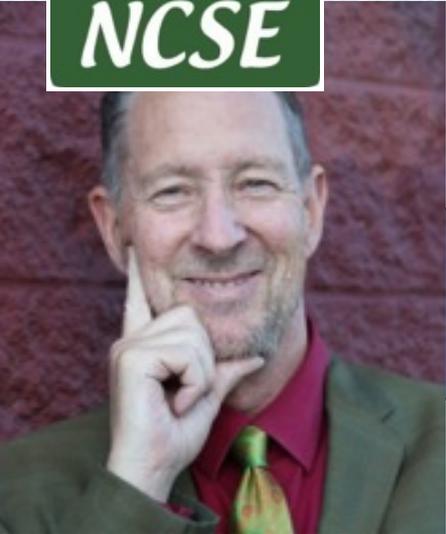


**Building alliances with
clergy and religious
communities to advocate
for science education**



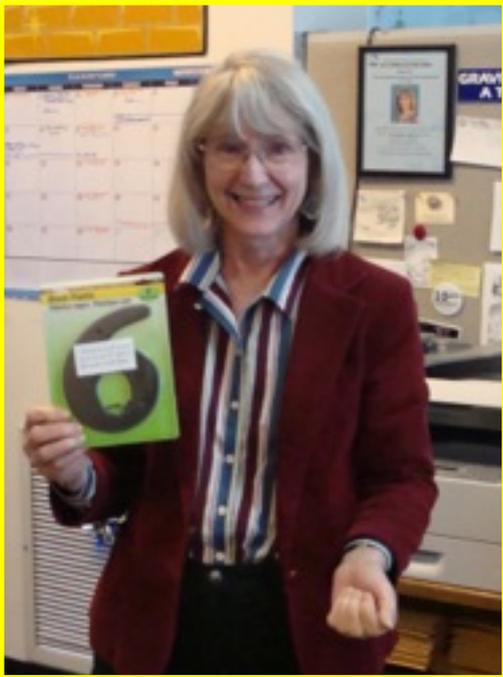
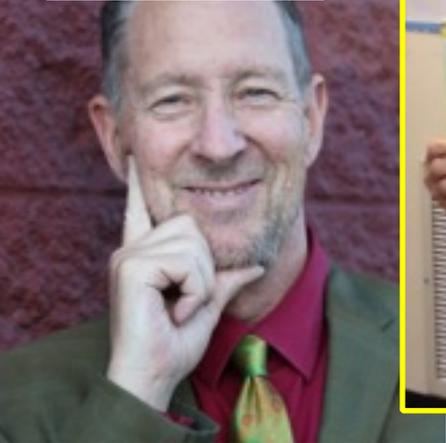


www.NCSE.com





www.NCSE.com



Who am I? What do I do?

Who am I? What do I do?

- Catholic Christian
Historical theologian
- NCSE Director of
Outreach to Religious
Communities



Who am I? What do I do?

- Catholic Christian
Historical theologian
- NCSE Director of
Outreach to Religious
Communities
- Sustainability ethicist



