

**Saturday 6th November, 2010**

Queen Mary, University of London,  
(15 mins from Central London)

A cross disciplinary dialogue for the occasion of the  
publication of the new SMN book

# A NEW RENAISSANCE:

*Transforming Science, Spirit and Society*



With contributions  
from 20 leading  
worldwide thinkers

An opportunity to  
hear and contribute  
in a special forum

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**A New Renaissance** diagnoses an urgent need for change and renewal in a period of crisis for philosophy, science and society. The Florentine Renaissance, some six hundred years ago, took a huge leap forward into realism, rationality and self-awareness. It was born out of the waning authority of medieval institutions and beliefs.

We stand now at a similar junction in history. It is apparent to many that reductionist science with its materialist values - the worldview that has driven modern culture for the last two centuries - is losing credibility. Its objectives of growth and acquisition, and its guiding principles asserting that there is no intrinsic meaning to life or purpose in the cosmos are now widely seen as creating an unsustainable world.

The essays gathered in **A New Renaissance** are a cultural response to the failings of the materialist worldview. Contributions in the first part diagnose the sources of the crisis in the current worldview. The second section searches for a new understanding of consciousness and mind, based on findings in new non-materialist philosophy. The third section looks to a renewal of spirituality beyond religion, aiming to recapture the personal depth and connection to the cosmos that materialism denies or ignores. The fourth section examines possible reforms in politics, economics and education to help bring forth a society that can sustain the flourishing of human beings in the globally interconnected world of the twenty-first century.

## A New Renaissance - Programme

**Venue:** Skeel Lecture Theatre (People's Palace), Queen Mary, University of London, Mile End road, London E1 4NS

**The day will consist of a number of panels corresponding to the four sections of the book.**

**Panellists will speak for 7 minutes each, and this will be followed by roundtable discussion and an open plenary dialogue.**

- 9:00 Registration
- 9:30 Introductions – **Prof. Bernard Carr, David Lorimer**
- 9:40 **Crisis as Opportunity – Prof. Ervin Laszlo, Dr. Iain McGilchrist, Dr. Elisabet Sahtouris, Dr. Frank Parkinson, Dr. Oliver Robinson**
- 11:10 Coffee
- 11:40 **Consciousness and Mind in Science and Medicine – Prof. Chris Clarke, Paul Devereux, Dr. David Peat, Dr. David Luke**
- 1:00 Lunch in the Octagon
- 2:15 **Spirituality and New Understandings of the Sacred – Anne Baring, Mick Collins, Dr. James d'Angelo, Satish Kumar, Max Payne**
- 3:45 Tea
- 4:15 **Global and Local Transformation: Governance, Economics and Education – Dr. Peter Bowman, Prof. Ian Cunningham, Dr. Jean Hardy, Tony Hodgson, Chris Wright**
- 5:45 Concluding observations
- 6:00 Wine reception

**The Scientific and Medical Network** was founded in 1973 by George Blaker, Dr. Patrick Shackleton, Dr. Peter Leggett and Sir Kelvin Spencer. The founders believed that neither orthodox religion nor conventional science was sufficient to answer pressing questions about human existence and the cosmos, and that new ways of thinking were needed.

The Network provides an interdisciplinary forum to explore the frontiers of science, consciousness, spirituality and human experience. It draws on a worldwide community of scientists, doctors, psychologists, engineers, philosophers and theologians who participate in events and contribute to publications and courses that link insights from the spiritual traditions and the arts, with the study and application of science and medicine.

The Network assumes that there are many ways of knowing the world and ourselves, of which science is just one, albeit highly effective and reliable. In order to do justice to the full spectrum of human experience and the complexity of the cosmos, it encourages dialogue and interaction between the spiritual, the scientific, the philosophical and the artistic in open-minded enquiry. See [www.scimednet.org](http://www.scimednet.org) for further details.

## The Panel

**Prof. Ervin Laszlo** is Founder and President of The Club of Budapest, President of the WorldShift Network, Founder of the General Evolution Research Group, Co-Chair of the World Wisdom Council, and Editor of the international periodical **World Futures: The Journal of General Evolution**.

