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

Announcing ISCAST's first patron: Prof. Graeme Clark AC FAA FRS, bionic ear pioneer

It is with great pleasure the ISCAST Board announces that one of Australia's most distinguished scientists has accepted its invitation to be ISCAST's first patron.

Professor Graeme Clark, who led the team that developed the world's first bionic ear, is an outstanding scientist who has been a friend of ISCAST for many years. More recently, he became one of ISCAST's Distinguished Fellows.

Professor Clark says, "It is an honour to be invited to be the first patron of ISCAST. The work of ISCAST is close to my heart and I am most impressed by its approach to questions of faith and science. This is an issue of great importance for people of all ages, and it is being extremely well addressed by ISCAST."



Graeme Milbourne Clark was born in Campbelltown, NSW on 16 August 1935. His father's deafness motivated him from a young age to pursue a medical career with a view to helping those with hearing problems. After beginning a successful surgical career as an ENT (ear, nose and throat) specialist Graeme made the decision to go back to university and pursue a research degree specialising on the inner ear.

After completion of the degree he was appointed inaugural professor of ENT at the University of Melbourne in 1970. He used this position to develop a team to research the electronic stimulation of the nerves of the inner ear. After much struggle for funding, and opposition among those who said it was impossible to restore hearing through such a device, the first successful implant (bionic ear) designed by Graeme and his team was implanted in 1 August 1978. Hundreds of thousands of implant recipients around the world now benefit from this pioneering work.

Professor Clark has been honoured for his work with a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) and an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO). He is a Fellow of the Royal Society and he is also the recipient of the Lister Medal (2010), the Lasker-DeBaake Award (2013) and the Russ Prize (2015), among other honours. In July 2017, the University of Melbourne honoured Graeme with the opening of the Graeme Clark Institute for Biomedical Engineering.

Registrations are now open for COSAC 2018!

[ISCAST's science, faith and apologetics conference](#) (Brisbane, March 23–25) is shaping up to be a not-to-be-missed event. Confirmed speakers include astronomer Jennifer Wiseman, historian Peter Harrison, dark matter man Ken Freeman, Australia's mars man and astrobiologist Jon Clarke, rocket scientist James Garth, astrophysicist (and mother: see the video) Christina Smith ... and the list goes on.

This conference will also have a significant apologetic dimension for those concerned with making Christian faith relevant in the public sphere; we will welcome three presenters (Loretta Scolaro, Dan Paterson and Jordan Thyer) who work with Ravi Zacharias Ministries. Registrations are now open and next week there will be a public call for papers. Even if you can't make it to the conference yourself, could we ask all of our ISCAST friends to pass the word on? We are particularly keen to reach young people and Christian pastors as we aim to equip them for engagement with science, faith and apologetics.



In this Issue:

- News Items
- Books and Resources
- Event News

News Items

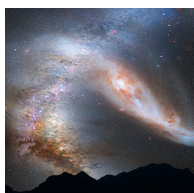
News about the interface between science and Christianity, and of significance to the ISCAST community. Your submissions are most welcome.



Jennifer Wiseman - Key Presenter at COSAC 2018

Dr Jennifer Wiseman is an astronomer and a Fellow and former President of the American Scientific Affiliation, a network of Christians in science. She holds a bachelor's degree in physics from MIT and a PhD in astronomy from Harvard. Dr Wiseman discovered periodic comet 114P/Wiseman-Skiff while working as a research assistant in 1987.

[Read more...](#)



Interview with Dr Jennifer Wiseman—Astrophysicist and Invited ISCAST Keynote Speaker in 2018

Jennifer Wiseman is senior scientist on NASA's Hubble space telescope and will join us in March 2018 for our next Conference on Science and Christianity (COSAC) in Brisbane.

