastes*. Lioy's objective, balanced, and affirming examination of Solomon's treatise indicates that the fundamental quality of life is defined by revering God and heeding His commandments (*Eccl* 12:13). He notes that if human existence is likened to a cord made of three strands (an analogy based on *Ecclesiastes* 4:12), it remains coherent and interconnected when God is at the center of one's inner world, at the core of one's understanding of the external world, and the basis for the significance one derives from life. This volume is appropriate for personal study and is also suitable as a college and seminary textbook.

dallas conference on science and faith: Agents of Discord Susan E. Darnell, 2017-12-02 It is widely acknowledged that the United States has always provided fertile ground for the growth of new religious movements and cults, but modern organized efforts to oppose and restrict them have been less well understood. In *Agents of Discord*, Anson Shupe and Susan E. Darnell offer a groundbreaking analysis of the operations and motives of these oppositional groups, which they generally group under the umbrella term of the anticult movement. Historically there have always been parallel groups opposed to certain religious movements, whether these be anti-Quaker, anti-Roman Catholic, or anti-Mormon. The authors establish the cultural context of such movements in the nineteenth century. They point out the link between modern anticult movements and nativist movements in American history. Turning to the postwar era, the authors discuss the rise of anticult movements and focus specifically on one of the most prominent, the Cult Awareness Network (CAN). CAN was a two-tiered organization. Partly composed of volunteers, donors, and families affected by cult movements, it also included what the authors call an inner sanctum of behavioral science professionals, attorneys, and deprogrammers. Using never-before-reported data on CAN's activities, the authors cite an extensive history of financial impropriety that finally led to the organization's bankruptcy. They offer a pointed critique, informed by current scholarship, of the brainwashing model of mental enslavement presented by the anticult movement that has been a central assumption undergirding its activities. At the same time, they show how increasing professionalization has gradually begun a shift of such movements to a therapeutic model of exit counseling that rejects the crude methods of earlier intervention strategies. In their analysis of the anticult movement nationally and internationally, Shupe and Darnell merge sociological concepts and social history to make unique sense of a hereto

dallas conference on science and faith: Swami Vivekananda's History of Universal Religion and Its Potential for Global Reconciliation Sister Gayatriprana, 2020-09-01 This book presents in the words of Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902) a history of Vedanta, the deep exploration of the inner human world going back to the most ancient rishis or seers whose testimony is still revered in India. He traces the tradition up to the beginning of the twentieth century, showing how the dynamics of social structures within Vedanta and the appearance from within Vedanta of traditions such as Jainism, Buddhism, Hinduism and Sikhism influenced and molded the tradition. In addition, he studies the impact of the Western, Abrahamic invasions of India that began around the eleventh century CE. These brought to bear on Vedanta a worldview which operated on the assumption that the physical world was the primary reality and that the kind of radical exploration of the inner world embraced by Vedanta was highly suspect and not valid. The Vedantic tradition adapted in many different ways, producing a variety of philosophical positions that are still extant today. Along with these traditions went various forms of yoga or self-transformation, in Vedanta the key to experiencing the inner meaning of not only philosophy, but also of our human condition, and of reality itself. This tradition presents four contexts of experience (chatuspad), suggesting the "right brain" mode of approach as described by Iain McGilchrist (2009). Under the influence of Shri Ramakrishna (1836-1886) Vivekananda gained access to vijnana or a knowledge higher than those classically described and known in the chatuspad. Vijnana permitted the acceptance of not only the traditional, deeply experiential truths of Vedanta, but also of the validity of Western materialism when seen as related to each other on a continuum of consciousness to be traversed by contemporary forms of yoga. I see the result as a resolution of "right-left" brain conflict à la McGilchrist and thereby a model for universal human understanding, conciliation and co-operation. In my introduction I attempt to show how the whole picture can be related both experientially and conceptually to matrices of consciousness developed in India as far back as the early medieval period. A large glossary and index-cum concordance indicate the various contexts and depths of thought that emerge from Vivekananda's multi-contextual vijnana.

dallas conference on science and faith: Cumulative List of Organizations Described in Section 170 (c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 , 2003

dallas conference on science and faith: Critical Issues in American Religious History Robert R. Mathisen, 2001 On many occasions Americans as a religious people have experienced tension and indecision as they have wrestled with a variety of critical issues crossing their paths. How to implement their religious creeds and ideals in an ever-changing society is recorded in the religious language of the people as they have sought to articulate their identity and destiny. Critical Issues in American Religious History identifies fifteen key, chronologically arranged issues that have prompted considerable debate and discussion over the years. The distinctive element of this work is the singular thematic thread which runs from cover to cover: America's religious experience reflects four interrelated dimensions of religious tension. The carefully selected primary and secondary materials speak to the tension between the secular and sacred, beliefs and behaviors, inclusion and exclusion, and conflict and consensus. Each chapter theme is woven around a particular critical issue pertaining to one or more of these four tensions. Ideally suited for classroom use, Mathisen's work enlarges the reader's critical thinking through an examination of primary and secondary sources of America's religious past. Special features in each chapter include: -- Introductory commentary -- Primary and secondary source readings -- Questions for reflection and discussion -- Suggested readings for further study

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