

HOSTED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR PRACTICAL ETHICS & THE SCIENCE STUDIES PROGRAM

OCTOBER 6, 2017 | 10AM-5PM | THE VILLAGE 15A | UC SAN DIEGO

SKEPTICISM AND OPEN-MINDEDNESS IN SCIENCE

PROGRAM

10:00 - 10:30AM	CRAIG CALLENDER <i>BALLOONS, STRINGS, AND INFLATION: SCIENCE VS PSEUDOSCIENCE IN PHYSICS</i>
10:30 - 11:15AM	JAMY IAN SWISS <i>TOPIC TBA</i>
11:15 - 11:30AM	COFFEE BREAK
11:30AM - 12:15PM	V.S. RAMACHANDRAN <i>THE BALANCING ACT: HOW TO BE RECEPTIVE TO GENUINE "ANOMALIES" AND WARY (SKEPTICAL) OF SPURIOUS ONES</i>
12:15 - 1:00PM	KEN WHARTON <i>APPLYING SKEPTICISM TO QUANTUM 'MAGIC'</i>
1:00 - 2:30PM	LUNCH BREAK
2:30 - 3:15PM	MICHAEL SHERMER <i>WHAT IS SKEPTICISM, ANYWAY?</i>
3:15 - 4:00PM	ASHELEY LANDRUM <i>WHO IS SKEPTICAL OF SCIENCE?</i>
4:00 - 4:15PM	COFFEE BREAK
4:15 - 5:00PM	DAVID BRIN <i>TOPIC TBA</i>

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ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

DAVID BRIN: A scientist, best-selling author, tech-consultant and speaker, David Brin is best-known for shining light — plausibly and entertainingly — on technology, society, and countless challenges confronting our rambunctious civilization. His best-selling novels include *The Postman* (filmed in 1997) plus explorations of our near-future in *Earth and Existence*. Other novels are translated into 25+ languages. His short stories explore vividly speculative ideas.

CRAIG CALLENDER is a philosopher of science specializing in the foundations of physics and environmental ethics. He is Co-Director of the new Institute for Practical Ethics and President of the Philosophy of Time Society. Author of more than 50 works, his writing has appeared in physics, philosophy and law journals. His most recent book is *What Makes Time Special?* (OUP, 2017). His research has been featured in the popular media, such as *Through the Wormhole* with Morgan Freeman and *Scientific American*.

ASHELEY LANDRUM is a psychologist and Assistant Professor of strategic science communication in the College of Media & Communication at Texas Tech University. Prior to this, she was the Howard Deshong Postdoctoral Fellow at the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania. Her research examines how feelings, attitudes, values, and identities influence the way people think about and understand science.

V.S. RAMACHANDRAN is an award-winning Director of the Center for Brain and Cognition and Distinguished Professor with the Psychology Department and Neurosciences Program at UCSD and Adjunct Professor of Biology at the Salk Institute. Ramachandran is best known for his experiments in behavioral neurology which, despite their apparent simplicity, have had a profound impact on the way we think about the brain. He has published over 180 scientific articles and a number of popular books, including the acclaimed *Phantoms in the Brain* that has been translated into nine languages.

MICHAEL SHERMER is the Publisher of *Skeptic* magazine, a monthly columnist for *Scientific American*, and a Presidential Fellow at Chapman University. He is the author of *The Moral Arc*, *The Believing Brain*, *Why People Believe Weird Things*, *Why Darwin Matters*, *The Mind of the Market*, *How We Believe*, and *The Science of Good and Evil*. His next book is *Heavens on Earth: The Scientific Search for Immortality, the Afterlife, and Utopia*. His two TED talks, viewed nearly 8 million times, were voted in the top 100 of the more than 2000 TED talks.

JAMY IAN SWISS is a world-renowned sleight-of-hand performer specializing in close-up card magic, a historian of magic, and a skeptic. He has appeared in television programs including *48 Hours*, the PBS series *NOVA*, the PBS documentary *The Art of Magic* and *The Today Show*, and he appeared in the documentaries *The Merchants of Doubt* and *Honest Liar*. Penn and Teller describe him as "James Bond with a deck of cards for a pistol."

KEN WHARTON (Professor of Physics, San Jose State University) is a physicist and science fiction author who is particularly interested in time-symmetric and causally-neutral approaches to quantum theory, working towards the ultimate goal of reframing quantum theory in a manner fully compatible with general relativity.

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