Here she is in interview mode:

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Why Religion is Not Going Away and Science Will Not Destroy It

"Religion is not going away any time soon, and science will not destroy it. If anything, it is science that is subject to increasing threats to its authority and social legitimacy. Given this, science needs all the friends it can get. Its advocates would be well advised to stop fabricating an enemy out of religion, or insisting that the only path to a secure future lies in a marriage of science and secularism."

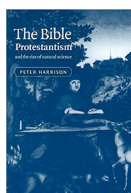
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Prof. Peter Harrison speaks on ABC RN's Future Tense

ISCAST's newest fellow, Prof. Peter Harrison, speaks here on ABC RN's Future Tense about the lack of trust in science. The solution is not to return to Enlightenment values but to understand the nature of science better, including its history and cultural setting.

[Read more...](#)



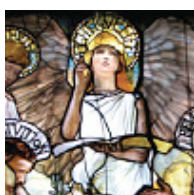
Book Review—*The Bible, Protestantism and the Rise of Natural Science*

Reviewed by Allan John Day

Excerpt

History doesn't just happen and this is nowhere more evident or relevant than in a consideration of the history of modern science. John Gribben, the popular science writer has just published his new book, *Science: a History 1543–2001* which seems to imply that it just happened, as he describes the people and dates that surround these happenings.

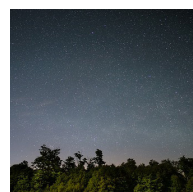
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Science vs. Religion and Other Modern Myths—by Samuel Loncar

On Peter Harrison's *The Territories of Science and Religion*, and Jerry Coyne's *Faith versus Fact: Why Science and Religion are Incompatible*. If god is dead, myth is not. Myths are the stories that tell us who we are, and few stories are more important to our sense of identity than the myth of Science vs. Religion.

[Read more...](#)



Science and Pervasive Scepticism: Enlightenment Values Cannot Help Us Now

Peter Harrison is an Australian Laureate Fellow and Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, University of Queensland. His most recent book is *The Territories of Science and Religion*. You can hear him in conversation with Antony Funnell this week on Future Tense.

Enlightenment rationality is often touted as a cure for the current crisis of confidence in expert knowledge.

It is not. If anything, it is deeply implicated in our present predicament.

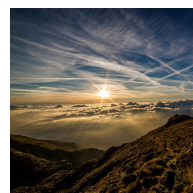
[Read more...](#)



Is Morality Part of the Fabric of the Universe? Are Ethical Values Real?

According to Dr Louise Hickman, a philosopher and theologian from Newman University, this is the question that drove the 'natural theology' discussion in the centuries leading up to Darwin. Louise spoke about this topic at the Faraday Institute in Cambridge.

[Read more...](#)



Is a Popular Theory of Cosmic Creation Pseudoscience?

A brouhaha has erupted over the theory of cosmic creation known as inflation. The theory holds that in the first instant of the big bang, the universe underwent a tremendous, exponential growth spurt before settling down to the slower rate of expansion observed today.

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Books and Resources

Books and articles relevant to the interface between science and Christianity.



Interviewing Prof. Peter Harrison: Science and Faith Have a Complex Historical Relationship

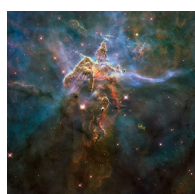
ISCAST Executive Director Chris Mulherin interviews Professor Peter Harrison on the history of the complex and interdependent relationship between science and religion in the West.

Peter is an ISCAST fellow and an eminent Australian historian and philosopher. He's a leading international scholar on the history of science, and says we've been duped into believing in the myth of a perennial conflict between science and Christianity.

[Read more...](#)

disagreement between these two approaches to truth, but rather to the conflict of emerging science with entrenched interpretations of Scripture.

[Read more...](#)



Towards a Post-modern Apologetic

Author

Alan Gijsbers

Excerpt

I find the current approach to Christian apologetics quite unsatisfactory. 'Ten reasons why atheists are wrong and I'm right', smacks both of intellectual arrogance and misunderstands how humans come to conclusions.

