

# Exploring Awe and Wonder

## Interdisciplinary Conference

6-7 September 2013

Institute for Simulation and Training  
University of Central Florida, Orlando

Supported by a research grant on  
*Space, Science and Spirituality* from the

**25** JOHN TEMPLETON FOUNDATION  
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<http://www.chdr.cah.ucf.edu/spaceandspirituality/conference.php>

## Program

### Friday, September 6

- 9:30 am Registration  
9:45-10 Welcome: Shaun Gallagher
- 10-11:30 **Wonder: From the child to the philosopher** (Moderator: Eileen Smith)  
Scott Howard *Simulated innocence: The perspective of childhood and the fragility of wonder*  
Brian Onishi *Wonder as repetition: The perpetual beginning of philosophy*  
Joshua Blanchard *Abraham Heschel on wonder, awe and radical amazement*
- 11:30-1:00 pm **Valence and ineffability** (Moderator: Michael Strawser)  
Antoine Dussault *The complex valence of awe and its role as a moral emotion*  
Manuela Costa *If forgiveness is a duty or a need*  
Nikolas Montgomery *When words fail us: Wonder, awe and philosophical approaches to ineffability*
- 1-2 Lunch
- 2-3:30 **Intellectual possibilities** (Moderator: Steve Fiore)  
Natalia Pietrulewicz *Awe, wonder and alief*  
Steven Pittz *Wonder, aesthetics and skepticism*  
Teri Merrick *Can a mathematically elegant cosmos evoke wonder?*
- 3:30 Coffee

- 4-4:45     **Awe and aesthetic experience** (Moderator: Lauren Reinerman)  
 Jörg Fingerhut     *When does art elicit awe? The 'natural' and the 'artificial' in aesthetic experience*
- 5-6         **Keynote Lecture** (Moderator: Bruce Janz)  
 Michelle Shiota     *The "most beautiful emotion": Subjective, expressive, physiological, and cognitive features of awe*
- 7pm         *Conference Dinner*

**Saturday, September 7**

- 9:30-12     **Space, Science and Spirituality** (Moderator: John Elias)  
 Shaun Gallagher     *Hermeneutical explorations: From outer to inner space*  
 Lauren Reinerman     *Awe and wonder in a simulated space flight*  
 Patricia Bockelman-Morrow     *Experiencing awe & wonder: Findings from a neurophenomenological study*  
 Bruce Janz     *Wondering about wonder: The phenomenology of unprecedented experience*
- 12-12:45 pm     **Cultural effects on awe** (Moderator: Eleonore Stump)  
 Jörg Trempler     *How popular culture shapes our expectations about space*
- 12:45-2     Lunch
- 2-3         **Space, literature, and history** (Moderator: Patricia Bockelman -Morrow)  
 Holly Henry     *Dreams of other worlds*  
 Tilmann Siebeneichner     *Rocket science and spirituality in a belligerent world: The Nazi-Wunderwaffen, 1940-1945*
- 3-5         **Awe and wonder in Media** (Moderator: Mason Cash)  
 Catherine Newell     *From conquest to curiosity*  
 Allison Whitney     *The awe of the astronaut: IMAX space films and discourses of wonder and the sublime*  
 Eric Boynton     *Evoking wonder: Terrence Malick's films and Martin Heidegger's philosophy*
- 5-6         **Keynote Lecture** (Moderator: Shaun Gallagher)  
 Jesse Prinz     *The wonder of art*

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