

An Exceptional Universe. Thoughts from Physics for Theism

This talk deals with the most relevant problems that emerge in our physical knowledge of reality, providing a renewed agenda of topics for philosophical and theological reflection on nature. While essays on biological evolution and the philosophical matters that arise from it are becoming abundant, the same does not seem to be the case with reflections prompted by contemporary Physics. However, should we wish to improve our understanding of a nature created by a personal God, an inspection of the physical bases that make it possible becomes mandatory. They, in turn, challenge us with new questions that religious thinkers need to address. I intend to articulate this talk around the concept of singularity and how it can be applied analogously to the universe in general, the existence of complex systems, the emergence of the mind, and our specific knowledge of nature from its most fundamental description. It aims at an academic audience who want to delve into the image of a world created by God from our scientific knowledge.

The author:

Javier Sánchez-Cañizares has obtained a PhD in Physics (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, 1999) and a PhD in Theology (Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Rome 2006). He is currently professor of “Science, Reason and Faith” (CRYF) and researcher of the “Mind-Brain” Group of the Institute for Culture and Society (ICS) at the University of Navarra. He has published more than 60 research articles and books in physics, philosophy, and theology. His main interests are in the relations between science and religion, the philosophy of nature and the relevance of Quantum Mechanics for the understanding of human singularity in the universe. In 2018, he has received the Expanded Reason Award in the category of research for his work “Universo Singular”. He is a fellow of the International Society for Science and Religion.

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