

“Science Integration” – The process by which insights from science are incorporated into how people see themselves and their roles as part of the universe.

Central Goal of Conference – Explore insights of modern physical science from a perspective which asks what light these insights can shed on our individual efforts to figure out our role or place in the universe.

Related Questions:

- Can we find meaning for ourselves within a scientifically accurate map of the world?
- What is the role of physical science in the development of personal worldviews?

“...in human affairs an idea is a greater moving force than any physical influence...So the shape of our future will depend to a large extent on our understanding of our role in the cosmic process.”

– Louise B. Young (The Unfinished Universe)

“On the maps provided by science, we find everything except ourselves.”

– Bryan Appleyard (Understanding the Present)

"For sanity's sake, societies must now evolve belief systems to incorporate the scientific dimension. But precious little constructive help seems to be forthcoming from the scientific community."

– D.A. Rees (*Nature*, 20 May 1993, p. 203)

“We would shift our emphasis from trying to discern the structure of the universe to trying to reckon our place within the structure...”

– Edwin Dobb (*Harper's*, Feb. 1995, p. 40)

A structure for our investigations/discussion:

- *How have the major concepts, insights, and developments of physical science influenced public perception of our place in the universe?*
- *What problems and conflicts has this influence caused?*
- *What can be done to facilitate better incorporation of physical science insights into our everyday lives and perspectives, in a positive and constructive way?*

“Perhaps now is the time to widen the quest for understanding still further, to expand the intellectual effort beyond conventional science – to engage the larger, non-scientific communities of philosophers, theologians, and others who often resonate with the cosmic-evolutionary theme even if not in name, all in an ambitious attempt to construct a millennial worldview of who we are, whence we came, and how we fit into the cosmic scheme of things as wise, ethical human beings.”

– Eric Chaisson (Cosmic Evolution: the Rise of Complexity in Nature)