

Philosophy in the Reformed Tradition 2021
Celebrating the Heritage, Facing the Challenges, and Embracing the Future

International conference
Online: 8-11 December 2021

Invited Panel Abstracts

Supported by:

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Organizing Committee:

Christine Boshuizen-van Burken (chair) (Australia)
Romel Regalado Bagares (Philippines)
Lay Hendra Wijaya (Indonesia)
Gerrit Glas (The Netherlands)

Academic Committee:

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Renée van Riessen (The Netherlands)
Andrew Basden (United Kingdom)
Jim Skillen (USA)
Roelien Goede (South Africa)
Henk Geertsema (The Netherlands)

Dear participant,

We are delighted to present you an overview of ten invited panels for our conference on Philosophy in the Reformed Tradition 2021, organized by The *Association for Reformational Philosophy*, the *All of Life Redeemed (AoLR) platform*, and the *Abraham Kuyper Center at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*. We aim to make the rich resources of the Reformational movement more widely available, especially for the new audiences in the global South. We also aim at creating a context for dialogue between Reformational philosophers and representatives of other streams of thought within the broader Christian tradition. In this overview of invited panels, you may find references to any of following specific aims of the conference, namely:

- (1) exhibit what a century of philosophical thinking in the Reformed tradition has delivered, especially with respect to the challenges of our age (sustainability; ethics of technology; food production and consumption; professionalism and vocation; international relations, to mention a few)
- (2) identify and explore new ways to address the unresolved issues
- (3) encourage young students, scholars and professionals to engage with philosophical thinking in the Reformed tradition
- (4) offer a platform for students, young scholars and professionals (especially in the South) to present their initial steps in the field.

At this conference we celebrate the 16th anniversary of the *All of Life Redeemed (AoLR) platform*. It is also be the 10th in the series of 5-yearly international conferences of the *Association for Reformational Philosophy*.

As for so many scholars, the global COVID-19 pandemic has become an occasion to explore new ways of connecting, communicating, and learning. The conference will, therefore, be largely online with one hybrid hub in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, but we offer opportunities to connect online.

The program involves a combination of state-of-the-art keynote lectures, panels on focused themes, and workshops in which junior scholars can present their work and be mentored by senior scholars in their field. We will also create ample digital space for informal gatherings.

The latest version of the program can be found here:

<https://www.reformationalphilosophy.org/rpc2021-program/>.

Registrations remain open until the last conference day, see here:

<https://www.eventbrite.nl/e/philosophy-in-the-reformed-tradition-2021-international-conference-tickets-204332793887>

We hope you will enjoy the conference, advance your knowledge and understanding of reformational philosophy, and are able to make connections and enjoy old or emerging academic friendships.

Best regards on behalf of the organizing committee,

Christine Boshuijzen-van Burken (chair) (Australia)

Romel Regalado Bagares (Philippines)

Lay Hendra Wijaya (Indonesia)

Gerrit Glas (The Netherlands)

<https://www.reformationalphilosophy.org/rpc2021/rpc2021@reformationalphilosophy.org>

Programme (version 7 December 2021)**Day One (08 December 2021, Wednesday)**

Auckland (UTC +13), Melbourne (UTC +10), Manila (UTC +7), Amsterdam (UTC +1), Brasilia (UTC –3), New York (UTC -5), Mexico City (UTC -6)

