

Year-Round Mentoring for Scientists

with Alexander Fink

Leader



Alexander Fink is Director of the Institute for Faith and Science (Institut für Glaube und Wissenschaft) in Marburg, Germany (www.iguw.de, www.begrundet-glauben.org). He studied physics at the universities of Bayreuth and St. Andrews (UK) and received his PhD at the Institute for Biophysics at the University of Regensburg. After having worked as an industrial product manager, he became director of SMD graduates' ministry (Akademiker-SMD, the German branch of IFES) until 2014. His passion is the dialogue of science, faith, and worldviews. He has produced apologetic

documentary movies which have been officially recommended for use in public schools in Germany. The institute's *Begründet-glauben-Podcast* which started in June 2020 has more than 10,000 subscribers. From 2008-2017, he coorganised the annual Regensburger Symposium at the University of Regensburg. Since 2008 he has been a member of the ELF Steering Committee and has co-led the Scientists Network. Together with his wife, Alexander enjoys raising his two children.

Overview

GOAL: To provide scientists and scientific apologists a year-round forum to unite and equip them for understanding and communicating persuasively that science supports faith in the biblical God.

PLAN:

1. An online kick-off session
2. Five 90-minute-webinars with assignments
3. A three-day retreat in Budapest, in December 2022 (from noon to noon on 6-8 December):
Note: If this retreat is a problem, please register anyway and indicate that You won't be able to join this retreat!
4. Pre-Forum Conference at the 2023 Forum in Wisła (Poland) on Friday, 19 May 2023 (18.00-21.00) and in the morning of 20 May 2023. Participants will still need to apply for the Forum and will be responsible for paying Forum fees in order to participate in the 2023 Forum. Participants must also pay for their own travel expenses.

PARTICIPANTS: Up to fifteen Christian scientists or scientific apologists who want to use their scientific skills for persuasive communication of the gospel in their cultural context and who are willing to think and learn with other Christians who might hold different opinions e.g. on issues like creation and evolution etc.

QUALIFICATIONS: Each participant should have at least a master degree in a scientific discipline, have a strong interest in thinking through difficult issues on the faith and science debate and be a spiritually mature Christian.

COMMITMENTS: In addition to submitting an application, in order to be accepted as a participant, you must commit to:

1. Attend all sessions (see plan below)
2. Access all webinars with a good broadband internet connection and use a headset
3. Thoroughly review a selection of pre-assigned materials before and after each webinar. These assignments will consist of reading selections of books or articles, (cf. list of books and articles indicated for each webinar), and watching respective online resources of talks
4. Secure a copy of the needed books for assignments
5. Pay the necessary fees. The fees for the retreat are 150 Euros for a Double Room and 190 Euros for a Single Room (or 100 Euros for scholarship recipients). For the 2023 Pre-Forum Conference, the fees are 80 Euros for a Double Room and 90 Euros for a Single Room (or 68 Euros for scholarship recipients).
6. In order to be accepted to next years' European Leadership Forum all Year-Round Mentoring participants will need to nominate two other leaders for the following year Year-Round Mentoring which includes personally contacting and recruiting them by email.

RETREAT: All science YRM participants will meet in Budapest from noon to noon on 6-8 December 2022. During this time, every participant will **present an own apologetic talk** about a self-chosen science-and-faith-issue that will be discussed constructively by all participants. We will also focus on specific needs that have come up during the previous sessions.

2023 PRE-FORUM CONFERENCE: All YRM science participants will meet in Wisla, Poland, for a final Pre-Forum conference on Friday the 19th and Saturday the 20th of May 2023. Participants will still need to apply for the Forum and will be responsible for paying Forum fees in order to participate in the 2023 Forum. Participants must also pay for their own travel expenses.

