

ISSR 2023 Conference
Artificial and Spiritual Intelligence
Conference Programme

Stanton House Hotel, Swindon. 20-23 June 2023

Tuesday 20th June

Registration

2.00 pm	Hotel reception and Conference registration
3.30 pm	Tea/coffee
4.30 pm	Welcome and Introduction, from Michael Reiss & Fraser Watts
4.45 pm – 6.30 pm	Plenary talk by Beth Singler <i>Simulating Religion or Stimulating Religion? AI's Increasing Role in both 'Deepfaking' Religion and in Religious Innovation</i> Respondent: Emily Qureshi-Hurst
6.45-7.15 pm	Spiritual Practice in Stanton church (optional), with Rowan Williams
7.30 pm	Dinner

Wednesday 21st June

c. 8.00 am	Breakfast
9.15 am	Plenary talk by Rowan Williams <i>Spirit and Ecology</i> Respondent: Mark Vernon
10.30 am	Break (tea, coffee)
11.00 am	Parallel Sessions
11.00 am	<u>Room One</u> Christopher C. Knight <i>Spiritual intelligence and the nous: implications for understanding the relationship between the faith traditions of the world.</i>
11.40 am	Hannah Lucas <i>The Cloud of Unknowing: Apophasis in AI Image Generation</i>
12.20 pm	Marius Dorobantu <i>Re-thinking imago Dei through the prism of AI: A relational approach</i>
11.00 am	<u>Room Two</u> Emily Qureshi-Hurst

Anxiety, Alienation, and AI: exploring existentialism, social media, and mental health

11.40	Allegra Kuney Remystifying AI: Divination as Technology in the Platform era
12.20 pm	Joshua K. Smith <i>Siri, Sin, and Self: How Feminist Theologies Help Protestants Think Through Spiritual Intelligence in An Age of AI</i>
11.00 am	<u>Room Three</u> William Clocksin (with Leon Turner and others) <i>Workshop on Computational Modelling of Friendship and Relational Intelligence</i>
1.00 pm	Lunch
	Free time
3.00 pm	Break (tea, coffee)
3.45 pm	Parallel sessions
	<u>Room One</u> Pauline M Rudd <i>Towards the healing of a wounded world</i>
	<u>Room 2</u> Carrie Alexander <i>"Natural" v. "Artificial": Implications of Debates over Human and AI Moral Accountability for Updating Current Legal Frameworks to Govern AI Technologies</i>
	<u>Room 3</u> Hans Van Eyghen <i>Religious cognitive skill acquisition</i>
4.30-6.30 pm	Plenary symposium on <i>Spiritual Intelligence</i> (a TWCF-funded project) Fraser Watts: <i>Spiritual Intelligence - What it is and how it works</i> Marius Dorobantu: <i>Human-level, but not humanlike - Would AGI also be spiritually intelligent?</i> William Clocksin: <i>Androids Need Religion</i>
6.45	Optional Spiritual Practice in Stanton church
7.30 pm	Dinner
8.45 pm	Informal ISSR meeting about strategic planning etc with Fraser Watts, Anthony Nairn etc.

Thursday 22nd July

c. 8.00 am	Breakfast
9.15 am	Plenary talk by Iain McGilchrist <i>Who do we think we are?'</i> Respondent: Marius Dorobantu
10.30 am	Break
11.00 am	Parallel Sessions <u>Room One</u> Lukas Brand <i>What it might mean to be a God to robots: Analysis of the robot-creator-metaphor</i> 11.40: Fraser Watts <i>Empirical research on spiritual conversation with a computer</i> 12.20: Maaike Eline Harmsen <i>A discussion on spirituality, the human will, in relation to artificial intelligence & artificial spirituality.</i> <u>Room Two</u> 11.00: Léon Turner <i>Know Them When I See Them</i> 11.40: Andrew Proudfoot. <i>How to say "Thou" to a computer</i> 12.20: Blessing Temitope Emmanuel <i>From Imago Dei to Imago Hominum: Social Robots, Human Relationality, and Implications for Personhood</i> <u>Room Three</u> 11.00: Michael J. Reiss <i>Spiritual intelligence in animals: what's so special about humans?</i> 11.40: Petre Maican <i>Spiritual Intelligence and Intellectual Disability: A Theological Re-evaluation of the Nous</i> 12.20: Michiel Bouman <i>Spiritual Intelligence and Intellectual Disability – a Theological Perspective.</i>
1.00 pm	Lunch Free time
3.00 pm	Tea
3.45 pm	Parallel sessions

Room One

Ryan Haecker

Sacramental Engines: Charles Babbage's Cybernetic Daimonology

Room Two

Chris Oldfield

The Attentional Stance: McGilchrist's Interpretationism Re-cognized

Room Three

Eduardo Rodrigues da Cruz

Sciences of the Self, Artificial Intelligence, and the Last Bastion

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| 4.30 – 6.30 pm | Plenary symposium on <i>Virtuous AI?</i> (a JTF-funded project), with Braden Molhoek, Kathryn Johnson and Lawrence Whitney |
| 6.45 | Optional Spiritual Practice |
| 7.30 pm | Dinner |

Friday 23rd July

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| c. 8.00 am | Breakfast |
| 9.15 | Parallel sessions |

Room One

11.00: Scott Midson

Deus Sex Machina? On Perfection, Sociality, and Secularity in Lovotics

11.20: Alex Rusnak and Zachary Seals

The Role of AI Symbiosis in the Formation of Practical Wisdom

12.20: Mathews George

Counselling as ontological choreography: A perichoretic framework for ontological challenges in counselling in the age AI, transhumanism and posthumanism

Room Two

11.00: Mark Vernon

Dante, Transhumanism and Spiritual Intelligence

11.40: Harris Wiseman

Language Use Across a Spiritual Life - Knowing Slowly

12.20: Nicola Hoggard Creegan

Panpsychism and the possibility of spiritual AI

Room Three

Philip J Barnard (with Fraser Watts and others)

Workshop on Paying attention to spiritual meanings: Modelling spiritual practices with Interacting Cognitive Subsystems

11.00 am	Break
11.30	Final plenary session – Fraser Watts et al. (plenary speakers and various others will be invited to talk briefly on what has excited them about the conference, or about future directions)
12.45 pm	Lunch & Depart