

21st International Interdisciplinary Seminar  
London, 3-5 January 2019

# Science and Society: Defining what is human

Organized by:  
Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies (Zurich and Geneva)  
Netherhall House (London)



## Philosophy and Science track

Quantum physics, evolutionary biology, neuroscience, and computer science have brought results which seem to be of help in overcoming a flat materialistic view of the world and of human beings.

On the other hand, science is giving rise to powerful technologies which will increase our capacity for constructing the world and shaping humanity. Quantum computing and Genome editing (CRISPR/Cas9) are among the technologies with the most far-reaching implications. The fascination with new technologies needs to be enriched with reflection about how scientific results may contribute to discussing and answering anthropological, philosophical and theological questions relevant to science and technology.

This International Interdisciplinary Seminar aims to address the tendency of reducing anthropological notions to scientific notions and technological achievements, defining humanity merely in terms of what the individual can do.

## Speakers

- **Andrew Briggs** What lies at the root of the long entanglement between science and religion?
- **Andrew Steane** About the structure of science and how it fits into our wider values
- **Mark Fox** How close are we to constructing a quantum computer?
- **Marco Natale** The Turing test
- **Maciej Besta** AI and High-Performance Computing
- **Ilyas Khan** Will quantum computers make artificial intelligence any less 'artificial'?
- **Antoine Suarez** Defining what is human
- **Adrian Pablé** Science as human activity: a semiological account
- **Gennaro Luise** Identity and Matter. Material extension as a kind of perfection?
- **Vuko Brigljevic** Where is the "quantum observer"?
- **Alfred Driessen** Causality from outside time
- **Massimiliano Berti** In whose mind is mathematics an a priori knowledge?
- **Jean-David Ponci** The importance of being human

Please visit the URL below if you wish to check out the complete program.

## Sessions

### Thu 3rd January, all day

Visit to Oxford with academic sessions  
Panel: Is science part of a larger story about what is good and what is bad?

### Fri 4th January, 10.00 – 18.00 h

Academic sessions in London

### Sat 5th January, 10.00 – 18.00 h

Academic sessions in London

## Venue

### Netherhall House

Nutley Terrace, London  
NW3 5SA

## Costs

£70 for participation to the Academic Sessions, two standing-lunches (on Friday and Saturday) and coffee breaks. Excursion to Oxford and accommodation are not included.

## Accommodation

All participants are kindly requested to make their own accommodation arrangements. Affordable accommodation can be found at:

- **Palmer's Lodge, Swiss Cottage** five minutes walk away from the venue
- **Netherhall House** please note that Netherhall can offer accommodation only for male participants

For additional information, detailed program and registration please visit

<http://www.netherhallhouse.org.uk/iis2019/#science>

## Submission of papers

Authors are invited to submit a 100 word abstract to the Symposium secretariat, Antoine Suarez [suarez.antoine@gmail.com](mailto:suarez.antoine@gmail.com) and Alfred Driessen [driessen.alfred@gmail.com](mailto:driessen.alfred@gmail.com)

