

John A. Lynch Lecture Series

The Intersection of Science and Faith: A physicist's reflections on creation, free will and miracles.



Michael Dennin

Professor of physics and astronomy

Michael Dennin is professor of physics and astronomy at University of California, Irvine. He earned his A.B. from Princeton University, and his M.A. and Ph.D. (1995) from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He held a postdoctoral position at the University of California, Los Angeles. He is an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow and a Research Corporation Cottrell Scholar. Professor Dennin is well-known for popularizing science for the public. He has taught many online courses on the nature of science, including team teaching a MOOC based on the television program *The Walking Dead*. He has appeared on a number of television programs, including *Spiderman Tech*, *Batman Tech*, *Star Wars Tech* and *Ancient Aliens*.

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105 JORDAN HALL

Most commonly, the discussion between science and faith focuses on the apparently simple issue of whether or not God exists. As a physicist and a person of faith, I have always been intrigued by a potentially more fundamental concern – what is the nature of the fullness of reality? This immediately raises an interesting series of questions. Is physical reality all that exists or is there more than physical reality? If there is more than physical reality, can science say anything about this non-physical reality, and what are the implications for questions usually associated with faith, such as, the nature of free will and miracles? It is in the space of these questions that I argue one discovers the power of science and faith to work together and potentially deepen our understanding of reality in ways that neither approach can on its own. In this talk, I will present some of my reflections on these questions and propose potential answers drawn from my experiences as a practicing scientist and a person of faith.

