

Year-Round Mentoring for Scientists

with Alexander Fink

Leader



Alexander Fink is Director of the Institute for Faith and Science (Institut für Glaube und Wissenschaft) in Marburg, Germany (www.iguw.de). He studied physics at the universities of Bayreuth and St. Andrews (UK) and received his PhD at the Institute for Biophysics at the University of Regensburg. After having worked as an industrial product manager, he became director of SMD graduates' ministry (Akademiker-SMD, the German branch of IFES) until 2014. His passion is the dialogue of science, faith, and worldviews. Hence he founded the Kepler-Forum in Regensburg, coorganising the annual Regensburger Symposium (www.regensburger-symposium.de) at the University of Regensburg. Since 2008 he has been a member of the ELF Steering Committee and has co-led the Scientists Network. Together with his wife, Alexander enjoys raising his two children.

Overview

GOAL: To provide scientists and scientific apologists a year-round forum to unite and equip them for understanding and communicating persuasively that science goes well alongside faith in the biblical God.

PLAN:

1. Online Seminar on Saturday, 13 May 2021 (exact time TBD)
2. Five 90-minute-webinars with assignments
3. A three-day retreat near Barcelona in December 2021 (exact dates TBD):
Note: If this retreat is a problem, please register anyway and indicate that You won't be able to join this retreat!
4. Pre-Forum Conference at the 2022 Forum in Wisła (Poland) on Friday, 20 May 2022 (18.00-21.00) and in the morning of 21 May 2022. Participants will still need to apply for the Forum and will be responsible for paying Forum fees in order to participate in the 2022 Forum. Participants must also pay for their own travel expenses.

PARTICIPANTS: Ten to fifteen Christian scientists or scientific apologists who want to use their scientific skills for persuasive communication of the gospel in their cultural context and who are willing to think and learn with other Christians who might hold different opinions e.g. on issues like creation and evolution etc.

QUALIFICATIONS: Each participant should have at least a master degree in a scientific discipline, have a strong interest in thinking through difficult issues on the faith and science debate and be a spiritually mature Christian.

COMMITMENTS: In addition to submitting an application, in order to be accepted as a participant, you must commit to:

1. Attend all sessions (see plan below)
2. Access all webinars on a computer with a good broadband internet connection and with a headset
3. Thoroughly review a selection of pre-assigned materials before and after each webinar. These assignments will consist of reading selections of books or articles, including the list of books and articles indicated for each webinar, or watching respective online-resources of talks
4. Secure a copy of the needed books for assignments
5. Pay the necessary fees. The fees for the retreat are 150 Euros for a Double Room and 190 Euros for a Single Room (or 100 Euros for scholarship recipients). For the 2022 Pre-Forum Conference, the fees are 70 Euros for a Double Room and 90 Euros for a Single Room (or 40 Euros for scholarship recipients).

2021 ONLINE SEMINAR: All science YRM participants will meet online with Alexander Fink on Saturday, 13th of May 2021, exact time TBD.

RETREAT: All science YRM participants will meet near Barcelona in December 2021. During this time every participant will **present an own apologetic talk** about a self-chosen science-and-faith-issue that will be discussed constructively by all participants. We will also focus on specific needs that have come up during the previous sessions.

2022 PRE-FORUM CONFERENCE: All YRM science participants will meet in Wisła, Poland, for a final Pre-Forum conference on Friday the 20th and Saturday the 21st of May 2022. Participants will still need to apply for the Forum and will be responsible for paying Forum fees in order to participate in the 2022 Forum. Participants must also pay for their own travel expenses.

Reading Assignments:

1. John Lennox, *Has science buried God (all chapters), Gunning for God (ch. 7-8)*
2. William Lane Craig, *On Guard (chapters 3-5)*
3. J.P. Moreland, *The Soul (chapter 4)*
4. Watch John Lennox: <http://foclonline.org/interview/how-persuasively-communicate-gospel-university>

Optional readings:

1. CS Lewis, *Miracles*
2. IVP Counterpoints series, *Four views on Creation, Evolution, and Intelligent Design*

2021-22 YRM for Scientists – Webinar Program

Webinar 1: Date: Wednesday 11 August 2021 @ 18.00-19:30 GMT

Assignments: Scientism and Naturalism

- A. **Read** John Lennox, *Has science buried God*, chapters 1-3
- B. **Watch** Lennox-Dawkins-debate: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVEuQg_Mglw
- C. **Watch** Rene van Woudenberg: <http://foclonline.org/talk/scientism-and-need-acknowledge-limits-science>
- D. **Write a 500 word summary** of what scientism and naturalism claim and how You would respond and send it to alexander.fink@iguw.de by **10th August 2020**.

Optional:

- E. **Watch** Paul Nelson: <http://foclonline.org/answer/what-methodological-naturalism-0> , <http://foclonline.org/answer/what-effect-has-naturalism-had-science-and-scientists> ,
- F. **Watch** Markus Widenmeyer: <http://foclonline.org/answer/what-naturalism-and-what-does-it-claim>
- G. **Listen** to Lydia Jaeger: <http://foclonline.org/talk/against-physcialism-plus-god-how-creation-accounts-divine-action-world>

Webinar 2: Date: Thursday 09 September 2021 @ 18.00-19:30 GMT

Assignments: The problem of miracles: science and the supernatural

- A. **Read** John Lennox, *Gunning for God*, chapters 7-8;
- B. **Watch** John Lennox: "Is belief in the supernatural irrational?" Harvard lecture: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Kz4OgXsN1w>
- C. **Write a 500 word summary** of how best to respond to the challenge that science has ruled out miracles. Send it to alexander.fink@iguw.de by **21st September 2020**.

