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ISCAST is a network of people, from students to distinguished academics, exploring the interface of science, technology, and Christian faith.

## Dr Denis Alexander is coming to Australia in September!

He is coming to deliver the 2018 New College Lectures, titled

### *“Genetics, God and the future of humanity”*

*Rapid advances in genetics, robotics and other sciences are challenging our understanding of what it means to be human. Can science resolve key ethical questions? What role does religious thinking play in the age of genomics? And how do scientific and religious ways of knowing relate?*

For more information on the New College Lecture series, go to [www.newcollege.unsw.edu.au/lectures](http://www.newcollege.unsw.edu.au/lectures).

If you can't make it to Sydney, thanks to New College's kind collaboration with ISCAST, Dr Alexander will also be speaking in Perth, Brisbane, Melbourne, Canberra and Adelaide. Keep checking the ISCAST website for more details on the tour as they come to hand: [http://iscast.org/event/2018-09\\_Denis\\_Alexander\\_tour](http://iscast.org/event/2018-09_Denis_Alexander_tour)

## GENETICS, GOD AND THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY



2018 NEW COLLEGE LECTURES

11-13  
SEPTEMBER

DR DENIS ALEXANDER  
THE FARADAY INSTITUTE  
ST. EDMUND'S COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE



**Dr Denis Alexander** is the Founding Director [Emeritus] of The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, St Edmund's College, University of Cambridge, where he is Emeritus Fellow. He is a past chair of the Molecular Immunology Programme and Head of the Laboratory of Lymphocyte Signalling and Development at The Babraham Institute, Cambridge. Dr Alexander was previously at the Imperial Cancer Research Laboratories in London (now Cancer Research UK) and spent 15 years developing university departments and laboratories overseas, latterly as Associate Professor of Biochemistry in the Medical Faculty of the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, where he helped to establish the National Unit of Human Genetics. From 1992-2013 he was Editor

of the journal *Science & Christian Belief*, and Dr Alexander also served as a member of the executive committee of the International Society for Science and Religion. Having given the Gifford Lectures at St. Andrews University in 2012, these lectures were published by CUP in August 2017 under the title 'Genes, Determinism and God'.

### In this Issue:

- News Items
- Books and Resources
- Event News

## News Items

News about the interface between science and Christianity, and of significance to the ISCAST community. Your submissions are most welcome.



### MIT's Professor Paula Hammond Shares Her Story With ISCAST

Professor Paula Hammond is head of the top-ranked chemical engineering department in the world, located at the top university in the world, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. So it's no surprise that she was the invited speaker for Melbourne University's Graeme Clark Oration on July 4th. And what a privilege it was for some ISCASTians to be able to meet over afternoon tea with Paula as she shared her faith and her science.

[Read more...](#)



### ISCAST Fellow David Goldney Awarded the AM

ISCAST Fellow David Goldney was awarded

the AM in the recent Queen's birthday honours for significant service to tertiary education in the field of environmental science, and to conservation through resource management committees

[Read more...](#)



### Virtues Of the Mind: Reconceptualizing The Relationship Between Religion and Science

"Much of the contemporary conflict between science and religion arises not out of the activities themselves, but out of the unhelpful way in which we presently conceptualize them - that is, as knowledge-producing enterprises that compete for the same explanatory territory."

So says ISCAST Fellow Peter Harrison in an article at ABC Religion and Ethics.

[Read more...](#)



### Opinion: The Heavens Declare the Glory Of God? I Don't Think So.

Do the heavens declare the glory of God? Fergus McGinley wrestles, in this provocative opinion piece, with the scientific understanding of a cold pitiless universe that perhaps does not "declare the glory of God."

[Read more...](#)



### What can Climate Science Teach Us About Stewardship?

ISCAST Executive Director, Chris

Mulherin, was recently interviewed on Hope Radio station's "Open House with Stephen O'Doherty" about climate science and Christian stewardship. [Read more...](#)



### The Thai Cave Rescue and the Common Good

ISCAST Executive Director Rev. Dr Chris

Mulherin comments on the recent Thai cave rescue.