**Dr. Iain McGilchrist, FRCPsych** has been a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford on three occasions and is author of the acclaimed **The Master and his Emissary: The Divided Brain and the Making of the Western World**.

**Dr. Elisabet Sahtouris** is an evolution biologist and futurist who is author of **EarthDance: Living Systems in Evolution, A Walk Through Time: From Stardust to Us**, and **Biology Revisioned** with Willis Harman ([www.sahtouris.com](http://www.sahtouris.com)).

**Dr. Frank Parkinson** has a special interest in the impact of evolutionary theory on traditional theology, especially the creation story now emerging from science. He is the author of **Science and Religion at the Crossroads**

**Dr. Oliver Robinson** is Senior Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Greenwich.

**Prof. Chris Clarke** was Professor of Applied Mathematics at the University of Southampton. His books include **Living in Connection, Ways of Knowing** (edited) and **Weaving the Cosmos** ([www.scispirit.com](http://www.scispirit.com)).

**Paul Devereux** is a founding editor of the academic publication, **Time & Mind – The Journal of Archaeology, Consciousness and Culture**. He has written 26 books since 1979, including **Re-Visioning the Earth, The Sacred Place, Spirit Roads** and **Sacred Geography**.

**Dr. David Peat** is a physicist and author of many books, most recently **Gentle Action** and **Pathways of Chance**. He runs the Pari Center for New Learning in Italy ([www.paricenter.com](http://www.paricenter.com)).

**Dr. David Luke** is Senior Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Greenwich where he teaches an undergraduate course on the Psychology of Exceptional Human Experiences. He is currently President of the Parapsychological Association.

**Anne Baring** is a retired Jungian analyst — author and co-author of seven books including **The Myth of the Goddess; Evolution of an Image, The Mystic Vision, The Divine Feminine** and **Soul Power: an Agenda for a Conscious Humanity**.

**Mick Collins** is a lecturer in the Faculty of Health, University of East Anglia.

**Dr. James d'Angelo** is an educator, composer, pianist, writer, course leader and formerly lecturer/tutor in music at universities in New York and London. He is the author of **Healing with the Voice** and **The Healing Power of the Human Voice**.

**Satish Kumar** is editor of Resurgence and a Visiting Fellow of Schumacher College.

**Max Payne** is a former university lecturer in philosophy of science and religion and is a Vice-President of the Network.

**Dr. Peter Bowman** is science coordinator of the University Preparatory Certificate at the Language Centre of University College, London. He is a director of the Henry George Foundation of Great Britain and vice-chairman of the Coalition for Economic Justice

**Prof. Ian Cunningham** is Visiting Professor in Organizational Capability at Middlesex University; chair of Strategic Developments International Ltd and chair of the Centre for Self Managed Learning.

**Dr. Jean Hardy** has been a university teacher for most of her working life, in sociology, political philosophy and, later on, in transpersonal psychology. She is author of **A Psychology with a Soul**.

**Tony Hodgson** is a management consultant, systems theorist and inventor of **The World Game**. He is a Member of the International Futures Forum ([www.internationalfuturesforum.com](http://www.internationalfuturesforum.com)).

**Chris Wright** is author of **Your Wake Up Call, A Community Manifesto**, and **The Sufficient Community**. He is a founder member of Action for Sustainable Living ([www.afsl.org.uk](http://www.afsl.org.uk)).

# Booking Form – 6 November 2010



PLEASE WRITE IN BLOCK CAPITALS

**Please send to:**

Conference Administrator, Scientific and Medical Network,  
PO Box 11, Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos GL56 0ZF.

Tel: +44 (0) 1608 652000, Fax +44 (0) 1608 652001,

Email: [info@scimednet.org](mailto:info@scimednet.org) website: [www.scimednet.org](http://www.scimednet.org)

**Please reserve me:**

 **Member places at £55** **Non-member places at £65** **Students £10 (full time first degree)**

Other concessions available, please enquire (Lunch, coffee and tea included)

**LUNCH** – vegetarian  or any special requests below:

**PAYMENT OPTION**

 Cheque (payable to "SMN") Credit card (VISA or MasterCard)

**CANCELLATIONS:** A fee of £15 will be retained. No refunds after 25<sup>th</sup> October

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