

On Human Natures: Psychological Science in the Service of Theology

Application Information Packet

A program to support science-engaged theology, training theologians in psychological science, to make new discoveries and contribute to theological progress.

A two-week residential seminar program
with opportunities for subsequent awards (up to \$15,000)
On Human Natures

Deadline for applications

November 1, 2018 | June 1, 2019 | November 1, 2019

Hosted by Fuller Theological Seminary's STAR Office
Funded by The John Templeton Foundation

BIG Question

What new insights concerning human nature may be discovered when **theology** & **psychological science** are brought together?



Convened by Dr. Oliver Crisp

Oliver Crisp is a professor of systematic theology who joined Fuller Theological Seminary in 2011. He is also a professorial fellow at the Institute for Analytic and Exegetical Theology, University of St Andrews. He holds a PhD from King's College, London, and a DLitt from the University of Aberdeen. Crisp has written and edited a number of books on analytic-theological themes. He is a founding editor of the ***Journal of Analytic Theology*** and co-organizes the annual Los Angeles Theology Conference with Fred Sanders. He has just completed leading a major grant initiative involving ongoing seminars and training opportunities for theologians.

Hosted by Dr. Justin L. Barrett

Justin Barrett is a faculty member at Fuller Theological Seminary. He is a cognitive and developmental psychologist who conducts research concerning (1) cognitive foundations of cultural expression, (2) religious thought development (primarily in childhood), and (3) other causes and consequences of thought and behavior that might be considered “religious”. He also writes and speaks on philosophical and theological implications of scientific approaches to the study of religious thought. He is widely regarded as one of the founders of cognitive science of religion because of his empirical and theoretical work in the area.



ABOUT the seminar program

We will hold three 13-day seminars strategically targeting early to mid-career theologians. Our goal is to enhance research and teaching by engaging deeply with the psychological sciences. We will create cohorts of 20 scholars per seminar. We will limit capacity at 20 to intentionally invest in each scholar, facilitate in-depth discussions led by leaders and speakers, and accelerate the creation of a unified group of scholars with common interests in using psychology to benefit theological research.

In response to the program each participant will be expected to write a paper suitable for publication, and will be encouraged to prepare and deliver a presentation in the year following the seminar.

Seminar THEMES

The overall seminar program theme will be “*On Human Natures: Psychological Science in the Service of Theology.*” Each seminar will have its own unique focus within the larger theme.

July 2019	The Created and Fallen Image of God
January 2020	Completely Human, Completely Divine
July 2020	Restoring Human Nature

Seminar 1 will focus on “*The Created and Fallen Image of God.*” Some examples of the likely topics are:

- How thinking like a psychological scientist could be helpful to theologians
- Evolutionary psychology, human uniqueness, and imago Dei
- Will and freedom
- Rationality
 - Sociality
 - Morality
 - Souls and spirits’
- Causes and consequences of the Fall
 - Inheriting a sin nature
 - Automaticity
 - Groupishness
 - Mental Illness
 - Parenting, attachment, and developmental systems

Seminar 2 will focus on “*Completely Human, Completely Divine.*” Some examples of the likely topics are:

- How thinking like a psychological scientist could be helpful to theologians
- Understanding the Trinity by appealing to psychological science
- Why Jesus *Homo sapiens* instead of *Homo erectus* and why it matters
- Learning from a divine human about how to be human
 - Social learning biases
 - How the incarnation bridges conceptual gaps
- Human nature and growing up divine
- How one could be completely human but completely sinless?
- Human nature and the Resurrection

Seminar 3 will focus on: “*Restoring Human Nature.*” Some examples of the likely topics are:

- How thinking like a psychological scientist could be helpful to theologians
- Free will and moral responsibility
- Moral change
- Shame and Guilt
- Confession, repentance, and forgiveness
- Grace
- Character strengths and virtues development
- Forming new habits: renewal of the conscious and non-conscious mind
- Gratitude

Seminar STYLE

The seminar program will serve scholars by creating a **highly interactive, collaborative environment** to receive learning **formally, relationally, and creatively**. The seminars will feature a combination of TED-style talks, panel discussions, Q&A, solo processing, processing in pairs, graduate-style seminars, process groups, happy hour, and outings. Each seminar element has been intentionally designed to facilitate both an accelerated learning environment and the creation of a network of scholars. Readings will be circulated electronically prior to the event.

