Diving Deeper Discussion Chat  
July 10, 2021

00:21:54 Becky English: https://network.asa3.org/page/DivingDeeper
00:23:21 Becky English: To register for the annual meeting https://network.asa3.org/mpage/asa-2021-registration
00:28:13 John Wood: Raise hand feature - for some of us that will be found under the "Participants" feature ... In mine it is along the bottom of that pop out menu
00:32:41 Marty Pomeroy: John - for me the Raise Hand is under “Reactions.”
00:33:16 Ken Touryan: If abiogenesis is a simplification process for life to emerge, why is it that 70 years of intense research in laboratories into the creation of life, have been unsuccessful.
00:34:00 Mryka Hall-Beyer: The hand under reactions appears on the picture; the one under the participants appears alongside your name in the participants box: so which one to use depends on how Randy (or Becky?) is monitoring it!
00:43:16 Steve: In 1947, William Ashby formulated the original principle of self-organization. He stated that any deterministic dynamic system automatically evolves towards a state of equilibrium that can be described in terms of an attractor in a basin of surrounding states. What might be the ‘attractor’ driving force in your hypothesis? Once attracted into this area, or ‘basin’, the further evolution of the system is constrained to remain in the attractor. What drives ‘simplification’ or ‘efficiency’ forces into what ‘basin’?
00:44:56 Bill: Are the authors familiar with the work of Hedwig Conrad-Martius? She was a student of Husserl shortly after the turn of the century. She has a neo-Aristotelian understanding of essences that is associated with materiality.
00:45:55 Paul Arveson: I would like to critique Steve's basic thesis about simplicity.
00:51:26 Bill: It is not at all clear that "life came from disorder," which I presume means some sort of "non-living." Chaotic systems can "evolve" from "disorder" to "order." As such, the order was already present in the "disorder" as a potential.
00:56:42 John Pohl: Even if we re-ran the "tape of life" back again, I personally think that God would have some type of process in place to create creatures in God's image. It might not be H. sapien but that would be fine. The universe is quite large and would likely occur again. Perhaps a bit of process occurring here. S. Conway Morris is also right about the "guard rails" on evolution.
00:59:31 Chris Barrigar: John Pohl, a supporting theory for your view can be found in the article "God's Agape/Probability Design for the Universe", in PSCF, Sept. 2018.
01:01:05 Bill: Quantum mechanics is a fully deterministic statistical model, despite that it is a probabilistic model with "randomness" an element in individual events. The predictability, perhaps a consequence of the law of large numbers, is not undermined by the seeming randomness. As such, we might say that the character of outcomes is already present in the essence of the constituents, despite the random element. Isn't it possible that something like this isn't going on in the "evolution/temporal development" of the cosmos?
01:09:27 Steve: Theology of disorder to order: I consider the Genesis 1 creation account to be material. How might you respond to its progression from chaos, viz., 'non-living' to 'living' systems, from Gen 1:11 “And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass ...” ? This is not a usual “And God said, ‘Let there be ...’”, but rather the earth with a verb ‘bring forth’ [Hebrew, dasha] with the noun ‘grass’ [Hebrew, deshe] (related Hebrew words) from the earth. Dasha and deshe can be stated as to ‘sprout’ the ‘sprouter’, as referring to first life. This is creation day 3. Days 2 and 1 are astronomy. Gen 1:1 – 2 is a header. Steve Huffey
01:09:39 Mryka Hall-Beyer: Bill, it seems to me that randomness is a form of order, albeit a very particular one with particular properties. When the discussion gets to the implicit opposition of God as an explanation to randomness as an explanation, I find myself asking why we think God did not create/is not creating randomness?
01:10:09 John Pohl: Panpsychism and leveling up in consciousness from an integrated information theory? From a Christian perspective.
01:11:03 Bill: The seeming important distinction between the living and the non-living is the mereology: the relationship of parts to the whole. In the non-living parts have an being unto themselves, isolated, substitutable, and separable. In the case of the living parts are inextricably connected to the whole. This connection appears to be more than mere "complexity" of connection, but rather in the nature of the parts themselves. If this makes sense, then there is a qualitative difference between the living and non-living.
01:13:29 Mryka Hall-Beyer: I find myself thinking of St. Paul and his analogy of the body systems to the Christian community under Christ's headship. A lot of complexity appears different at different scales,
and it isn't even necessary to go down to the atomic level to see the inherent complexity that has been built up between scales as well as between organisms interacting at the same scale.

01:15:41 Mike Beidler: So... more complex degrees of simplification?

01:19:14 Mryka Hall-Beyer: Perhaps we should talk about "selection" instead of "simplification" - which gives us direct entry into evolution theory. The question being of course who or what process does the selecting, and how that selection process relates to energy transformations.

01:19:44 Terry Gray: Maybe should think of number of each atom in the university rather each atom as a separate things.

01:19:50 Steve: Bill, I like the overarching deterministic model interfaced with the element of probability randomness.

01:21:17 Mryka Hall-Beyer: Ethically, this enters into the evaluation of diversity as opposed to a rigid separation out of that portion of diversity that is in our immediate favour?

01:23:39 Mryka Hall-Beyer: "simplification may be understood as "depauperization" in some systems.

01:29:17 John Pohl: Arguments can be made that "selection" is some type of inherent part of all systems -- think of business/economics, success of societies, Lee Smolin's ideas of cosmic natural selection. Interesting stuff.

01:32:07 John Wood: Steve, your last point about the rules for selection being different for cells, chemistry and ecology remind me that even Darwin recognized that natural selection was not the right way to think about sexual organisms interacting with each other. So he coined "sexual selection" for a process that was natural selection like, but not the same as it.

01:33:26 Mryka Hall-Beyer: I would agree: the idea of "natural" selection simply observes that this seems to be going on.

01:34:40 Joseph Lechner: OH: At the moment of death, an organism's chemical composition is precisely the same as it was when still alive. Did the organism become more "complex" when it died?

01:35:24 Mike Beidler: Wouldn't "massively large numbers" make inevitable those "Goldilox" moments at various places throughout the universe (including Earth)?

01:35:53 Mryka Hall-Beyer: Less able top interact - so if you include energy flows within the definition of complex then it would become less complex. ON the other hand, therfe become other interactions available that are not available under the domain of living organism.

01:42:53 Terry Gray: some of the faithful reproduction in abiotic system is chemical.

01:51:19 Anikó Albert: A great illustration of the problem with unquestioned assumptions about the meaning of "simple" and "complex" is Richard Dawkins' argument that an omnipotent God must be even more complex (and thus improbable) than the universe with intelligent life he's supposed to have created. Explanations should go from simple to complex, he feels, so God is no explanation.


01:51:57 Becky English: Just a reminder that the Diving Deeper Discussion archives can be found https://network.asa3.org/page/DivingDeeper

01:52:25 Del, Fozzie, Quack-Quack, Little Quack-Quack: Excellent webinar !!!

01:52:53 John Pohl: Agree. Excellent webinar and great comments in the chat box. Thank you and God Bless.

01:53:06 Grace.Obaigbona: Thank you for this insightful webinar