Reading Assignments:

1. John Lennox, *Has science buried God (all chapters), Gunning for God (ch. 7-8)*
2. William Lane Craig, *On Guard (chapters 3-5)*
3. Sharon Dirckx, *Am I just my brain*
4. Watch John Lennox: <http://foclonline.org/interview/how-persuasively-communicate-gospel-university>

Optional readings:

1. CS Lewis, *Miracles*
2. IVP Counterpoints series, *Four views on Creation, Evolution, and Intelligent Design*
3. J.P. Moreland, *The Soul*

Webinar 1: Date: Thursday 25 August 2022 @ 18.00-19:30 LONDON TIME

Assignments: Scientism and Naturalism

- A. **Read** John Lennox, *Has science buried God*, chapters 1-3
- B. **Watch** Lennox-Dawkins-debate: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVEuQg_Mglw
- C. **Watch** Rene van Woudenberg: <http://foclonline.org/talk/scientism-and-need-acknowledge-limits-science>
- D. **Write a 500 word summary** of what scientism and naturalism claim and how You would respond and send it to alexander.fink@iguw.de until 7 days before our webinar.

Optional:

- E. **Watch** Paul Nelson: <http://foclonline.org/answer/what-methodological-naturalism-0>, <http://foclonline.org/answer/what-effect-has-naturalism-had-science-and-scientists>,
- F. **Watch** Markus Widenmeyer: <http://foclonline.org/answer/what-naturalism-and-what-does-it-claim>
- G. **Listen** to Lydia Jaeger: <http://foclonline.org/talk/against-physics-alism-plus-god-how-creation-accounts-divine-action-world>

Webinar 2: Date: Thursday 22 September 2022 @ 18.00-19:30 LONDON TIME

Assignments: The problem of miracles: science and the supernatural

- A. **Read** John Lennox, *Gunning for God*, chapters 7-8;
- B. **Watch** John Lennox: "Is belief in the supernatural irrational?", Harvard lecture: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Kz4OgXsN1w>
- C. **Write a 500 word summary** of how best to respond to the challenge that science has ruled out miracles. Send it to alexander.fink@iguw.de until 7 days before our webinar

Optional:

- D. **Read** C.S. Lewis, *Miracles*
- E. **Watch** Angus Menzies: <http://foclonline.org/talk/miracles-and-laws-nature-0>
- F. **Watch** Daniel von Wachter: <http://foclonline.org/talk/why-philosophical-theories-laws-nature-are-important>

Webinar 3: Date: Thursday 27 October 2022 @ 18.00-19:30 LONDON TIME

Assignments: Cosmology: Origin and Fine-Tuning of the universe

- A. **Read** John Lennox, *Has science buried God*, chapters 4-5, W.L. Craig, *On Guard*, chapters 3-5
- B. **Watch** Alexander Fink <http://foclonline.org/talk/five-things-theologians-need-know-about-cosmology>
- C. **Write a 500 word summary** of how cosmology fits well with faith in the biblical god. Send it to alexander.fink@iguw.de until 7 days before our webinar

Optional:

- D. **Watch** Peter S. Williams <http://foclonline.org/talk/stephen-hawking-and-grand-designer>
- E. **Listen** to Hugh Ross <http://foclonline.org/talk/astrophysics-points-god>
- F. **Watch** William Lane Craig <http://foclonline.org/talk/worlds-ten-worst-objections-kalam-cosmological-argument>

Three-day Retreat in Budapest: Date: from noon to noon on 6-8 December. Please schedule your travel so that you arrive on time and depart after all sessions are over.

Assignments: Developing an apologetic science talk

- A. Listen to Richard Cunningham: <http://foclonline.org/talk/christian-persuaders-1> , <http://foclonline.org/talk/christian-persuaders-2>
 - B. Watch John Lennox: <http://foclonline.org/interview/how-persuasively-communicate-gospel-university>
 - C. Prepare a **30-45 minute talk** about a self-chosen topic in which You identify with Your audience using a scientific issue, prosecute an argument how this points to the biblical God, and invite to investigate further or start a relationship with this God
- ⇒ At this meeting every participant will give an apologetic talk and we will review it constructively and encourage each other to use the best arguments!