Optional:

- D. **Read** C.S. Lewis, *Miracles*
- E. **Watch** Angus Menuge: <http://foclonline.org/talk/miracles-and-laws-nature-0>
- F. **Watch** Daniel von Wachter: <http://foclonline.org/talk/why-philosophical-theories-laws-nature-are-important>

Webinar 3: Date: Thursday 14 October 2021 @ 18.00-19:30 GMT

Assignments: Cosmology: Origin and Fine-Tuning of the universe

- A. **Read** John Lennox, *Has science buried God*, chapters 4-5 , W.L. Craig, *On Guard*, chapters 3-5
- B. **Watch** Alexander Fink <http://foclonline.org/talk/five-things-theologians-need-know-about-cosmology>
- C. **Write a 500 word summary** of how cosmology fits well with faith in the biblical god. Send it to alexander.fink@iguw.de by **25th January 2021**.

Optional:

- D. **Watch** Peter S. Williams <http://foclonline.org/talk/stephen-hawking-and-grand-designer>
- E. **Listen** to Hugh Ross <http://foclonline.org/talk/astrophysics-points-god>

- F. **Watch** William Lane Craig <http://foconline.org/talk/worlds-ten-worst-objections-kalam-cosmological-argument>

Three-day Retreat near Barcelona: Date: TBD (December 2021) from noon till noon

Assignments: Developing an apologetic science talk

- A. Listen to Richard Cunningham: <http://foconline.org/talk/christian-persuaders-1> ,
<http://foconline.org/talk/christian-persuaders-2>
- B. Watch John Lennox: <http://foconline.org/interview/how-persuasively-communicate-gospel-university>
- C. Prepare a **30-45 minute talk** about a self-chosen topic in which You identify with Your audience using a scientific issue, prosecute an argument how this points to the biblical God, and invite to investigate further or start a relationship with this God
- ⇒ At this meeting every participant will give an apologetic talk and we will review it constructively and encourage each other to use the best arguments!

Webinar 4: Date: Thursday 10 February 2022 @ 18.00-19:30 GMT

Assignments: Biology, evolution, Intelligent Design: Origin and complexity of life

- A. **Read** John Lennox, *Has science buried God*, chapters 6-11
- B. **Listen** to the podium discussion between Hugh Ross, John Lennox, Henri Blocher, Peter J. Williams: <http://foconline.org/talk/genesis-1-3>
- C. **Write a 500 word summary** of how biology fits well with faith in the biblical god. Send it to alexander.fink@iguw.de by **01st March 2021**.

Optional:

- D. *Read IVP Counterpoints series, Four views on Creation, Evolution, and Intelligent Design*
- E. *Watch James Tour:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i13z5SuqWqU&t=2s>
- F. *Watch Peter Imming:* <http://foconline.org/talk/current-status-chemical-theories-origin-life-christian-critique>
- G. *Watch Ard Louis:* <http://foconline.org/talk/how-evolution-works-and-implications-faith-god>
- H. *Watch Stephen Meyer:* <http://foconline.org/webinar/case-intelligent-design-seeing-signature-cell>
- I. *Watch the debate between Ard Louis and Stephen Meyer:* <http://foconline.org/talk/where-do-complex-biological-systems-come-comparison-two-different-christian-approaches> , and <http://foconline.org/talk/where-do-complex-biological-systems-come-discussion-debate>
- J. *Watch Siegfried Scherer:* <http://foconline.org/talk/merits-and-limits-evolutionary-biology-achievements-and-limits-scientific-theory>
- K. *Listen to Paul Nelson:* <http://foconline.org/talk/logic-place-intelligent-design> ,
<http://foconline.org/talk/molecular-machines-intelligent-design>
- L. *Watch Zachary Ardern: God and evolution:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WoVjBEztqio>

Webinar 5: Date: Thursday 10 March 2022 @ 18.00-19:30 GMT

Assignments: Uniqueness of Human Beings: How human beings are special

- A. **Read** J.P. Moreland, *The Soul*, chapter 4
- B. **Watch** Peter Saunders: <http://foclonline.org/talk/what-makes-us-human-values-and-morals-and-their-origin>
- C. **Watch** David Glass: <https://foclonline.org/short-talk/ai-and-human-uniqueness-are-we-just-sophisticated-computing-machines>
- D. **Write a 500 word summary** about whether human beings can be explained as a product of natural evolution and how faith in the biblical god provides a plausible view of human beings. Send it to alexander.fink@iguw.de by **05th April 2021**.

Optional:

- E. *Read* J.P. Moreland, *The Soul* (chapter 1-3, 5)
- F. *Read* Sharon Dirckx, *Am I just my brain*
- G. *Read* John Lennox, *Gunning for God*, chapter 4
- H. *Watch* Geoff Barnard: <http://foclonline.org/talk/what-makes-us-human-genetic-evidence>
- I. *Listen to* Hugh Ross: <http://foclonline.org/talk/who-was-adam>
- J. *Watch* Glynn Harrison: <http://foclonline.org/talk/god-spot-does-brain-science-undermine-faith-and-religious-belief>
- K. *Watch* Alexander Fink: <http://foclonline.org/talk/analysis-thomas-nagels-mind-and-cosmos>
- L. *Watch* 4 Q&A-videos by Angus Menuge: http://foclonline.org/search/site/Menuge?f%5B0%5D=is_uid%3A10250

How To Apply

1. Fill out an online application by clicking **HERE**. Please be sure to fill out every field.
2. Once we receive your online application form, your application will be considered complete. We will review your completed application and let you know if you are accepted into the program within four to six weeks.

If you have questions, contact us at initiatives@euroleadership.org