IN THIS ISSUE

EDITORIAL
WILLEM B. DREES
Mental Well-Being, Climate Change, and New Archival Material on Teilhard de Chardin

ARTICLE
DAVID GRUMETT
Teilhard de Chardin, Original Sin, and the Six Propositions

MENTAL WELL-BEING, NEUROSCIENCE, AND RELIGION: CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE SCIENCE AND RELIGION FORUM
GILLIAN K. STRAINE
Mental Well-Being, Neuroscience, and Religion: Contributions from the Science and Religion Forum
FRASER WATTS
Theology and Science of Mental Health and Well-Being
LINDSAY BRUCE
The Physicalized Mind and the Gut-Brain Axis: In the Beginning; The Role of Myth in Relating Religion, Brain Science, and Mental Well-Being
JAMES CLEMENT VAN PEEL
Climate Change in Context: Stress, Shock, and the Crucible of Livingkind
ROBERT S. PICKART
Climate Change at High Latitudes: An Illuminating Example
EMILY E. AUSTIN
Soil Carbon Transformations
DAVID A. LARRABEE
Climate Change and Conflicting Future Visions
PANU PHIKALA
Eco-Anxiety, Tragedy, and Hope: Psychological and Spiritual Dimensions of Climate Change
CAROL WAYNE WHITE
Re-Envisioning Hope; Anthropogenic Climate Change, Learned Ignorance, and Religious Naturalism
MATTHEW FOX
Climate Change, "Laudato Si’", Creation Spirituality, and the Nobility of the Scientist’s Vocation
CHRISTOPHER VOLPE
Art and Climate Change: Contemporary Artists Respond to Global Crisis
JIM RUBENS
The Wicked Problem of Our Failing Social Compact
PETER L. KELLEY
Crossing the Divide: Lessons from Developing Wind Energy in Post-Fact America
Statement of Perspective. The word zygone means the yoking of two entities or processes that must work together. It is related to zygo—meaning the union of genetic heritage from sperm and egg, a union that is vital in higher species for the continuation of advancement of life. The journal Zygon provides a forum for exploring ways to unite what in modern times has been disconnected—values from knowledge, goodness from truth, religion from science. Traditional religions, which have transmitted wisdom about what is of essential value and ultimate meaning as a guide for human living, were expressed in terms of the best understandings of their times about human nature, society, and the world. Religious expression in our time, however, has not been drawn similarly on modern science, which has superseded the ancient forms of understanding. As a result religions have lost credibility in the modern mind. Nevertheless some recent scientific studies of human evolution and development have indicated how long-standing religions have evolved well-won wisdom, still essential for the best life. Zygon’s hypothesis is that when long-evolved religious wisdom is yoked with significant recent scientific discoveries about the world and human nature, there results credible expression of basic meaning, values, and moral convictions that provides valid and effective guidance for enhancing human life. Zygon also publishes manuscripts that are critical of this perspective, as long as such papers contribute to a constructive reflection on scientific knowledge, human values, and existential meaning.


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EDITORIAL
WILLEM B. DREES
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Theology and Science of Mental Health and Well-Being
LINDSAY BRUCE
The Physicalized Mind and the Gut-Brain Axis: Taking Mental Health Out of Our Heads
SARAH LANE RITCHIE
In the Beginning: The Role of Myth in Relating Religion, Brain Science, and Mental Well-Being
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The Church and Mental Health: Theological and Practical Responses

THE WICKED PROBLEM OF CLIMATE CHANGE
KARL E. PETERS
Living with the Wicked Problem of Climate Change
PAUL H. CARR
What Is Climate Change Doing to Us and for Us?
JAMES CLEMENT VAN PEEL
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ROBERT S. PICKART
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Art and Climate Change: Contemporary Artists Respond to Global Crisis
JIM RUBENS
The Wicked Problem of Our Failing Social Compact
PETER L. KELLEY
Crossing the Divide: Lessons from Developing Wind Energy in Post-Fact America
CONTENTS

EDITORIAL
Mental Well-Being, Climate Change, and New Archival Material on Teilhard de Chardin .......................... WILLEM B. DREES 301

ARTICLE
Teilhard de Chardin, Original Sin, and the Six Propositions .......... DAVID GRU METT AND PAUL BENTLEY 303

MENTAL WELL-BEING, NEUROSCIENCE, AND RELIGION: CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE SCIENCE AND RELIGION FORUM
Mental Well-Being, Neuroscience, and Religion: Contributions from the Science and Religion Forum ............... GILLIAN K. STRAINE AND MARK HARRIS 331
Theology and Science of Mental Health and Well-Being . . . FR ASER WATTS 336
The Physicalized Mind and the Gut-Brain Axis: Taking Mental Health Out of Our Heads ...................... LINDSAY BRUCE AND SARAH LANE RITCHIE 356

In the Beginning: The Role of Myth in Relating Religion, Brain Science, and Mental Well-Being .......... JAIME WRIGHT 375
Empirical Mindfulness: Traditional Chinese Medicine and Mental Health in the Science and Religion Dialogue .................................................. WILLIAM L. ATKINS 392
The Church and Mental Health: Theological and Practical Responses .................................................. BEN RYAN 409

THE WICKED PROBLEM OF CLIMATE CHANGE
Living with the Wicked Problem of Climate Change ....... KARL E. PETERS 427
What Is Climate Change Doing to Us and for Us? ........ PAUL H. CARR 443
Climate Change in Context: Stress, Shock, and the Crucible of Livingkind .................... JAMES CLEMENT VAN PELT 462
Climate Change at High Latitudes: An Illuminating Example .................................................. ROBERT S. PICKART 496
Soil Carbon Transformations ................................................. EMILY E. AUSTIN 507
Climate Change and Conflicting Future Visions ....... DAVID A. LARRABEE 515
Eco-Anxiety, Tragedy, and Hope: Psychological and Spiritual Dimensions of Climate Change ................ PANU PIHKALA 545
Re-Envisioning Hope: Anthropogenic Climate Change, Learned Ignorance, and Religious Naturalism ............ CAROL WAYNE WHITE 570