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## REVD. DR. JOHN C. POLKINGHORNE'S ACTIVITIES IN SCIENCE AND RELIGION A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

Details of Polkinghorne's life up to 1995 can be found in the Appendix. The present section provides a short biography of Polkinghorne as an introduction to his life and work. Some overlaps with Professor MacFarlane's interview with Polkinghorne [2] and the Royal Society's biographical memoir of Polkinghorne [4] are inevitable but have been minimized as much as possible.

John C. Polkinghorne was born on 16 October 1930 at Weston-super-Mare, England, UK. Polkinghorne entered the Quaker School in Street in 1937 and the Elmhurst Grammar School in Street in 1941. He attended Perse School in Cambridge where he excelled in Mathematics and Physics in 1945. He won a Major Scholarship to Trinity College, Cambridge in 1948. After undertaking one year of National Service, he read Mathematics at Trinity College from 1949 to 1952. In his own words, Polkinghorne was taught Applied mathematics principally by Kemmer at Trinity College.

"The quarter-century period starting in the mid-1950s is sometimes referred to as a 'renaissance of General relativity and Cosmology'." [5, p. 403] It was during this 'renaissance' that Polkinghorne did his Ph.D. under the supervision of Nicholas Kemmer (1911-1998) (FRS 1956) in his first year and then Abdus Salam (1926-1996) (FRS 1959) within the group led by Paul A.M. Dirac (1902-1984) (FRS 1930) at the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, UK. He completed his Ph.D. thesis on Contributions to Quantum Field Theory in 1955. As the recipient of a Commonwealth Fellowship (known as Harkness Fellowships as of 1960), from 1955 to 1956, Polkinghorne went to the California Institute of Technology and worked with Murray Gell-Mann (1929-2019). As a historical note, "After seven years of intensive teaching at Cambridge, Kemmer moved to Edinburgh in 1953 to succeed Max Born (1882-1970) (FRS 1939) as Tait Professor of

Natural Philosophy" [6, p. 196]. From 1956 to 1958, Polkinghorne worked as a Lecturer at the (then) Tait Institute of Mathematical Physics, the University of Edinburgh, UK, where Kemmer was Chair of Natural Philosophy. Polkinghorne became a Lecturer of the University of Cambridge from 1958 to 1965, a Reader from 1965 to 1968, and a Professor of Mathematical Physics from 1968 to 1979. Polkinghorne studied Theology at Westcott House, Cambridge from 1979 to 1981. He was ordained Deacon in 1981 and Priest in 1982. He became a curate at Cambridge (St. Andrews, Chesterton) from 1981 to 1982 and at Bristol (St. Michael and All Angels, Bedminster) from 1982 to 1984. He became a Vicar of Blean, Kent from 1984 to 1986. He was made an Honorary Professor of Physics, University of Kent in 1984.

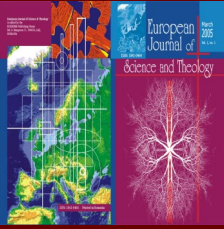
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### REVD. DR. JOHN C. POLKINGHORNE'S ACTIVITIES IN SCIENCE AND RELIGION A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

**Abstract:** The Reverend Dr. John C. Polkinghorne (FRS 1974), an English theoretical particle physicist, theologian and Anglican priest, died on 9 March 2021 in Cambridge, UK. Polkinghorne's most famous scientific contribution was the deep inelastic scattering models, which he formulated towards the end of his career in Theoretical physics. However, Polkinghorne then moved into another field of endeavour entirely. He made a move from Physics research to become an ordained minister in the Church of England and then became prominent in the promotion of the dialogue between Science and religion nationwide and world-wide. Some selective overviews are attempted with regard to his activities in Science and religion during his stays at the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics and at Queens' College, the University of Cambridge, UK. Polkinghorne's inspirations for young college students, young scientists and Christians are briefly reviewed along with the present author's connection with Polkinghorne and of Polkinghorne's relationship with his fellow Templeton Prize laureates (the Templeton Prize is regarded by many as the Nobel Prize in religion).

### BIFRÖST (THE RAINBOW BRIDGE) AND THE NORÐRLJÓS (THE NORTHERN LIGHTS) IN NORSE MYTHOLOGY

**Abstract:** This paper outlines an investigation into the correlations between 'Bifröst' - the so-called 'Rainbow Bridge' of Norse Mythology - and various natural features and phenomena that have been the focus of a scholarly discussion over what the references to the 'Rainbow Bridge' are based upon. Over the years, scholars have suggested that the passages found in the old Scandinavian texts are referring either to the sightings of rainbows, or observations of the Milky Way, in their descriptions of 'Bifröst'. However, a critical comparison of the features of the Milky Way and of rainbows demonstrates that they do not fully conform to the descriptions of 'Bifröst' found in the extant literature, and therefore, any correlation between these natural features and the 'Rainbow Bridge' seem to be incorrect. Consequently, the descriptions of 'Bifröst' must be based upon something else. A close examination of the texts indicates that the mythic bridge to the home of the Norse gods was based upon sightings of one of nature's most spectacular displays: the Aurora Borealis or 'Northern Lights'.

### BUDDHISM, SOCIAL DYNAMICS AND SCIENTIFIC PERSPECTIVES IN CONTEMPORARY VIETNAM

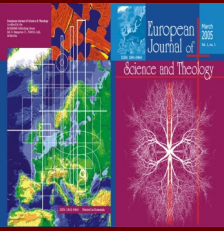
**Abstract:** This study explores the interplay between Buddhism, social dynamics and scientific perspectives within the context of contemporary Vietnam. It delves into the historical roots and evolution of Vietnamese Buddhism, examining its profound influence on various societal dimensions including politics, economics, culture and ethics. Moreover, the paper scrutinizes the role of Buddhism in shaping the national identity and its integration into the fabric of daily life amidst Vietnam's rapid integration and digital transformation. This research also addresses the scientific viewpoints on Buddhism's contributions and limitations, particularly in terms of mental well-being and societal development. By employing a multidisciplinary approach, combining theological analysis with sociological and scientific methodologies, the authors aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of the role of Buddhism in modern Vietnamese society. The paper also evaluates the policies of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the State of Vietnam regarding religion, emphasizing their significance in leveraging religious tenets for societal advancement.

