

Editorial - The Dynamic Theodicy Model: Understanding God, Evil, and Evolution

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Editorial – The Dynamic Theodicy Model: Understanding God, Evil, and Evolution

The scientific papers published in a special edition of the journal “Scientia et Fides” are the result of an international scientific project titled “The Dynamic Theodicy Model: Understanding God, Evil, and Evolution.” The project leaders are Prof. Piotr Roszak (Nicolaus Copernicus University) and Prof. Saša Horvat (University of Rijeka), under the auspices of the University of Oxford and the John Templeton Foundation. Other members of the project team include Grzegorz Karwasz, Michał Oleksowicz, Tomasz Huzarek, and Jan Wólkowski.

The overarching goal of the project is to develop the “dynamic theodicy model” (DT model) to address a profound question: if God is infinitely good, how can there be such pervasive pain and suffering in the evolutionary journey of human beings? The DT model acknowledges the necessity for theodicy to engage with scientific discoveries, particularly from the fields of biology and physics. Our research aims to establish a foundational structure for the DT model. By integrating natural sciences, philosophy, and theology, our goal was to formulate a contemporary perspective on the issue of values (good and evil) in the natural world that can inform theodicy.

The project has undertaken various activities, including two international scientific conferences. The first conference, titled “Pain and Suffering: Evolutionary and Theological Perspectives,” was held in Toruń, Poland, on April 14–15, 2023. More information is available at: <https://scire.umk.pl/en/>. The second conference, titled “Pain and Suffering: From

Problematic Experience to Knowledge and Solutions,” took place in Rijeka, Croatia, on November 16–17, 2023. More information can be found at: <https://rijecki-znanstveni-mostovi.com/en/home/>.

The featured speakers at these conferences have shared their insights in this special edition, alongside contributors who answered our open call for participation. We are confident that the scholarly articles within this publication have advanced comprehension of the theodicy matter through the lens of modern scientific perspectives. We anticipate that they will inspire readers to delve deeper into this essential discourse on the relation between God and the world.

We extend heartfelt thanks to all members of the project team, as well as numerous individuals who have contributed to the realization of the entire project and all its activities, especially the institutions that have provided financial support for its implementation.

Piotr Roszak, Sasa Horvat, and Tomasz Huzarek