Time (UTC)	Sessions
12:00 – 12:20 UTC	Opening Session Welcome address: Romel Regalado Bagares (Phillipines) Chair: Christine Boshuijzen-van Burken (Australia)
12:20 – 13:20 UTC	Invited Panel 1: Artificial Intelligence and its Applications Chair: Derek Schuurman (USA) Panelists: Mamello Thinyane (Macau), Henk Jochemsen (The Netherlands), Fernando Pasquini Santos (Brazil) Invited Panel 2: International Relations and Religion Chair: Simon Polinder (The Netherlands) Panelists: John Harmen Valk (The Netherlands), Tiago Rossi Marques (Brazil), Samira Ibrahim (The Netherlands)
13:20 – 13.30 UTC	Break
13:30 – 14:00 UTC	Keynote lecture: Current Challenges in Reformational Thought: A Historical Perspective Professor Craig Bartholomew (Kirby Laing Center for Public Theology, Cambridge, UK) Chair: Steve Bishop (UK)
14:00 – 14:30 UTC	Response & Open Forum Respondents: Adolfo Garcia de la Sienra (Mexico) Roel Kuiper (The Netherlands)
14:30 – 15:30 UTC	Local Initiatives around the Globe session Representatives of AoRL network discuss developments in the network Representatives of groups in Australia, New-Zealand, Philippines, Indonesia, Brasil, Mexico, Netherlands, UK, Canada and/or USA inform about local challenges, initiatives, and developments. Chair: Lay Hendra Wijaya (Indonesia)
15:30 – 16:00 UTC	Book Presentation <i>Homo Respondens</i> (Henk Geertsema) Chairs: Govert Buijs (The Netherlands) Perry Huesmann (Italy)
	END OF FIRST DAY SESSION

Day Two (09 December 2021, Thursday)

Time	Sessions
12:00 – 12:30 UTC	Keynote Address: Philosophy in the Reformed tradition: where are we and what do we need? Professor René van Woudenberg (Faculty of Humanities, Department of Philosophy, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, NL) Chair: Gerrit Glas (The Netherlands)
12:30 – 13.00 UTC	Response & Open Forum

	<p>Respondent: Bas Hengstmengel (The Netherlands) Alberto Escobar (Mexico)</p>
13:00 – 13:15 UTC	Break (prepare for break-outrooms)
13:15 – 14:15 UTC	<p><i>Interest Groups (Part I)</i> Participants will split up in Breakout Rooms for discussion about themes one is interested in. Each stream has one assigned chair who will steer the discussion. One purpose is to establish personal connections among conference participants and look for opportunities to work together on projects or papers, promote or discuss recent publications by reformational scholars.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics (<i>Corné Rademaker & Bart Cusveller</i>) • Politics and International Relations (<i>Trineke Palm</i>) • Political Economics (<i>Govert Buijs, Andrew Basden & Joost Hengstmengel</i>) • Sustainability (<i>Andrew Basden & Jan van der Stoep</i>) • Law (<i>Alan Cameron & Romel Regalado Bagares</i>) • Medicine and Anthropology (<i>Henk Jochemsen & Gerrit Glas</i>) • Technology (<i>Wa-Chul Son & Fernando Pasquini Santos</i>) • Systematic Philosophy (<i>Roy Clouser</i>) • Education (<i>Jan Hoogland & Edith van der Boom</i>) • Normative Practices (<i>TBA</i>) • Arts and Aesthetics (<i>Robert Covolo</i>) • Natural Sciences (<i>TBA</i>) • Global Christianity (<i>Michael Wagenman</i>) • Women in the Reformational Tradition (<i>Elaine Storkey & Christine Boshuijzen-van Burken</i>) • Sociology (<i>Alan Storkey & D.F.M. Strauss</i>) • Theology – Reformational Philosophy Gap (<i>Jeremy Ive & Timoteo Gener</i>)
14:15 – 15:00 UTC	<p><i>Invited Panel 3: Discussion panel on current Teaching Reformational Philosophy for the Next Generation</i> Chair: Maarten Verkerk (The Netherlands) Panelists: Lisa Lansang (South Korea), Bob Sweetman (Canada), Guilherme de Carvalho (Brazil), Michael Wagenman (UK)</p> <p><i>Invited Panel 4: The Encyclopedia of the Science of Law: Legal Philosophy in the Reformational Tradition</i> Chairs: David Caudill (USA) & Alan Cameron (New Zealand) Panelists: Romel Regalado Bagares (Philippines), Alan Cameron (New Zealand), David Caudill (USA)</p> <p><i>Invited Panel 5: Bridging the Theology – Reformational Philosophy Gap</i> Chair: Ron Kuipers (Canada) Panelists: Gayle Doornbos (Canada), Jamie Smith (USA), Jeremy Ive (UK), Nik Ansell (Canada)</p>
15:00 – 15:30 UTC	