National
Center for
Science
Education

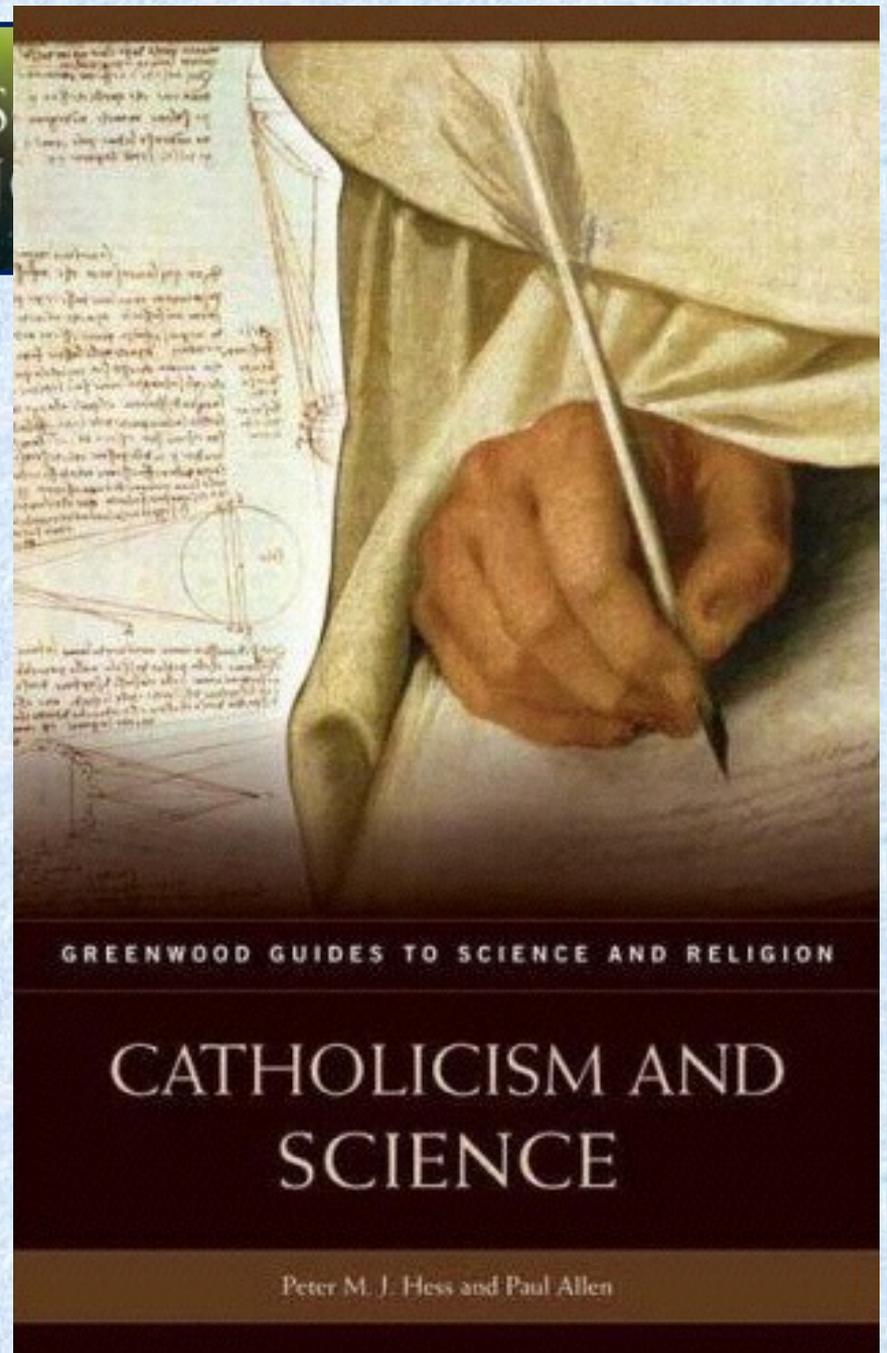
Who am I? What do I do?

- Catholic Christian
Historical theologian
- NCSE Director of
Outreach to Religious
Communities
- Sustainability ethicist
- Fellow, International
Society for Science and
Religion





- Catholic Christian Historical theologian
- NCSE Director of Outreach to Religious Communities
- Sustainability ethicist
- Fellow, International Society for Science and Religion
- Author, Catholicism and Science



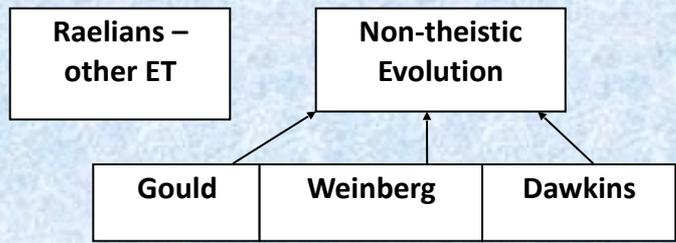
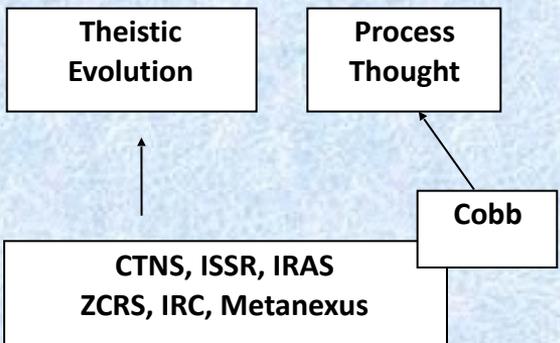
NCSE: Why do we exist?



