

Entangled Worlds: Seeking Understanding Through Faith and Science

COSAC 2026

ISCAST's 15th biennial Conference on Science and Christianity (COSAC) will be held in Melbourne on 6 to 8 November 2026.

The conference will delve into the history and prospects of the dialogue between science and religion. The format will be that of a regular academic conference and confirmed keynote speakers are:

- Peter Harrison (Australia; author of *Some New World: Myths of Supernatural Belief in a Secular Age*)
- Nicola Hoggard Creegan (Aotearoa New Zealand; author of *Animal Suffering and the Problem of Evil*)
- Nick Spencer (United Kingdom; author of *Magisteria: The Entangled Histories of Science and Religion*)
- Paul Tyson (Australia; author of *A Christian Theology of Science*)

Conversations at the intersection of science and Christian faith have a long and rich history. Such dialogue emerged alongside the rise of the modern sciences, even though the academic field of science and religion took shape only in the mid-twentieth century. Since then, scholars have explored a wide range of ways of relating faith and science. These range from views that regard religion and the sciences as fundamentally incommensurable and mutually unintelligible—making dialogue appear impossible—to approaches that see genuine conversation as both possible and deeply fruitful, with different worldviews offering complementary and enriching insights.

More recently, new approaches have emerged—driven in part by the perception that the field has had limited impact beyond academic circles. Among the most significant developments are “science-engaged theology” (though “theology-engaged science” remains largely an unfulfilled frontier) as well as work described as “after science and religion.” These movements represent a welcome renewal of the field, offering a critical re-examination of established methods and a concerted effort to extend the conversation beyond the academy. In doing so, they resonate strongly with ISCAST's commitment to connecting rigorous scholarship with the concerns, questions, practices, and lived experiences of churches, professionals, and the wider community.

COSAC 2026 offers a space for robust and generous discussion about the history, current contours, and future directions of dialogue between Christian faith and science, as well as the wider field of science and religion. Bringing together scholars, church leaders, practitioners, educators, and interested lay people, the conference invites critical reflection on emerging approaches and enduring questions, and it explores how rigorous scholarship can both inform and be informed by the life of the church and wider society. In keeping with ISCAST's vision, COSAC 2026 seeks to foster conversation that is intellectually serious, pastorally attentive, and publicly engaged.

Academics and church leaders from the Antipodes and across the globe are invited to share their research and views, and to think together about further directions in exploring the entangled worlds of science and faith. It is the conviction of the organisers that, in an increasingly fractured world, a conference such as this—marked by understanding, harmony, and generous listening—contributes to a better world as it draws on diverse gifts and ways of communicating, as we journey together through history, towards God's kingdom.

Alongside the main theme, the conference also welcomes papers that address other relevant topics pertaining to faith and science.