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## GENERAL PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT AND CALL FOR ARTICLES

### 1. Presentation

The *Interdisciplinary Encyclopedia of Religion and Science* – INTERS (inters.org), is a dynamic, online-only database, consisting in extensive, updated entries, signed by scholars who are accomplished in both scientific and humanistic research work. The Encyclopedia is promoted by the DISF Centre (disf.org) directed by G. Tanzella-Nitti. INTERS has a registered ISSN: 2037-2329. New articles are often published in the website and their Authors, under the direction of the Editors, can update their publications. Each article is intended to offer a readable and comprehensive summary of what is currently being discussed in religion and science on a specific topic, and/or how it was discussed throughout history.

INTERS stems from the Italian *Dizionario Interdisciplinare di Scienza e Fede* (Rome: Urbaniana University Press - Città Nuova, 2002 - ISBN 88-401-1050-X) and a number of INTERS entries are English translation of some *Dizionario's* entries, carried out with the support of the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences, Berkeley (CA).

INTERS is a non profit project. Materials presented on its website can be freely accessed and downloaded. The sponsors and the promoters of the INTERS project have the sole aim of offering a comprehensive documentation service on Religion and Science addressed to an increasing number of scholars and students.

### 2. Mission

All those who have no special acquaintance with literature on Religion and Science but would like to compare the content of their religious faith with the outcomes of contemporary natural sciences, are often faced with popular literature only, sometimes philosophically unsound or undervaluing one of the two areas. They usually do not have easy access to high quality interdisciplinary literature. On the other hand, those who are non-believers often find difficulties in approaching the teachings of Christian theology in a way explicitly consistent with recent scientific advancements. As a consequence, they have incomplete or even incorrect information on what religious faith says on scientific topics.

The INTERS project intends to overcome these problems by promoting a wide circulation of scholarly, interdisciplinary reflections about the relationships between

science and Christian theology, and by making relevant documents of the Catholic Church available. The INTERS database is constantly updated so to include the most recent developments both in the sciences and in theology.

The INTERS website has been established in 2006, and currently includes 77 Encyclopedia entries, and more than 200 relevant documents organized in 12 categories. In 2016-17, about 20,000 pages have been visited monthly.

### 3. Philosophical Guidelines of the Project

Authors of the articles share with INTERS project the following philosophical guidelines:

- The focus on a rigorous methodology, typical of scientific and philosophical research, which characterizes every sincere search for truth even in the delicate field of interdisciplinary studies involving theology and religion;
- The profound conviction that knowledge is in need of unity where diverse insights coming from science, philosophy, art, morality and theology are to be integrated in the intellectual experience of the knowing subject;
- The persuasion that scientific research is not neutral and aseptic but is an activity that truly involves the researcher's personal passion for truth, choices, motivations and convictions;
- The awareness that scientific thought is, by nature, open to philosophical thought. This openness is shown by the presence of fundamental philosophical themes recurrent in the analyses of the most varied scientific disciplines and by the presence of metaphysical principles underlying the methods and cognitive habits of the scientists;
- The conviction that the correct relationships between science and theology do not stem from a renunciation to understand (as it frequently happens when some choose fideism or reductionism as easy ways out), but from a real strive for knowledge, trying to integrate what is believed with what is (or can be) known;
- The acknowledgment that the Judeo-Christian idea of God is particularly relevant for the relationships between science and theology because this religious tradition was strictly interwoven with the origin and the development of scientific thought and played an influential role in the historical establishment of Universities.

### 4. Structure of the Articles for INTERS

The articles for INTERS shall be written in English. They must be at least 50,000 characters (about 9,000 words) and at most 80,000 characters (about 13,000 words) long. Articles must include an opening Summary and a closing Bibliography. Accepted formats for submissions of entries are only .doc and .docx.

The style of the article must conform with that of an Encyclopedia entry. It is expected to satisfy the requisites of a review article, beginning with a short *status quaestionis* of the specific topic under study, including the explanation of the technical terms. The articles shall be original, unpublished texts; nevertheless, the Editors might consider to accept English versions of articles previously published in other languages, as well as

other published texts, provided that they are refashioned and organized to fit the requirements for INTERS Articles.

Instruction for Authors will be sent once an author will agree to contribute an entry.

The submitted articles will be first assessed by the Editors and subsequently undergo blind peer review. The Authors might therefore be asked to improve the texts according to the suggestions by the Editors and/or Reviewers.

## 5. Relations between the Editors and the Authors

5.1 The Authors share the copyright of the texts with INTERS and are free to use and include them or part of them in other works provided that INTERS' Editors give explicit permission. If the text appears for the first time in the INTERS database, INTERS must in any case be quoted as original source.

5.2 Authors will receive a honorary fee for each INTERS article published on line as established in the publishing agreement, to be sent in due course.

5.3 The Editors and the webmasters of the INTERS project are the only people allowed to work directly on the online database and its digital files.

5.4 Authors are allowed to submit updated digital versions of their articles to the Editors, yet this can be done not earlier than 3 years after their first online publication. Authors are free to submit to the Editors, at any time, small changes, slight amendments, and bibliographical updating; the Editors will care to include them online.

5.5 For their own part, the Editors are authorized to ask the Authors —when needed by the fast developments in some specific subject matter— to revise and update their articles periodically, not earlier than 3 years after their publication or their previous revision. If Authors do not agree to revise or update their articles, the Editors are allowed, if needed, to substitute the entry and assign a new article to a new Author.

5.6 The Editors are authorized to change and improve the texts of the online article, even without the Author's explicit permission, only in the following cases:

- i) To correct misprints or noticeable errors which decrease the high quality of the text;
- ii) To add to the article's bibliography new published works which are worth-mentioning because of their relevance to the subject matter;
- iii) To add new references to relevant documentation (including Documents of the Catholic Church) related to the subject of the article;
- iv) To insert new hypertext links in the articles, which allow the visitor to navigate within the whole database.

**Potential contributors may contact us at [info@inters.org](mailto:info@inters.org)**