	<p>Research Paper Presentations (see here for schedule) Stream 1: Sustainability (1) (chair: Victor Morales) – Jan van der Stoep Stream 2: COVID-19 Pandemic (chair: Michael Wagenman) – Jan Hoogland Stream 3: Technology (1) (chair: Maaïke Harmsen) – Maarten Verkerk Stream 4: Reformed Faith (chair: Joost Hengstmengel) – Joshua Mugg Stream 5: Economics (chair: Andrew Basden) – Adolfo García de la Sienra Stream 6: Social Ethics in Science (chair: Arjan de Visser) – Guilherme de Carvalho</p>
	END OF SECOND DAY SESSION
Day Three (10 December 2021, Friday)	
Time	Sessions
12:00 – 12:30 UTC	<p>Keynote Address: How to be a Christian scholar?</p> <p>Dolores G. Morris (Department of Philosophy, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, USA)</p> <p>Chair: Rik Peels (The Netherlands)</p>
12:30 – 13:00 UTC	<p>Response & Open Forum Respondents:</p> <p>Gray N. Sutanto (Indonesia)</p> <p>Roy Clouser (USA)</p>
13:00-13:15 UTC	Break
13:15 – 14:15 UTC	<p>Research Paper Presentations (see here for schedule) Stream 7: Sustainability (2) (chair: Maarten Verkerk) – Victor Morales Diana Salgado Stream 8: Systematic Philosophy (chair: TBA) – Miklos Vassanyi Tricia Van Dyk Stream 9: Theology, Philosophy and Economics (chair: Renée van Riessen) – Pedro Dulci Joost Hengstmengel Stream 10: Technology (2) (chair: Fernando Pasquini Santos) – Hans Voordijk Hendrik Santoso Sugiarto Stream 11: Science and Medicine (chair: TBA) – Richard Gunton Henk Jochemsen</p>
14:15 – 15:15 UTC	<p>Invited Panel 6: Vocation: work and faith Chair: Steven Garber (USA) Panelists: Alexey Gorbachev (Russia), Herman Oevermans (The Netherlands), Matthew Kaemingk (USA)</p> <p>Invited Panel 7: Sustainability Chair: Henk Jochemsen (The Netherlands)</p>

	Panelists: Andrew Basden (UK) and Yoseph Araya (UK), Victor Morales (Germany), Henk Jochemsen (The Netherlands)
15:15 – 15.20 UTC	Break
15:20 – 16:00 UTC	<p>Book presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jonathan Chaplin, Faith in Democracy Framing a Politics of Deep Diversity • Andrew Basden, Foundations and Practice of Research: Adventures with Dooyeweerd’s Philosophy • Derek Schuurman, A Christian Field Guide to Technology for Engineers and Designers • Maarten Verkerk, Proposal for an Introduction to Reformational Philosophy • Gerrit Glas, Person-Centred Care in Psychiatry Self-Relational, Contextual and Normative Perspectives <p>Chair: Jadi Lima (Indonesia)</p>
16:00-17:00 UTC	<p>Invited Panel 8: Presentation of Digital Initiatives for reformational philosophy</p> <p>Chair: Wout Bisschop (The Netherlands) Panelists: Steve Bishop (UK) and Andrew Basden (UK)</p> <p>Invited Panel 9: Natural Sciences and philosophy in the reformed tradition</p> <p>Chair: Arnold Sikkema (Canada) Panelists: Tatas H.P. Brotsudarmo (Germany), Richard Gunton (UK), Arnold Sikkema (Canada)</p>
	END OF THIRD DAY SESSION
Day Four (11 December 2021, Saturday)	
Time	Sessions
12:00 – 12:50 UTC	<p>Interest Groups (Part II) Participants will again be split up in Breakout Rooms for discussion about themes one is interested in. Each stream has one assigned chair who will steer the discussion. One purpose is to establish personal connections among conference participants and look for opportunities to work together on projects or papers, promote or discuss recent publications by reformational scholars.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics (<i>Corné Rademaker & Bart Cusveller</i>) • Politics and International Relations (<i>Trineke Palm</i>) • Political Economics (<i>Govert Buijs, Andrew Basden & Joost Hengstmengel</i>) • Sustainability (<i>Andrew Basden and Jan van der Stoep</i>) • Law (<i>Alan Cameron and Romel Regalado Bagares</i>) • Medicine and Anthropology (<i>Henk Jochemsen & Gerrit Glas</i>) • Technology (<i>Wa-Chul Son & Fernando Pasquini Santos</i>) • Systematic Philosophy (<i>Roy Clouser & D.F.M. Strauss</i>)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education (<i>Jan Hoogland & Edith van der Boom</i>) • Normative Practices (<i>TBA</i>) • Arts and Aesthetics (<i>Robert Covolo</i>) • Natural Sciences (<i>Tatas Brotosudarmo</i>) • Global Christianity (<i>Michael Wagenman</i>) • Women in the Reformational Tradition (<i>Elaine Storkey & Christine Boshuijzen-van Burken</i>) • Sociology (<i>Alan Storkey</i>) • Theology – Reformational Philosophy Gap (<i>Jeremy Ive</i>)
13:00 – 13:30 UTC	<p>All of Life Redeemed Junior Scholars Workshop</p> <p>Opening Lecture by Roy Clouser & Response by Dolores Morris</p> <p>Chair: Romel Regalado Bagares (Philippines)</p>
13:30-15:00 UTC	<p>All of Life Redeemed Junior Scholars Workshop Sessions (book of abstracts available to registered participants only)</p>
15:00 – 15:15 UTC	<p>Break</p>
15:15 – 16:15 UTC	<p>Invited Panel 10: <i>What to do next? Graduate education in reformational philosophy. What are the opportunities?</i></p> <p>Chair: Jan van der Stoep (The Netherlands)</p> <p>Panelists: Tricia Van Dyk (Lithuania), Adolfo Garcia de la Sienra (Mexico), Bob Sweetman (Canada)</p>
16:15 – 16:30 UTC	<p>Closing Panel – <i>The Future of Reformational Thinking in the Digital Age</i></p> <p>Farewell address: Gerrit Glas (The Netherlands)</p> <p>Chair: Christine Boshuijzen-van Burken (Australia)</p>
16:30 – 16:45 UTC	<p>Closing Ceremonies</p>
	<p>END OF CONFERENCE PROGRAMME</p>

