To Cooperate or to Defect?

Biologists and Theologians Join Forces in Researching Altruism

By Philip Clayton

What happens when you bring together one of the world's top specialists as a mathematician of evolution with one of the world's top theologians? Does it turn out that what these two realms mean by "cooperation" or "altruism" and what they think it means for human society are different? Continue reading to find out more about the "selfish gene" as Richard Dawkins suggests, whereas religious writers emphasize love and self-sacrifice. For further information about Simon Conway Morris: www.newvisions.ucsb.edu/.

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Dr. Philip Clayton is Director of the Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin, and the editor of The Templeton Foundation Press.

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Cooperators: Sarah Coakley and Martin Nowak

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In separate interviews, both researchers emphasized above all else the ways their thinking has been transformed by the joint project. "This work" Sarah Coakley said, "has set us on our head's turned out of a dogmatic theological

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