Exploring Awe and Wonder

Interdisciplinary Conference
6-7 September 2013
Institute for Simulation and Training
University of Central Florida, Orlando

Supported by a research grant on
Space, Science and Spirituality from the


Program

Friday, September 6

9:30 am  Registration
9:45-10  Welcome: Shaun Gallagher

10-11:30  Wonder: From the child to the philosopher (Moderator: Eileen Smith)
Scott Howard  Simulated innocence: The perspective of childhood and the fragility of wonder
Brian Onishi  Wonder as repetition: The perpetual beginning of philosophy
Joshua Blanchard  Abraham Heschel on wonder, awe and radical amazement

11:30-1:00 pm  Valence and ineffability (Moderator: Michael Strawser)
Antoine Dussault  The complex valence of awe and its role as a moral emotion
Manuela Costa  If forgiveness is a duty or a need
Nikolas Montgomery  When words fail us: Wonder, awe and philosophical approaches to ineffability

1-2  Lunch

2-3:30  Intellectual possibilities (Moderator: Steve Fiore)
Natalia Pietrulewicz  Awe, wonder and alief
Steven Pittz  Wonder, aesthetics and skepticism
Teri Merrick  Can a mathematically elegant cosmos evoke wonder?

3:30  Coffee
4-4:45  **Awe and aesthetic experience** (Moderator: Lauren Reinerman)
Jörg Fingerhut  *When does art elicit awe? The ‘natural’ and the ‘artificial’ in aesthetic experience*

5-6  **Keynote Lecture** (Moderator: Bruce Janz)
Michelle Shiota  *The “most beautiful emotion”: Subjective, expressive, physiological, and cognitive features of awe*

7pm  **Conference Dinner**

**Saturday, September 7**

9:30-12  **Space, Science and Spirituality** (Moderator: John Elias)
Shaun Gallagher  *Hermeneutical explorations: From outer to inner space*
Lauren Reinerman  *Awe and wonder in a simulated space flight*
Patricia Bockelman-Morrow  *Experiencing awe & wonder: Findings from a neurophenomenological study*
Bruce Janz  *Wondering about wonder: The phenomenology of unprecedented experience*

12-12:45 pm  **Cultural effects on awe** (Moderator: Eleonore Stump)
Jörg Trempler  *How popular culture shapes our expectations about space*

12:45-2  **Lunch**

2-3  **Space, literature, and history** (Moderator: Patricia Bockelman-Morrow)
Holly Henry  *Dreams of other worlds*
Tilmann Siebeneichner  *Rocket science and spirituality in a belligerent world: The Nazi-Wunderwaffen, 1940-1945*

3-5  **Awe and wonder in Media** (Moderator: Mason Cash)
Catherine Newell  *From conquest to curiosity*
Allison Whitney  *The awe of the astronaut: IMAX space films and discourses of wonder and the sublime*
Eric Boynton  *Evoking wonder: Terrence Malick’s films and Martin Heidegger’s philosophy*

5-6  **Keynote Lecture** (Moderator: Shaun Gallagher)
Jesse Prinz  *The wonder of art*

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