Overview of Invited Panels

Invited Panel 1 AI and its Applications

December 8, 2021, 12:30-13.30 UTC.

Chair: Dr. Derek C. Schuurman, Professor of Computer Science, Calvin University, USA

Panelists:

Dr. Derek C. Schuurman, Professor of Computer Science, Calvin University, USA

Dr. Henk Jochemsen - Lindeboom Chair of Medical Ethics, Netherlands

Dr. Mamello Thinyane - Principal Research Fellow, United Nations University, Macau

Dr. Fernando Pasquini Santos - Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Federal University of Uberlândia, Brazil

First Dr. Henk Jochemsen will present how aspectual qualifications can be used to interpret the character and context of data used in AI, followed by an overview of multi-aspectual requirements analysis for Artificial Intelligence for well-being by Dr. Mamello Thinyane. Dr. Fernando Pasquini Santos' focus is on Human-robot interaction informed by Dooyeweerd's moral aspect and Roel Kuiper's work on moral capital.

Invited Panel 2 International Relations and Religion

December 8, 2021, 12:30-13.30 UTC.

Chair: Simon Polinder

Panelists:

John Harmen Valk of Leiden University, PhD in religion and international relations

Tiago Rossi Marques from Brazil, writes dissertation on Kuyper and international relations

Samira Ibrahim, participant in the international relations course of Clingendael and working for Nieuwwij.

Simon Polinder is an associate professor (Lector) Christian Profession at the Christian University of Applied Sciences Ede (CHE). His research is on the relationship between Christian faith, professions and organizations. He has published various articles and reports on these topics and co-edited the volume *Christian Care: Profession, Practice and Organization* (Groen: Heerenveen, 2019). He is the co-editor of the volume *Christian Faith, Philosophy and International Relations: the Lamb and the Wolf* (Leiden, Boston: Brill, 2019). He recently defended his dissertation: [*Towards a New Christian Political Realism? The Amsterdam School of Philosophy and the Role of Religion in International Relations*](#)

Abstract

In his presentation, Simon will present a short outline of his dissertation. A full summary can be found in the [book](#). The presentation will include the question what role religion plays in the world? It will also show what political realists like Hans Morgenthau and Kenneth Waltz wrote on religion. Moreover, it will demonstrate what the added value is of a worldview approach. Finally, it will demonstrate how the Normative Practice Approach helps to answer the question how to 'theorize' religion in international relations.

