



— THINK WRITE PUBLISH —
SCIENCE & RELIGION
TRUE STORIES WELL TOLD

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15 Storytellers—a 2-Year Journey—Exploring Harmonies Between Science and Religion

—Arizona State University Awards 15 Creative Nonfiction Writing Fellowships
in Science and Religion—

A farmer, a philosopher, an astrophysicist, a nurse, a priest, and a procurement manager are among fifteen aspiring storytellers selected to be Think Write Publish (TWP) Fellows in Science and Religion.

The 15 Fellows, who were chosen from a pool of almost 650 applicants, will work over the next two years on learning and applying the art of creative nonfiction to write compelling, original, and true stories about science and religion. The fellowship, sponsored by Arizona State University's School for the Future of Innovation in Society (SFIS), is part of a two-year project to write and publish engaging and inspiring nonfiction narratives of harmonies, reconciliation, and synergy between science and religion.

Fellows will each receive a \$10,000 stipend, and will attend three intensive training workshops, and participate in a variety of events to help disseminate their stories. Proposed stories include a portrayal of the importance of religion to the work of the great Renaissance astronomer Johannes Kepler; an inside look at a Catholic school on the U.S.-Mexico border that combines traditional religious training with rigorous scientific education; and a memoir about how shared religious devotion led to a reconciliation between a physicist father estranged from his humanist daughter.

“We were amazed at the quality of the applicant pool, and narrowing down from the top 100 or so applicants to the final 15 was very difficult,” said project director Lee Gutkind,

writer-in-residence and professor at SFIS. “Obviously we not only struck a vein of untapped interest and passion, but the diversity of story ideas and life experiences presented by the applicants was incredible.”

The program is motivated by the belief that tensions between science and religion as a source of divisiveness in society today does not reflect the true relationship between those two human endeavors. Yet stories of science-religion harmony are not widely known. In stark contrast, stories about science-religion conflict, such as Galileo’s trial, or the ongoing battles over teaching evolutionary science, are staples of today’s culture.

Through the fellowship program, as well as a writing competition, a series of public events, and a partnership with science museums across the nation, the TWP Science and Religion program will bring to the public a diverse and inspiring set of true stories that can help foster greater awareness and appreciation for the ways that science and religion may complement one another.

This program was made possible by a grant from the John Templeton Foundation, with additional support from Arizona State University and the Creative Nonfiction Foundation.

To find out more [about the Fellows](#) and the TWP Science and Religion program, visit our website at: <https://scienceandreligion.thinkwritepublish.org/> or contact the program manager, Dr. Michael L. Zirulnik, at mzirulni@asu.edu or 480-965-0077.

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