- To promote and defend the teaching of sound science – evolution and climate change.
- To advocate for science in the media, at public and private events, in courtrooms, and in front of conferences, school boards and state legislatures.
- Not to take on every dispute, but to empower people in local contexts to take action in defense of science teaching.
- Not to launch gratuitous attacks on private belief.
- Because life is short, email me: hess@ncse.com.

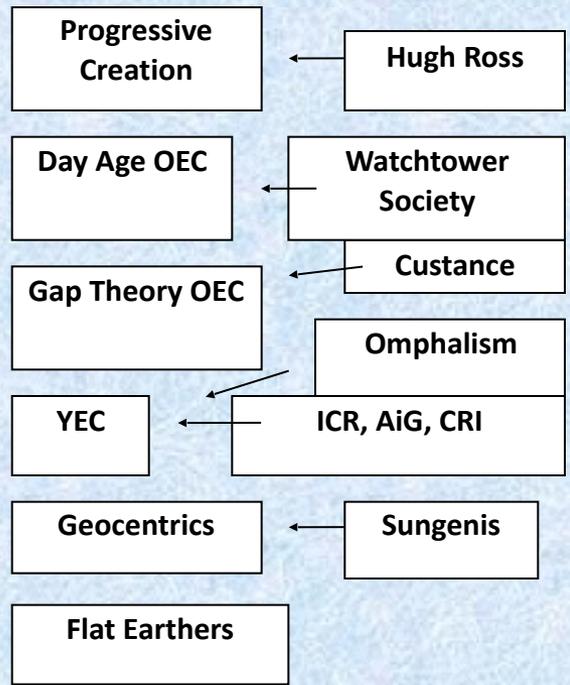
Science Spectrum

Creationism^I



Theism Spectrum

Creationism^{II}



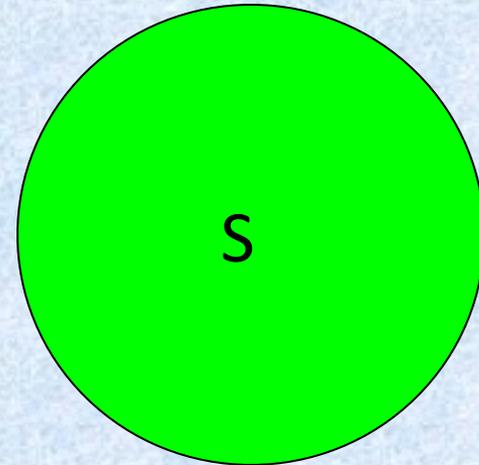
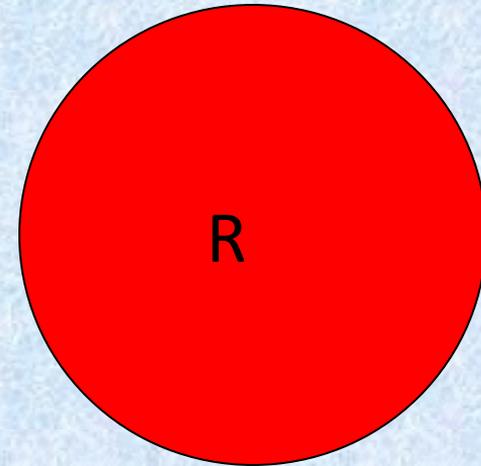
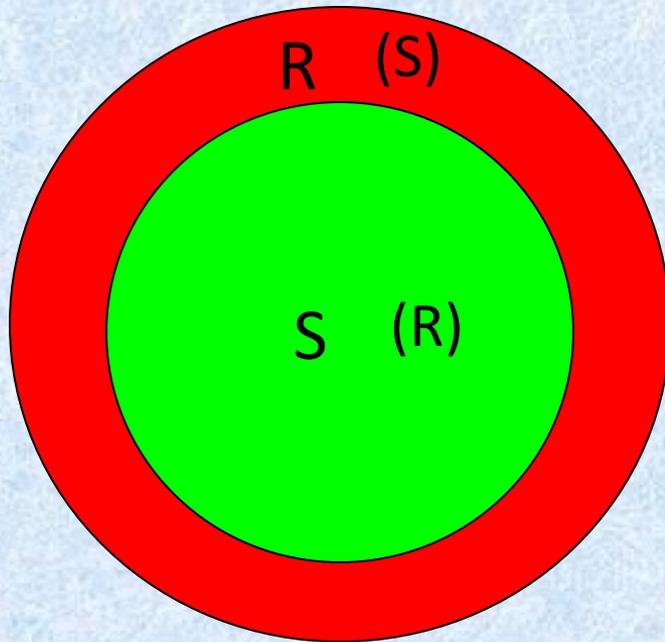
**Intersecting Epistemologies:
Evolution, Creation,
and Theistic Belief**