Samira I. Ibrahim is a hydrologist and theologian who also successfully graduated from the LBB Program for International Relations at the Clingendael Institute. She combines interdisciplinary academic research in the fields of religion, ecology and international politics with working on different projects through which she aims to contribute to sustainable, resilient and just societies. Recently, she was appointed at the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy as a climate ambassador.

Abstract

In her presentation, Samira I. Ibrahim will respond to Simon Polinder and the research he performed on the role of religion (and Christianity) in international relations from two perspectives. Firstly, she will focus on the importance of his work with respect to current global challenges which transcend specific cultures, religions and national boundaries. Secondly, she will shed light on the significance of studying the added value of other religions and their role in international relations, in particular Islam.

John-Harmen Valk is a university lecturer (assistant professor) at Leiden University in the Netherlands. His research interests lie at the intersection of international relations, political theory, continental philosophy and the philosophy of religion.

Abstract

Leveraging insights from the "Amsterdam School of Philosophy", Polinder injects a unique perspective into continuing International Relations (IR) conversations about the place and significance of religion on the international stage. My remarks will engage Polinder's argument at three levels: a) the characterisation of extant IR scholarship on religion; b) the place of religion vis a vis the thought of the well-known 20th century IR scholar Hans Morgenthau; c) the value-added of attention to practice in (re)thinking the place and significance of religion in international relations.

Tiago Rossi Marques is a PhD candidate and master in International Relations at Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais (PUC-Minas), with theological training from Martin Bucer Seminary and holds a postgraduate degree in theology from Mackenzie Presbyterian University. He combines interdisciplinary academic research in the fields of international relations theory, religion, political and public theology.

Abstract

In his presentation, Tiago R. Marques will respond to Dr. Simon Polinder and his research on the role of religion in International Relations from two approaches. Firstly, he will focus on the importance of his work regarding the use and application of religion in International Relations Theory. Secondly, he will shed light on the significance of Christian-based approaches to the field of International Relations, in particular the Kuyperian tradition.

Invited Panel: Local Initiatives around the Globe

8 December 2021, 14:30 – 15:30 UTC

Chair: Lay Hendra Wijaya (Indonesia)

Panelists: Benjamin Groenewold (Lithuania), Obed Vasquez Trujillo (Mexico), Jan van der Stoep (The Netherlands), Guiherme Cavalho (Brazil), Tinus van der Walt (South Africa)
Romel Bagares (Philippines)

Hendra Wijaya (Indonesia)

Representatives of local groups in different countries or regions in the world inform about local challenges, initiatives, and developments. They discuss in brief key initiatives that are happening or that they are organizing in their region/country as far as the reformational thought/movement is concerned. The panel seeks to answer several questions, such as: how do you think often unconnected groups can work together? What models would be the best under the circumstances?

Invited Panel 3: Current Teaching Reformational Philosophy for the Next Generation

9 December 2021 14:15 – 15:00 UTC

Chair: Maarten Verkerk (The Netherlands)

Panelists: Lisa Lansang (South Korea), Bob Sweetman (Canada), Guilherme Cavalho (Brazil), Michael Wagenman (UK)

In this panel we provide a general understanding of the current practices, challenges, "organizational" and "intellectual" status-quo of teaching Reformational Philosophy all over the world. So what is the current format, is the focus on graduate or undergraduates, what are the teaching topics within reformational philosophy, what is the number of students attending, how is it funded or embedded in institutional structures. We identify contrasts and overlaps, a common theme and perhaps formulate a conclusion.

Invited Panel 4: The Encyclopedia of the Science of Law: Legal Philosophy in the Reformational Tradition

9 December 2021 14:15 – 15:00 UTC

Chairs: David Caudill (USA) & Alan Cameron (New Zealand)

Panelists: Romel Regalado Bagares (Philippines), Alan Cameron (New Zealand), David Caudill (USA)

The Panel outlines what the *Encyclopedia of the Science of Law* actually comprises, both in Dooyeweerd's conception and in its actual textual form pre-publication; what its published state is now, and what it will be in its full published form as a multi-volume text. The question is then: what contribution can this published work make to ongoing reformational jurisprudential & interdisciplinary scholarship within the current broad cultural/societal and scholarly contexts?

