IRAS

Making a Proposal to LRCPC for an IRAS Summer Conference

Do you have an idea at the intersection of “religion and science” that you would like to explore in a week long setting with others interested in “religion and science” in the beautiful setting of Star Island? You may want to work with a member of the Institute on Religion in an Age of Science (a 60-plus year old organization devoted to such topics) in developing a conference proposal to submit to the organization. We are currently looking for conference proposals for the Summer of 2018 and beyond. If you need more information about the organization and a history of the types of questions we ask, see: www.iras.org, and look through our “past conferences” section. Historically, conference co-chairs and all invited plenary speakers get free room and board on the island (including immediate family), and travel to/from the island (for individual speakers/co-chairs only) compensated.

This is a great way to explore an idea in a sustained way for an entire week with a group of other people who have been thinking about these topics for years.

Preface:

If you are planning to develop and champion a proposal for an IRAS Summer Conference:

• Please feel free to contact the current Chair of LRCPC of your intentions prior to submitting your proposal for any questions: Whitney Bauman, whitneyabauman@mac.com.
• All proposals must include at least one co-chair who has been an active member of IRAS. If you need help identifying someone contact the Chair of LRCPC, who will assign a member of the committee to be your liaison with LRCPC. He/she will be ready to assist you with your obligations as a champion of the conference you propose, the formulation of your conference, the completion of the appropriate form and your appearance before LRCPC.
• Formal proposals for an IRAS Summer conference may be submitted at any time, but will be reviewed every year in January and in June.
• The Proposal for an IRAS Summer Conference form (see below) must be used to make a formal proposal.
• After considering your proposal, LRCPC will assign it a status:
  A. Your proposal is deemed to be fit for an IRAS Summer Conference and will be passed on to Council for its consideration.
  B. Your proposal is deemed to have promise, but it needs more work before it can be recommended to Council as a possible IRAS Summer Conference.
  C. Your proposal is deemed not to be suitable for an IRAS Summer Conference. However, it is or could become fit to be considered as an IRAS event, or co-sponsored event, at another time rather than the summer.
  D. Your proposal is not deemed to fit for an IRAS sponsored event.
• General ideas for a conference, summer or other, may be offered to any member of LRCPC at any time, preferably in a printed form, e.g. email, Word or pdf

Parameters to Work Within:

• The conference will be for a week – Saturday thru Friday – on Star Island, NH.
• The Maximum number of invited speakers is 8.
• The conference must embody IRAS’s purpose as an ongoing organization:
• The conference must embody the purpose of IRAS Summer Conferences: The Summer Conference is IRAS’s flagship event. It is an exceptional opportunity to get away from daily routines long enough to engage in deep and transformative learning; to encounter others with a passion for human well-being; to participate in respectful and informed dialogue illuminated by the best scientific, religious and philosophical insights. All of this is in a setting that is physically

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beautiful, psychologically safe, intellectually reliable, personally challenging and spiritually uplifting.

- The conference must embody the design criteria IRAS has defined for its Summer Conferences.

Summer Conference Design Criteria:
The conference design must reflect and embody the commitments made in the Statements of Purpose of both IRAS and the Summer Conference set out above. More specifically, this means:

- The Summer Conference must create a unique dialogical atmosphere – one not normally found in business, government, the academy, church congregations or interest-based voluntary organizations.
- The tone we seek is one of a community of persons with diverse backgrounds coming together with a common commitment to explore serious human issues in a manner that is collegial, dialogical, respectful, like-hearted, mindful, trust-worthy and thankful for the opportunity the Summer Conference affords.
- We invite creative and different proposals for how to organize time, the format of presentations, and question and answer sessions. However, the week long conference schedule must include time devoted to each major type of experience must be apportioned appropriately, e.g.
  - Plenary Presentations. (Typically 1 / day for 1.5 hours)
  - Plenary discussion of the presentations: 1.5 hours a day
  - Small groups, Workshops, concurrent competitive paper sessions, Interest Groups, Ad hoc meetings: 3 hours a day
  - Chapel: 1 hour a day (two ½ hour sessions)
  - Meals: 3 hours a day
  - Happy Hour: 1 hours a day
  - Free time: 3 hours a day minimum

- All Plenary sessions, workshops, prepared paper sessions must be facilitated by persons who are well-suited to an IRAS event and skilled as facilitators.
- The maximum number of formally organized parallel sessions (workshops, papers, interest groups) in either afternoon slot is 3.

For further information and assistance, please contact either of the following:

Chair LRCPC
Whitney Bauman
whitneyabauman@mac.com

Vice-Chair LRCPC
Emily Austin
austin.emily@gmail.com
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Form for a Proposed IRAS Summer Conference

Conference Title: _______________________________________________________________

Date Submitted: ____________________________________ Version #: ____________________

Name of Champion: ______________________________________________________________

Champion’s phone # ____________________ email: _________________________________

Champion’s Statement: I am willing to be the Champion of the conference set out below. If this
conference is accepted I shall be one of the Co-Chairs. I understand the purpose of IRAS Summer
Conferences and will do my utmost to design, plan, organize and execute an event that meets IRAS’s
expectations and intentions. I understand and accept my obligations as the Champion and Co-Chair of
this event.

Signed: ________________________________ Dated: ________________________________

From this point on, use as much space as you need for each item.

1. Focal Question:

2. Rationale:

3. Narrative Arc:

4. Participants who will be attracted within and beyond IRAS:

5. Potential Partner Organizations, if any:

6. Potential Presenters/Chaplin:

7. Potential Funders, if any:

8. Potential Co-Chairs and Conference Committee members:

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