© 2007 Peter M. J. Hess

Science & Religion: Models of Interaction

Ian Barbour, *Religion in an Age of Science* (1998)

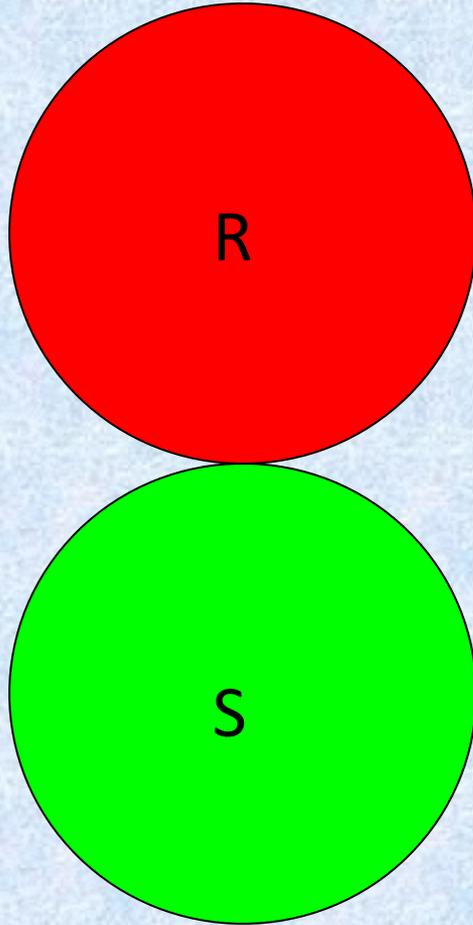
Conflict Model



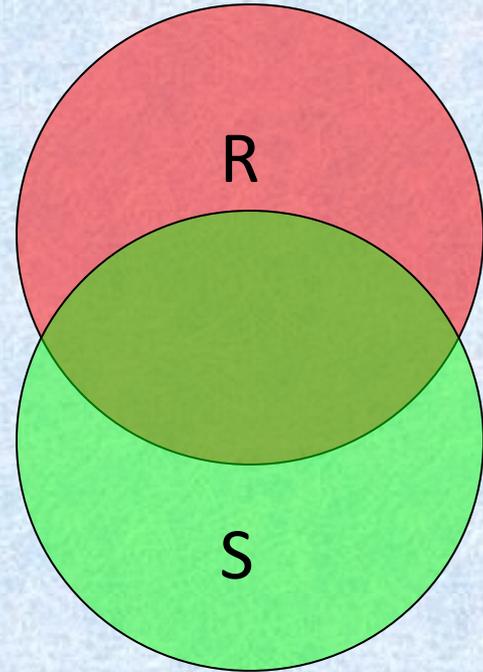
Independence Model

Science & Religion: Models of Interaction

Ian Barbour, *Religion in an Age of Science* (1998)



Dialogue Model



Integration
Model

Science and Religion

- Not competing categories
- Complementary ways of viewing reality
- Each supplies a different perspective on the world
- Each should respect the autonomy of the other.