A good example of the poverty of the believer's argument is the frequent statement, that atheism is an inadequate foundation for a coherent ethic.

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revelations of many ethically questionable research programs.

[Read more...](#)



Book Review—*Let There Be Science*

Reviewed by
Graeme Finlay

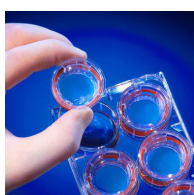
Authors

David Hutchings and Tom McLeish

Excerpt

As I age, I experience our Post-Truth, Alternative Fact-laden world as being increasingly dreary. We have entered the gloom depicted in the novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. I hanker for truth – it shines, coruscates, thrills, beckons. The book *Let there be Science* by Hutchings and McLeish is a lucent corrective to the deepening darkness. It sparkles with truth.

[Read more...](#)



Do We Have a 'God Spot'? Is Our Faith Determined by Our Brain Architecture?

Author

Andrew Wood

Abstract

This paper sets out to explore the question of whether religious faith is biologically determined and hence whether some can claim innate factors as a valid reason not to be responsive to evangelistic appeals.

[Read more...](#)



Book Review—*Vulnerability and Care: Christian Reflections on the Philosophy of Medicine*

Reviewed by Denise Cooper-Clarke

Author

Andrew Sloane

Excerpt

The discipline of bioethics is predominantly a critique of medicine from 'outside'. Bioethics is a modern discipline which began in the 1960's. There was a profound discontinuity between this new discipline and what had gone before, following the general upheaval in moral values in the U.S. together with the emergence of new technologies which raised new questions, and a new era of scrutiny of medical practice, with some suspicion of doctors, following



Book Review—*Evolution and the Fall*

Reviewed by
Chris McNeill

Editors

William T. Cavanaugh and James K. A. Smith

Excerpt

"This book addresses a set of problems that arise from the encounter of traditional biblical views of human origins with contemporary scientific theories about the origin of the human species."

So begins the introduction of *Evolution and the Fall* edited by William T. Cavanaugh and James K. A. Smith.

[Read more...](#)



Adam, Anthropology, and Genesis

Author

Allan John Day

Abstract

Much of the perceived conflict between science and Christian belief is not due to any intrinsic

*Do you have an article to submit to Christian Perspectives on Science and Technology?
Contact the editorial team via www.iscast.org/journalpage*

Event News

Victoria



Vic: Human Musicality

When: Thursday, October 12, 2017 - 17:15

Where: Lowe Theatre, Redmond Barry Building at The University of Melbourne.

Human Musicality Professor Jeremy Begbie will be giving a lecture transmitted live from Cambridge on the following question:
Is human musicality an evolutionary extension of the remarkable sounds that other animals make (birds, dolphins et. al.) or does something new also come to light in human musicality disclosing something new about human beings and the about the kind of world in which we live?

[Read more...](#)



Vic: Does God Care About my Keep Cup?

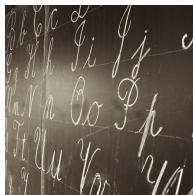
When: Saturday, October 14, 2017 - 12:30

Does God care about my Keep Cup? A one-day conference in

Melbourne on October 14

[Read more...](#)

NSW



NSW Chapter: ISCAST-CASE (Sydney) Lecture

When: Monday 23rd October 2017 at 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm

Where: Main Common Room, New College, UNSW

Topics: *The place of Teaching Science in Christian Schools*

and *Changes in Science Curriculum Development and Science-Faith Challenges for Christian Teachers*

[Read more...](#)

International



COSAC 2018: The Heavens Declare

When: Friday, March 23, 2018 - 09:00 to Sunday, March 25, 2018 - 17:00

ISCAST's 11th Conference on Science and Christianity (COSAC) will be held in Brisbane from March 23–25, 2018. It's shaping up to be a conference to remember, with something for everyone.

[Read more...](#)

Other News

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www.iscast.org

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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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