



*Logos et scientia*

**Center for the Study of the Relationship between Science and Religion**  
Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies at the University of Zagreb  
Jordanovac 110, P.O. box 169, HR-10000 Zagreb, <https://cepozir.ffrz.hr/>

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Conference of the Center for the Study of the Relationship between Science and Religion

Second [CePOZiR Conference](#) – 2027

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Religion and Society | The Relationship between Science and Religion | Science and Society

REVISITING HUMANITY: ANIMALS, MACHINES, OR CHILDREN OF GOD?

Science, Philosophy, and Theology in Dialogue

## INVITED ▪ LECTURE

The Reverend Dr. [Lucas J. Mix](#)

- *Project Manager and Co-Director of the [Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science \(ECLAS\) Project](#)*
- *St John's College, Durham, United Kingdom*

### Decoupling Physical and Spiritual Ascent Narratives in Astrobiology

Many discussions of human futures take for granted an unending, exponential, and undifferentiated expansion of intelligence. I differentiate between concepts of evolution and development within modern biology. “Evolutionary” narratives of human technological and moral growth regularly associated with space travel fit more closely with development, particularly the social development of economists and sociologists (i.e., [Auguste Comte](#), [Herbert Spencer](#), [Lewis Henry Morgan](#)) than with evolution by natural selection. I review the prevalence of developmental soteriology – associating the hope for salvation with predictable, yoked advances in technology and morality – in modern science fiction and popular science. The impersonal end of the anthropic principle is no less dangerous than the personal end of God and equally able to develop a priesthood (e.g., eugenics and paternalistic colonialism). The problem is not supernatural agency but the axiology of progress, known to an elite.