Invited Panel 5: Bridging the Theology – Reformational Philosophy Gap

9 December 2021 14:15 – 15:00 UTC

Chair: Ron Kuipers (Canada)

Panelists: Gayle Doornbos (Canada), Jamie Smith (USA), Jeremy Ive (UK), Nik Ansell (Canada)

Invited Panel 6: Vocation: work and faith

10 December 2021, 14:15 – 15:15 UTC

Chair: Steven Garber (USA)

Panelists: Alexey Gorbachev (Russia), Herman Oevermans (The Netherlands), Matthew Kaemingk (USA)

At times of European Reformation the new concept of **work as vocation** (Berufung) was revolutionary for Christian world. It became one of practical teachings of Protestant Faith that have changed the Church and consequently the world.

Several centuries later, when key teachings of Reformation were formulated into **Five Solas** we do not see any mentioning of Vocation among key doctrinal statements of European Reformation. Why? Why such practically significant teaching was reduced to simply cultural principal of **“Protestant work Ethic”**?

In many regions outside of Western world local cultures do not transmit to believers attitude to work as something which spiritually matters. In many cultures work is perceived as inevitable evil rather than a privilege to participate in God’s Mission on this Earth.

Cultural Mandate to Humankind is denoted today as the Great Omission in line with Great Commission and Great Commandment. Present changes in Economy and Technology look as significant as the major shift from agricultural to industrial order which was happening at times of European Reformation.

If we take challenges of contemporary world seriously we need to revise spiritual importance of work as vocation, which theologically relies on **Cultural Mandate** and principle of **Priesthood of all the believers**.

Invited Panel 7: Sustainability

10 December 2021, 14:15 – 15:15 UTC

Panel Chair: Henk Jochemsen

Panelists: Andrew Basden (UK) and Yoseph Araya (UK), Victor Morales (Germany), Henk Jochemsen (The Netherlands)

In this panel we focus on sustainable food provision. The growing world population and the negative consequences of climate change for food production make world food security one of the most crucial issues of our time. In other words, organising the production and distribution of food in the world (the global food system) in a sustainable way, is imperative now. What does that mean for the present global food system?

Talking about global food system seems to suggest that the issue is a matter of global organisations, Is this true? Are the global corporations in the production of seeds and chemicals (e.g. Bayer), in the trade of food (e.g. Cargill) and retail not part of the problem and not so much the solution? Or are they both? How important are small scale steps in sustainable food production and the establishments of fair and sustainable chains of agriculture produce? What strategies can we think

of to further sustainable food provision for all people in the world (Cf SGD 2: To end all forms of hunger and malnutrition by 2030).

Invited Panel 8: Presentation of Digital Initiatives for reformational philosophy

Friday 10 December 2021, 16:00-17:00 UTC

Chair: Wout Bisschop (The Netherlands)

Panelists: Steve Bishop (UK) and Andrew Basden (UK)

In this panel two separate efforts to preserve and present reformational philosophy to a global audience are discussed. Topics include the why and how of setting up websites and YouTube channels, how that is going (traffic, responses?). What was the motivation/rationale for the panellists for presenting Reformational Philosophy in a digital way? What are the opportunities and risks to use digital means to preserve and present Reformational Philosophy? Should initiatives remain local and private, or adopted by a formal group or institutions?

Invited Panel 9 Natural Sciences and Philosophy in the Reformed Tradition

Friday 10 December 2021, 16:00-17:00 UTC

Panel Convener: Arnold E. Sikkema, Trinity Western University, Canada

Panelists: physicist Arnold E. Sikkema, chemist Tatas H.P. Brotsudarmo, and biologist Richard M. Gunton

Natural Sciences and Philosophy in the Reformed Tradition: Introduction

The natural sciences typically include the main fields of physics, chemistry, and biology, and their subfields, as well as the related areas of geology, atmospheric science, applied mathematics, astronomy, physical cosmology, and environmental science, some of which are more inter- and multi-disciplinary. The panel will discuss foundational principles that animate and delineate these fields, the nature of relationships between and beyond them, and how work in these fields can help elucidate the broader concepts of laws of nature, emergence, and objectivity. We will bring to bear key relevant features of Reformational philosophy, including its clear antireductionist stance, its identification of kernels of each modal aspect (though not of each subdiscipline), relations through anticipation and retrocipation, and implications for methodology.