#### Excerpt

The Thai cave rescue was an inspiring vision of human beings coming together in a world desperately in need of solidarity. [Read more...](#)



### Thinking Differently About Science and Religion

ISCAST distinguished fellow Tom McLeish

writes in Physics Today about the nature of the science-faith relationship and suggests that the conflict myth is harmful to science.

[Read more...](#)



### The Place of ISCAST In a Culture Of Fundamentalisms: ISCAST Executive Director's

### Opening Address at COSAC 2018

COSAC 2018—Welcome and opening address, given by Rev. Dr Chris Mulherin.

#### Excerpt

As the recently appointed Executive Director of ISCAST, it is an enormous privilege and my great pleasure to add my welcome to you here today.

It is a privilege to welcome you because I am well aware that I find myself in august company; I am a jack of various trades amongst many masters—as well as apprentices who will one day be masters themselves.

[Read more...](#)



### Does Good Spiritual Health Equal Good Mental Health?

Recently ISCAST fellow and board member

A/Prof Michael Wong was interviewed on ABC RN's God Forbid.

[Read more...](#)



### Scientism and Its Challenges

ISCAST fellow Ian Hore-Lacy spoke on scientism to Access Ministries school chaplains on 13/4/18 in

Surrey Hills, VIC.

[Read more...](#)

No access to the internet and want more information? Contact the ISCAST office (see back page) and we will forward the full item to you. Postage and handling fees apply.

## Some Videos from COSAC 2018 ...



### Early Greek Philosophy: The Beginnings of Western Secular Humanism?

**Presenter**  
Christopher Forbes

#### Abstract

For most of the last 150 years, scholars have described the rise of philosophy in Greece as 'the Greek Enlightenment', 'the Greek miracle', or 'the beginnings of Western scientific thinking'. It became common to speak of the development of Western thinking 'from myth to reason', or 'from religion to science', on parallel with claims from the 16th-17th century European 'Enlightenment'. It is only in the last 25 years that this paradigm has begun to be challenged.

[Read more...](#)



### War of the worldviews: Naturalism, Theism and the Vision of Space Exploration

**Presenter**  
James Garth

#### Abstract

Recent science fiction films and television shows such as *Interstellar* and *The Expanse* have offered vivid, scientifically informed depictions of future space exploration activities set in plausible locations within our solar system and beyond. Whilst these forms of entertainment often grapple with existential questions, frequently some sort of philosophical naturalism is the default canvas upon which the picture is painted.

[Read more...](#)

historian is still able to conclude that the best explanation is that Jesus rose from the dead be that by some unknown natural cause.

[Read more...](#)



### The Science of Economics in the Service of God

**Presenter**  
Ian Harper

#### Abstract

For some people, the description 'Christian economist' is an oxymoron. Believers often wonder how someone could possibly reconcile a Christian worldview with the apparently materialistic preoccupations of economics. Non-believers, on the other hand, can't imagine what Christianity could possibly contribute to an understanding of economics, the so-called 'worldly philosophy'. In this talk I will try to address both concerns by explaining how, as a confessing Christian, I think about my profession.

[Read more...](#)



### Clearing the Air About the Galileo Affair

**Presenter**  
Peter Harrison

#### Abstract

The 'Galileo affair' is the most commonly used historical example of the so-called science-faith conflict. But the story is not so simple! This talk will outline some of the intrigue and personalities involved in this historical misunderstanding.

[Read more...](#)



### Truth, Light, Glory

**Presenter**  
Alan Gijsbers

Presentation by ISCAST President Alan Gijsbers.

[Read more...](#)

## ... and something from Rev. Dr Mark Worthing ...

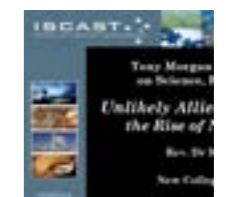


### Does it Violate Scientific/Historical Methodology to Claim that Jesus Rose from the Dead?

**Presenter**  
David Graieg

#### Abstract

Most Christians believe that about 2000 years ago God raised Jesus of Nazareth from the dead, but do current understandings of science rule out such a miraculous interpretation of historical events? This paper will examine a definition of science, history and miracles; and argues that it is naturalism not science that has issues with supernatural causation, and as such a historian may either reject methodological naturalism and conclude that Jesus supernaturally rose from the dead or a



### Unlikely Allies: Monotheism And The Rise Of Natural Science

**Presenter**  
Rev. Dr Mark Worthing

#### Abstract

In 'Unlikely Allies: Monotheism and Origins of Natural Science,' Mark Worthing examines the many claims by various religious communities that their tradition played a unique role in the rise of the natural sciences. After a brief survey of these claims, and an examination of the objections to them, he argues that monotheism in general, more than any particular manifestation of it, played a significant role in the rise of modern science.