### MANAGEMENT OF PILGRIMAGE MOVEMENT AND PILGRIMAGES ON THE EXAMPLE OF TWO SELECTED CITIES IN POLAND AND SLOVAKIA

**Abstract:** Czestochowa and Levoca are cities with sanctuaries that are a destination of modern pilgrimage. People visit these places yearly to strengthen their relationship with God or express gratitude for positive life changes. Bearing in mind that a pilgrimage is an organized event involving not only the participants themselves but also the authorities of the cities constituting the destination of pilgrimages, the article analyses and evaluates the management of pilgrimage traffic, adopting two points of view: the first one assesses the management of pilgrimage traffic from the point of view of preparing cities for the pilgrimage, and in the second - an assessment of the organization of the pilgrimage, taking into account ten different criteria that constitute the management of the pilgrimage itself. For this purpose, a survey was conducted among participants of pilgrimages to Czestochowa and Levoca from July to November 2023. The research results indicate that Czestochowa was the city better prepared for the preparation of cities to manage pilgrimages. However, in terms of managing the pilgrimages themselves, the pilgrimages to Levoca proved to be better managed.

### FUNDAMENTALS OF CARL GUSTAV JUNG'S ANTHROPOLOGY IN THE CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

**Abstract:** For several decades now, Carl Gustav Jung's analytical psychology has been favourably viewed by many psychologists and theologians worldwide. There are very few voices of scholars who, unlike the mainstream thinkers who admire the Swiss psychiatrist's analyses of the structures of human consciousness, find in his views several dangers for human spiritual life. From a Christian perspective, it is necessary to analyse Jung's major anthropological assumptions regarding his vision on human being as related to God (as a Trinity of Persons) and demons to make a sound assessment of his views. This article illustrates in a synthetic way that the key ideas of Jung's anthropology are difficult to reconcile with the basic tenets of Christian anthropology.



## INTERPRETING THE GENESIS FLOOD NARRATIVE AN INTEGRATION OF EXEGETICAL ANALYSIS AND CLIMATE SCIENCE PERSPECTIVES (GENESIS 6.5-8)

*Abstract:* This study re-examines the biblical flood narrative in Genesis 6.5-8 through an interdisciplinary lens, integrating historical-critical exegesis with insights from Archaeology, Geology, comparative mythology, and Social sciences. By exploring archaeological evidence of ancient floods in Mesopotamia and their potential influence on the Biblical flood narrative, the manuscript delves into the scientific plausibility of such an event. Comparative analysis with other ancient flood myths, including the Gilgamesh Epic and Greek mythology, is conducted to understand common natural phenomena that may have inspired these narratives. This interdisciplinary approach also considers the psychological and sociological impacts of catastrophic events on societies, both ancient and contemporary. The manuscript aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the flood narrative, balancing theological interpretation with scientific inquiry, thereby contributing to a deeper appreciation of this pivotal biblical event in both theological and scientific communities.

## FRANK HERBERT'S 'DUNE CHRONICLES' AS EXAMPLE OF AN IDEA OF THEOCRACY IN SCI-FI LITERATURE

*Abstract:* The main goal of this paper is to present the theocratic political system presented in science fiction literature, using the example of Frank Herbert's book series 'Dune Chronicles'. The paper consists of analysis of Dune's world and Atreides' religion within it, comparison between theocratic political system presented in 'Dune Chronicles' and real life political systems and defining Herbert's idea of theocracy. The basic questions posed by the author of this paper are connected with defining theocratic systems of Paul and Leto II Atreides and assessing wheatear or not would it be even achievable in real world. This research was conducted in light of theoretical text analysis, especially considering historical counterparts in 'Dune Chronicles', social effects of religion on society and intertextual interpretation of author's views affecting the literary work. The archetypal criticism used in this paper aims to draw comparisons between different characters and their roles within the universe and in consequence - compare them with their functional counterparts in other theocratic systems.

## RESEARCH OF THE ICON 'SAINT ELIJAH THE PROPHET' (1774) FROM THE ECCLESIASTICAL OBJECTS COLLECTION OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF IASI, ROMANIA

*Abstract:* The icon 'Saint Elijah the Prophet' belongs to the repository of ecclesiastical objects collection of the Archdiocese of Iasi, Romania. The icon's inscription indicates that it was painted in 1774 at the expense of the furriers' guild. The icon was covered with a silver revetment, which is now lost. X-radiographs and macrophotographs have revealed its fixing nails. Over time, the icon has suffered numerous deteriorations caused by poor authorship technique, poor storage conditions and subsequent interventions (both vandalism and inappropriate grouting and repainting). Wood-boring insects also played an important role in the deterioration of the icon, causing aesthetic damage to the surface of the painting and affecting the mechanical strength of the wooden support.

## SOCIO-RELIGIOUS INTERFERENCE IN ART AS A SPIRITUAL FORM OF MANIFESTATION

*Abstract:* The research aims to present the importance of religion with its forms of expression through art: painting, sculpture, music. It can therefore be said that by sensitizing the olfactory, visual, auditory and tactile senses, an important element of cohesion in society is thus constituted both by creating distinct networks and groups, as well as by defining a mental universe through which individuals have a certain conception of man and the world.