

For some light reading this summer, check out the latest postings on the ISAS Forum! The media hype over the confirmation at CERN of the Higgs Boson (aka the God Particle) but the big controversies in physics continue. In addition to articles on the "hard" science, we've also posted items dealing with the issues of Miracles and Love

As I continue the effort to expand conversations and readership, I would appreciate hearing your thoughts and questions in the Forum. And please pass this newsletter around to anyone who might be interested.

Thanks

-George Gantz

New Discussions:

Uncertainty – More Data is Not Enough!

August 15th, 2013

Today I read two articles in the online journal Nautilus: Michael Tuts' "[Discovering the Expected](#)", which discusses the process physicists have used to validate the discovery of the Higgs Boson, and Amir D. Aczel's "[Chasing Coincidences](#)", which highlights our tendency to remember the unexpected. The first article highlights the need to throw out the data that does not suit our purpose, and the second highlights how our unconscious attention throws out experience that does not contain meaning. In each case, it is the patterns and relationships that are important. But uncertainty is also significant from a metaphysical perspective.

Are Miracles Real?

August 1st, 2013

This troublesome question sits at the heart of the theist / atheist divide. For atheists, the lack of scientific proof of the interventions of an omnipotent God relegates all religious claims to the category of ignorance and superstition. For theists, the mysteries of transcendent experiences that cannot be explained open the doors to faith in the divine God. Why is this simple question so difficult? To that question there is an answer.

Causation – another highly disputed concept in physics.

May 29th, 2013

The common scientific explanation of causation follows the reductionist view that states that the interactions of the smallest structures cause the macro effects we actually see: Causation is a "bottom-up" process. But there are significant flaws in this model of causation that scientists (and theologians) have been struggling to address. A new model sees causation working top-down in multiple generative levels. This model may seem more complex, but it does a far better job at explaining the way the world works. And, however difficult it may seem, it is a model that is intuitively understood by children.

[More Discussions →](#)

News and Announcements:

Quantum Physics and Free Will

July 23rd, 2013

The Templeton Foundation's Big Question Online Series posted summarizing the basis for concluding that quantum physics require physical agency. Antoine Suarez makes the case for concluding that quantum behavior is metaphysical – there are phenomena outside of physics in nature. This approach resolves a number of the issues we have been including the problem of reductionism. Reductionism requires an immense coherent, finely tuned and ordered natural phenomena can emerge from chaos. There is an ordering "force" at work, a propensity or dispositional essentialism, that directs the emergence of higher level systems from consciousness from processes in the brain, life from chemistry, chemistry for God, and for Love, in this kind of universe.

The Science of Love

June 5th, 2013

According to Stephen Post ([BQO June 3, 2013](#)) the act of loving is not just show that showering others with our love frees us from self-pre-occupation increases our depth and enjoyment of life and improves our physical and mental health and my response.

Three New Books about Physics

June 4th, 2013

The technical details and mathematics of modern physics may be more interesting to scientists at elite academic institutions, but non-technical explanation and popularization of physics for the layperson would be welcome were it not for the fact that physics are in such disarray.

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