Webinar 4: Date: Thursday 09 February 2023 @ 18.00-19:30 LONDON TIME

Assignments: Biology, Evolution, Intelligent Design: Origin and complexity of life

- A. **Read** John Lennox, *Has science buried God*, chapters 6-11
- B. **Listen** to the podium discussion between Hugh Ross, John Lennox, Henri Blocher, Peter J. Williams: <http://foclonline.org/talk/genesis-1-3>
- C. **Write a 500 word summary** of how biology fits well with faith in the biblical god. Send it to alexander.fink@iguw.de until 7 days before our webinar.

Optional:

- D. *Read* IVP Counterpoints series, *Four views on Creation, Evolution, and Intelligent Design*
- E. *Read* John Lennox, *Seven days that divide the world*
- F. *Watch* James Tour: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=il3z5SuqWgU&t=2s>
- G. *Watch* Peter Imming: <http://foclonline.org/talk/current-status-chemical-theories-origin-life-christian-critique>
- H. *Watch* Ard Louis: <http://foclonline.org/talk/how-evolution-works-and-implications-faith-god>
- I. *Watch* Stephen Meyer: <http://foclonline.org/webinar/case-intelligent-design-seeing-signature-cell>
- J. *Watch the debate between* Ard Louis and Stephen Meyer: <http://foclonline.org/talk/where-do-complex-biological-systems-come-comparison-two-different-christian-approaches> , and <http://foclonline.org/talk/where-do-complex-biological-systems-come-discussion-debate>
- K. *Watch* Siegfried Scherer: <http://foclonline.org/talk/merits-and-limits-evolutionary-biology-achievements-and-limits-scientific-theory>
- L. *Listen* to Paul Nelson: <http://foclonline.org/talk/logic-place-intelligent-design> , <http://foclonline.org/talk/molecular-machines-intelligent-design>

- M. Watch Zachary Arden: God and evolution: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WoVjBEztqio>

Webinar 5: Date: Thursday 09 March 2023 @ 18.00-19:30 LONDON TIME

Assignments: Uniqueness of Human Beings: How human beings are special

- A. **Read** Sharon Dirckx, *Am I just my brain*
- B. **Watch** Peter Saunders: <http://foclonline.org/talk/what-makes-us-human-values-and-morals-and-their-origin>
- C. **Watch** David Glass: <https://foclonline.org/short-talk/ai-and-human-uniqueness-are-we-just-sophisticated-computing-machines>
- D. **Write a 500 word summary** about whether human beings can be explained as a product of natural evolution and how faith in the biblical god provides a plausible view of human beings. Send it to alexander.fink@iguw.de until 7 days before our webinar

Optional:

- E. Read J.P. Moreland, *The Soul* (chapter 1-5, especially ch. 4)
- F. Read John Lennox, *Gunning for God*, chapter 4
- G. Watch Geoff Barnard: <http://foclonline.org/talk/what-makes-us-human-genetic-evidence>
- H. Listen to Hugh Ross: <http://foclonline.org/talk/who-was-adam>
- I. Watch Glynn Harrison: <http://foclonline.org/talk/god-spot-does-brain-science-undermine-faith-and-religious-belief>
- J. Watch Alexander Fink: <http://foclonline.org/talk/analysis-thomas-naagels-mind-and-cosmos>
- K. Watch 4 Q&A-videos by Angus Menuge: http://foclonline.org/search/site/Menuge?f%5B0%5D=is_uid%3A10250

How To Apply

1. Fill out an online application by clicking **HERE**. Please be sure to fill out every field.
2. Once we receive your online application form, your application will be considered complete. We will review your completed application and let you know if you are accepted into the program within four to six weeks.

If you have questions, contact us at initiatives@euroleadership.org