



*James Barnett Lecture Series on
Religion and Public Discourse*

Presents

JEFFREY SCHLOSS

Westmont College

April 4, 2016

2:15-3:45 pm

The Humanities Institute, Austin Bldg, Rm 301

Beyond the ‘or Wars’?: Intellectual Hubris and Humility in Religion-Evolution Conflicts

What is often referred to as the “religion – evolution” conflict is not a single conflict, or even one general conflict with multiple fronts. Rather, it entails a suite of very different kinds of issues. Some represent distinctive tensions between religious beliefs and scientific understanding, but many of the most longstanding and crucial tensions involve intellectual issues that are salient but not endemic to religion, that are hotly debated within the natural sciences (and humanities), and that reflect differing commitments to epistemological and methodological reductionism. This talk will survey three issues that have prominently and persistently animated conflict between religion and evolution from Darwin’s time until the present: the question of design, debates over altruism and evolutionary evil, and evolutionary accounts of moral cognition. These issues will be employed as case studies to assess (a) the circumstances in which debates between religion and science may (or may not) reflect unresolved conflict within scientific theory itself, and (b) factors underlying the erosion of civil disagreement to vitriol.

Co-sponsored by: Public Discourse Project, UConn Humanities Institute, Department of Anthropology, and the James Barnett Endowment for Humanistic Anthropology

PLEASE RSVP to uchi@uconn.edu or 860-486-9057

For more information please contact Richard Sosis (richard.sosis@uconn.edu).