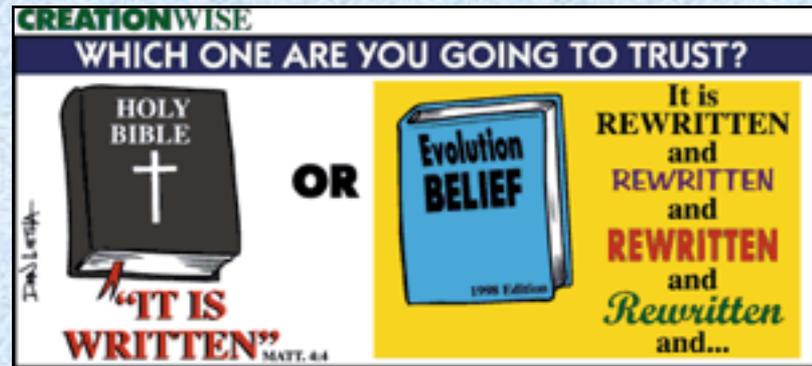


Pillars of Creationism

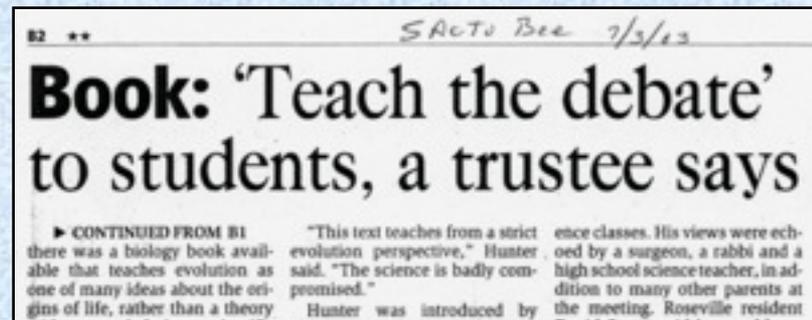
Evolution is a
“theory in crisis”



Evolution and religion are
incompatible



It's only “fair” to teach creationism
with evolution



Evolution Weekend

The Clergy Letter Project

The Clergy Letter Project

Home

Background

The Clergy Letters

Christian Clergy Letter

(12,958 signatures as of 03/22/14)

Rabbi Letter

(510 signatures as of 03/22/14)

UU Clergy Letter

(282 signatures as of 03/22/14)

Buddhist Clergy Letter

(24 signatures as of 03/22/14)

Evolution Weekend

Evolution Weekend 2014

Evolution Weekend 2013

Evolution Weekend 2012

Evolution Weekend 2011

Evolution Weekend 2010

Evolution Weekend 2009

Evolution Weekend 2008

Evolution Sunday 2007

Evolution Sunday 2006

Resources

Scientific Consultants

Sermons

Articles

Recommended Readings

Websites

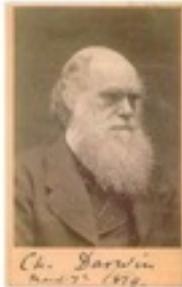
Related News

The Faces of The Clergy

Letter Project

Read Our Stories

Welcome to The Clergy Letter Project



The Clergy Letter Project is an endeavor designed to demonstrate that religion and science can be compatible and to elevate the quality of the debate of this issue.



To learn more about The Clergy Letter Project, please browse our site.

The Clergy Letter Project has been officially endorsed by The United Methodist Church! Read more about the endorsement [here](#). And click [here](#) to read a piece entitled "The Rightful Place of Science - In Church" by Bishop Sally Dyck, Northern Illinois Annual Conference, United Methodist Church. Similarly, click [here](#) to read a piece entitled "The Clergy Letter Project" by Bishop Ernest S. Lyght, West Virginia Annual Conference, United Methodist Church.

The Clergy Letter Project has been officially endorsed by the Southeast Florida Diocese of the Episcopal Church! Read more about the endorsement [here](#).

The Clergy Letter Project has been officially endorsed by the Southwestern Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America! Read more about the endorsement [here](#).

In conjunction with the Center for Inquiry Austin, The Clergy Letter Project has launched a web page designed to advocate for a 21st century science in Texas schools. The web site is entitled Teach Them Science and it can be accessed [here](#).

<http://www.theclergyletterproject.org/>

NCSE Clergy Climate Letter Project

Draft

Common to all faith traditions is a concern for the human community, for its most vulnerable members, and for the biosphere upon which all animals and plants depend for life. Anthropogenic climate change carries major challenges for every aspect of human existence, virtually all of which have an ethical dimension.

We, the undersigned clergy from many different religious traditions, believe that the scientific consensus about human-caused climate change demands response on the part of religious believers and communities. We believe that members of every faith tradition have the right to know the implications of this consensus, and to act on this knowledge.

Building Coalitions to Meet Crises

- Epperson vs. Arkansas (1968): Supreme Court invalidates Arkansas statute prohibiting the teaching of evolution
- Edward vs. Aguillard (1987): Supreme Court held Louisiana's "Creationism Act" unconstitutional, on the grounds that it impermissibly endorses religion
- Kitzmiller v. Dover (2005): US District Court Judge Jones orders Dover, PA, school board to refrain from maintaining an "intelligent design" policy

Building Coalitions to Meet Crises

- In each case a local crisis becomes magnified to the state level or beyond. We win cases by building coalitions of teachers, parents, clergy, scientists and other parties.
- Organizing a coalition
- Finding common ground through our diverse backgrounds