

# **BRAIN SCIENCE AND RELIGION**

## **Some Asian Perspectives**

27~29 November 2009

Sponsored by  
NANZAN INSTITUTE FOR RELIGION AND CULTURE  
Nanzan University, Japan

Funded by  
Global Perspectives on Science & Spirituality (GPSS)

## [Tentative] Program:

**November 27, 2009 (Friday)** [Arrive in Nagoya, check in Hotel]

19:00 ~ 21:00    Opening supper (Informal welcome, introductions and informal discussions)  
Hotel Restaurant

**November 28, 2009 (Saturday)**

[meet at hotel lobby at 8:30, travel to Nanzan University]

Opening:            9:00~ 10:15

Opening presentation: Dr. Paul SWANSON (Nanzan University, Japan)

Opening comments    Dr. William NEWSOME (Stanford University, USA)  
“Neuroscience, Spirituality, and Scientific Explanation”

Break:                10:15~ 10:30

SESSION I:        10:30~ 12:15

Speaker:             Dr. CHAN Ying-Shing (Hong Kong University, China)

Topic:                “Postnatal Refinement of Spatial Representation in the Brain: Three Levels of Human Beings”

Speaker:             Dr. HUH Kyoon (Ajou University Medical Center, Korea)

Topic:                “What is the Brain? Searching for New Horizons in Neuroscience”

Discussion

Lunch:              12:15~ 13:15

SESSION II:        13:15~ 15:00

Speaker:             Dr. FUNAHASHI Shintarō (Kyoto University, Japan)

Topic:                “Brain Science and Kokoro”

Speaker:             Dr. TANAKA Keiji (RIKEN, Japan)

Topic:                “Mind and Consciousness as Tools to Control Goal-Directed Behaviors”

Discussion

Break: 15:00~ 15:15

SESSION III: 15:15~ 17:00

Speaker: Dr. William WALDRON (Middlebury College, USA)

Topic: “Cognitive Science and Buddhism”

Open Discussion (for Session II and III):

Supper: 18:30 ~

**November 29, 2009 (Sunday)**

Session IV: 9:30~ 11:30

Speaker: Dr. Sangeetha MENON (National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, India)

Topic: “Brain Centers and Being Centers of Consciousness”

Speaker: Dr. Bernard SENEAL (Sogang University, Korea)

Topic: “Neurological Underpinnings of Zen Meditation and Christian Spiritual Exercises”

Open Discussion

Lunch: 11:30~ 12:30

Session V: 12:30~

Speaker: Dr. IRIKI Atsushi (RIKEN, Japan)

Topic: “And Yet It Thinks...”

Open Discussion (Sessions IV and V)

General discussion

Closing speech