[Read more...](#)

Do you have an article to submit to Christian Perspectives on Science and Technology? Contact the editorial team via [www.iscast.org/journalpage](http://www.iscast.org/journalpage)

## Event News



### Dr Denis Alexander

Dr Denis Alexander will be visiting Australia in September 2018 to deliver the 2018 New College Lectures. For full information and online bookings, please visit

[www.newcollege.unsw.edu.au/lectures](http://www.newcollege.unsw.edu.au/lectures). Thanks to New College kindly collaborating with ISCAST Denis will also be speaking in Perth, Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Canberra and Adelaide.

**When:** September 2018

**Where:** New College Events as below:

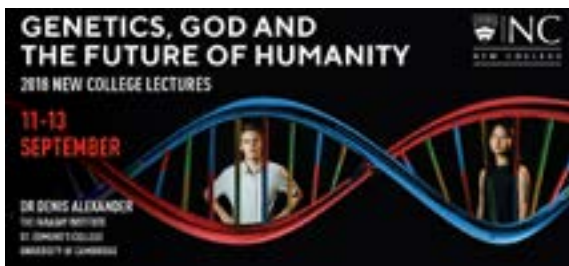
Also speaking at ISCAST and partner events in WA, QLD, VIC, ACT and SA

**Title of Talk:** *Genetics, God and the future of humanity*

#### Abstract

Rapid advances in genetics, robotics and other sciences are challenging our understanding of what it means to be human. Can science resolve key ethical questions? What role does religious thinking play in the age of genomics? And how do scientific and religious ways of knowing relate?

What do medical and behavioural genetics tell us about the limits of human freedom? And how does our current understanding of human genetics relate to the Judaeo-Christian conviction that humankind is made in the image of God?



### 2018 New College Lectures

**Tues 11 Sep**  
**Opening Event:** "Is There Purpose In Biology?" Book Launch

**Lecture 1:** Manipulating Humans: A Challenge to Science and Faith

**Wed 12 Sep**

**Lecture 2:** Are We Slaves to Our Genes?: Faith and Human Freedom

**Thurs 13**

**Lecture 3:** Genetic Engineering: Faith and the Future of Humanity

## Other News

Look us up on:



Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ISCAST](http://www.facebook.com/ISCAST)



Twitter: [@ISCAST\\_Oz](https://twitter.com/ISCAST_Oz)



Tune in to our [Podcast](#)

Keep an eye on the website for events

[www.iscast.org](http://www.iscast.org)

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I would like to know more about being associated with ISCAST

**Annual Subscription by post: \$22** (Credit Cards add \$2 processing fee) **Total Due: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Contact the ISCAST office for payment details.



This is an official organ of ISCAST (The Institute for the Study of Christianity in an Age of Science and Technology, a not-for-profit organisation registered in New South Wales, Australia).

It is published quarterly in both hard copy and digital formats. It includes news items of relevance to both the ISCAST community and to the engagement of science and Christianity in Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere.

It also includes abstracts of articles submitted to *Christian Perspectives on Science and Technology*, ISCAST's online journal, and the latest information of events hosted by ISCAST chapters around Australia and New Zealand.

Items published on the ISCAST website and in this Digest explore the interaction between science and the Christian faith and will be published to foster the discussions and debate. ISCAST cannot endorse any of the opinions expressed here.

Details of events published will be correct as at the date of publication but you are encouraged to check the website or with the relevant contact before the event.

Hard copy versions of the Digest are available at the cost of \$22 pa and subscriptions can be arranged by contacting the ISCAST office.

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