Natural Sciences and Philosophy in the Reformed Tradition: ABSTRACTS

- Arnold E. Sikkema, Professor of Physics, Trinity Western University, Langley, British Columbia, Canada, Executive Director, Canadian Scientific & Christian Affiliation

Physics is engaged with the empirical description and explanation of matter and energy and their interactions. From quarks to cosmology, the intricate dynamic of relationships, structures, and processes explored in physics can be seen as a manifestation of God's covenant faithfulness to creation, particularly in their predictive mathematical character. While physics has found underlying linkages between disparate "fundamental" phenomena through unification (such as optics,

electricity, magnetism, and radioactivity in the “electroweak force”), many questions remain at most scales as well as in areas bordering on the metaphysical including string theory, multiverses, and interpretations. I will share thoughts about the irreducibility of relational ontology, based on Feynman diagrams in quantum field theory, connecting this to the electric field envisioned by Faraday & Maxwell.

- Tatas H.P. Brotsudarmo

Georg-Foster Fellow, Spectroscopy of Soft Matter, University of Bayreuth, Bayreuth, Germany
Chemistry has been regarded as a multidisciplinary field and has always been connected to the study of making things. The laws of physics, mathematical analysis, and computation to predict molecular structure, dynamics, bonding, reactivity, physical properties, and spectroscopic response might be used. Whatever the importance of analytical chemistry, chemistry is foremost concerned with making. In modern society, chemistry has left traces in various aspects of the world, providing vital solutions to such societal needs as food, energy, and water, and on the other hand, bombs, polluted rivers, and destroyed natural sites. In relation to creation, the doctrine of God’s providence is immensely practical in the reformed tradition. In this session, I intend to unfold the mystery of God’s providence witnessed in the first femtosecond reaction in photosynthesis. Furthermore, I intend to elaborate on how the framework of the reformed worldview might be used to shift the paradigm of responsible chemistry.

- Richard M. Gunton

Lecturer in Statistics, Department of Digital Technologies, University of Winchester
Honorary Associate at Institute of Education, University College London, United Kingdom
Biology stands for the scientific study of living things, but no researcher today is simply a “biologist”. Biological sciences range from biochemistry and molecular biology to genetics and ecology, reflecting the many levels of structure that pertain in living systems, with additional disciplines focusing on particular kinds of organisms and systems such as phycology, plant sciences, entomology, physiology and pharmacology - not to mention the medical sciences. Since the mid-19th century, theories of evolution by natural selection (themselves constantly developing) have sought to unify biology in a genetic paradigm that relativises the profound diversity among living things and has tended to draw biologists towards a worldview that is physicalist yet, in contrast to their colleagues in the physical sciences, also nominalist. I will invite participants to share their perspectives on the typologies of living things and the scope for discovering biotic laws in the various biological sciences.

Invited Panel 10: What to do next? Graduate education in reformational philosophy. What are the opportunities?

Saturday 11 December 2021, 15:15 – 16:15 UTC

Chair: Jan van der Stoep (The Netherlands)

Panelists: Tricia Van Dyk (Lithuania), Adolfo Garcia de la Sienna (Mexico), Bob Sweetman (Canada)

In this session we discuss the topic of future opportunities of graduate education in reformational philosophy. A new generation is arriving, with many coming from the Global South: where should students go to learn about reformation philosophy? And how should we educate them? Must we focus only on philosophy, or should we make it more interdisciplinary: Christian worldview in

general, in relation to science and society? What opportunities does online education offer? And what are the pitfalls? Is collaboration between institutions an option, or should each institution specialize in its own way? Panelists will reflect on these questions and discuss possible pathways into the future of graduate education in reformational philosophy.