Participant COMMITMENTS

Participants will be expected to:

- Complete advance reading, as provided
- Attend the full 13-day seminar
- Write a paper suitable for publication, following the seminar
- Present the paper at a conference in the year following the seminar

Participant PROVISIONS

Each seminar participant will receive:

- Airfare and transportation funds
- Lodging provided onsite
- Meals and snacks
- A \$2,000 stipend, provided upon completion of the seminar

Application TIMELINE

Seminar 1:

Applications DUE:	November 1, 2018
Announcements Made:	December 1, 2018
Seminar Program:	July 8 – 20, 2019

Seminar 2:

Applications DUE:	June 1, 2019
Announcements Made:	July 1, 2019
Seminar Program:	January 6 - 18, 2020

Seminar 3:

Applications DUE:	November 1, 2019
Announcements Made:	December 1, 2019
Seminar Program:	July 6 – 18, 2020

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be:

1. Early to mid-career theologians¹ with faculty posts (tenured or non-tenured).
2. Interested in integrating the seminar theme into their future work.
3. Interested in generating new questions and new research impacting scholarship and teaching in theology and psychology.
4. Interested in generating new empirical questions for psychological scientists to research.

¹ All sub-fields of theology are welcome, including biblical, ethics, philosophical, practical, systematic, and others.

SELECTION Criteria

Applicants will be selected based on:

1. Academic work to date
2. Potential for doing high quality research and teaching integrating psychological science with theology
3. Interest in doing research on the seminar themes

FAQ's

Can I attend more than 1 seminar?

Our goal is to reach at least 60 different scholars through the seminar program. To participate more than once would take some very serious splainin'.

I am from outside the United States, am I eligible to apply?

Of course, please do! All seminars are open to theologians from all nations, but all instruction will be in English. We are

intentionally scheduling one seminar in January in an effort to account for varying academic calendars.

Will family members be able to accompany me?

This program is designed to be both intensive and to facilitate networking with other participants. Having family members present may reduce the effectiveness of the program for both those bringing family members and other participants, so we discourage bringing family members. Nevertheless, family members are permitted to attend at the participant's own expense.

Will support animals be allowed?

When you hear psychology, you may instinctively reach for that fluffy friend, and we understand that impulse. However, the seminar convener will be with you the entire time to provide support. No animals needed. If you do have a documented medical reason for an approved support animal, we will attempt to accommodate that need.

Can I apply for a psychology license after the seminar?

Sadly, no, while you will become versed in psychological science it's not thaaaaat kind of psychology. Our focus will primarily be on general human thought and behavior and not mental health.

On Human Natures: Psychology for Theology Awards

About the AWARDS Program

We will hold an awards program for participants to apply what they have learned into their area of research and writing or creative media on the topics of the seminar program. The awards program will offer approximately 7 awards per year. The awards will range between \$5,000 - \$15,000. All seminar participants will be eligible to apply, and we will hold application due dates following the seminar each year. Awards may range from 12 – 24 months depending on the nature of the proposed work.

DESCRIPTION of Awards:

The awards program will support applications for funds to:

- develop a new course
- develop a new piece of creative media to be shared online and in classes
- or provide funds for meetings bringing multiple scholars together for collaboration
- revise an existing course
- develop a significant piece of new scholarship engaging psychology for theology

SELECTION Criteria

Applications will be selected based on:

- depth of engagement with psychology
- potential impact
- quality of project
- clarity of purpose
- creativity of proposed work
- likelihood of sustained engagement with psychological science
- plan to create scalable resources
- creative and effective evaluation (how will the effectiveness of the proposed work be determined?)

REVIEW process

Applications will be reviewed by a panel of academics familiar with theology and psychology.

Award TIMELINE

Seminar 1:

Awards Application DUE:	September 1, 2019
Awards announcements:	October 1, 2019

Seminar 2:

Awards Application DUE:	April 1, 2020
Awards announcements:	May 1, 2020

Seminar 3:

Awards Application DUE:	September 1, 2020
Awards announcements:	October 1, 2020

Seminar Application MATERIALS

Applicants shall submit the following items at the STAR website: fuller.edu/star

Please provide the following items:

1. One-page statement outlining why you want to join the seminar program, and specifically why this theme is important for your work.
2. An abstract for a proposed paper using psychological science and theology.
3. A short (1 page or less) list of psychological topics you feel are relevant to your work, and a brief description of what you are interested in learning about these topics and/or why they are relevant.
4. A short list of your favorite (most influential to your thinking/work) authors and/or books.
5. A CV including the following items:
 - Description of current faculty post
 - Education and degrees
 - Publication record
6. A letter of support from your relevant chair, dean, or administrator.

Instructions:

- Please upload three attachments. Please combine items 1-4 into one file, and items 5 and 6 each as separate files.