



After naturalism...theology?

Consortium of Christian Study Centers <comm@cscmovement.org>

Reply-To: comm@cscmovement.org

To: "\"Karlee Rene Bowlby\"" <comm@cscmovement.org>

Tue, Oct 27, 2026 at 3:06 PM



Consortium of Christian Study Centers

PERISCOPE

November 2026 Newsletter

Dear Karlee,

Way back in the day, a Christian philosophy professor of mine [argued](#) that theologians belong in state universities. Most students found it a startling argument. After all, these were the years of peak naturalism. Nevertheless, students were drawn to the course by the hundreds and at least a few, including myself, found the argument compelling. In any case, it did not win the day. Forty years later, the argument still has to be made.

It is precisely for this reason I was so pleased to read Derek King's stellar article, "Theology Belongs in the U.S. Public University." [King](#) is Scholar-in-Residence at Lewis House (University of Kentucky), and his article appears in the current edition of *The Raised Hand*—a Substack newsletter that is a joint effort among several Christian Study Centers affiliated with the Consortium.

"I take it that one of the aims of a Christian study center on a US public university campus is to narrow the gap between the university and theology, or God's relevance to university life and learning," he writes. "And the primary means for the study center to accomplish this goal are various ventures outside the public institution itself—indeed, primarily in the creation of parallel or counter institutions with overlapping but distinct missions. But in the context of US public higher education, such ventures are a kind of half-measure... In addition to this vital university-adjacent mission, study centers should explore partnerships within their host institutions, particularly toward adding theology into the curriculum."

Might there be more receptivity to theology today than forty years ago? King seems hopeful, and so am I. I know of at least a handful of experiments where study centers are already bringing theology to universities in more than merely extracurricular ways. In any case, it's surely the case that naturalism is running out of gas, and so the argument that theology belongs in our universities doesn't sound quite as strange as it once did. The "return of enchantment," King says, "presents an invaluable opportunity for Christian study centers."

I invite you to read the entire article, as well as to peruse the many interesting upcoming events at study centers around the country.

In Christ,



Karl E. Johnson
Drew & Marie Trotter Executive Director

This Month's Highlights

- Register to attend an online conversation about starting new centers happening **tomorrow!**
 - Save the date for the Consortium's Annual Meeting next summer
 - Check out the many exciting center events taking place across the country in November
 - See relevant upcoming events, conferences, and summits being put on by our partner organizations
 - Browse our recommended list of media related to the study center movement
 - Take a look at the list of jobs available at several of our member centers and partners
-

CCSC News & Events



"Starting a Study Center" Tomorrow!

Online

Wednesday, October 28 at 2pm ET

If you are interested in starting a study center, we welcome you to join us for an open discussion with **Madison Perry** and **Karl Johnson** on this very important topic. Please click below to register.

[Register now](#)



CCSC Annual Meeting – Save the Date!

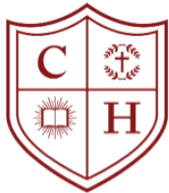
Minneapolis, MN

Tuesday, July 13 – Thursday, July 15

Save the date for the 17th Annual Meeting of the Consortium of Christian Study Centers taking place next summer at Anselm House! Please note that this year the Annual Meeting will take place Tuesday to Thursday rather than Monday to Wednesday. Registration will be available early in the new year.

[Learn more](#)

Study Center Events



What are Universities For?

C. Kevin Rowe

October 29 at 5:30pm ET

*Online

[Register](#)



The Death of Western Civilization

Robert George

November 2 at 7pm

Lexington, KY

[Learn more](#)



The Interface of Faith & Science

Janel Curry

November 3 at 12:30pm

Chapel Hill, NC

[Learn more](#)



Science & the Role of Wonder

Rebecca Alexander & Steve Long

November 5 at 7pm

Winston-Salem, NC

[Learn more](#)



Marriage & the Medieval Church

Tom McSweeney

November 6 at 4pm

Williamsburg, VA

[Learn more](#)



Christians & Civic Engagement

Amy Sherman

November 6 at 7pm

Williamsburg, VA

[Learn more](#)



The Global Church & the Problem of Nationalism

Kyle Beardsley

November 9 at 6pm

Greenville, NC

[Learn more](#)



Aquinas & Apocalypse in Flannery O'Connor

Danny Hindman

November 10 at 7pm

Richmond, VA

[Learn more](#)



Rethinking the Origins of Western Secularity

Peter Harrison

November 11 at 7pm

Minneapolis, MN

[Learn more](#)



C.S. Lewis & the Irreplaceable Value of Persons

Robert Garcia

November 11 at 7pm

College Station, TX

[Learn more](#)



The Reorientation of the Resurrection

Nicole Massie Martin

November 12 at 6:30pm

Madison, WI

[Learn more](#)

**Schaeffer Center
for Christian Study**

Centering the Human in the AI Revolution

Adam Blincoe

November 12 at 7pm

Hampden-Sydney, VA

[Learn more](#)



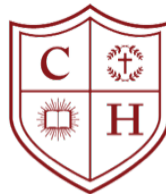
Christian Hope in the Stories of Lewis & Tolkien

Louis Markos

November 13 at 6pm

Ann Arbor, MI

[Learn more](#)



A Conversation with Atlantic Staff Writer

Elizabeth Bruenig

November 16 at 7:15pm ET

*Online

[Register](#)



Why Should Christians Care About the Liberal Arts?

Jennifer Frey

November 18 at 6pm

Charlottesville, VA

[Learn more](#)

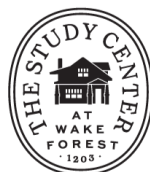


The Power of Music

Jeff Crosby

November 18 at 6:30pm

Madison, WI



Theology of Everyday Life

Julie Canlis

November 19 at 7pm

Winston-Salem, NC



Lecture by Calvin's Ladder Author

Julie Canlis

November 20 at 3pm

Raleigh, NC

[Learn more](#)

[Learn more](#)

[Learn more](#)



Schaeffer Center for Christian Study

What Does It Mean to Be Wise?

Zack Eswine

November 20 at 6:30pm

Columbus, OH

[Learn more](#)

Concert

Trailand Eltzroth

November 30 at 7pm

Hampden-Sydney, VA

[Learn more](#)

Partner Organization Opportunities



Trinity Forum Conversation with Michael Sacasas

Nashville, TN

Monday, November 9 at 6pm

The Trinity Forum is hosting an in-person conversation with Gainesville Christian Study Center's Executive Director **Michael Sacasas**. In the wake of new revelations about the velocity of changes in AI and the extinction-level threats it may pose, Michael contends that we must pay renewed attention to how AI will change the political and economic environment – and to how it will change us. He'll be exploring what distinctly human capacities deserve to be cultivated rather than outsourced and how a Christian idea of what it means to be human might help us avoid both a Luddite aversion as well as a dangerous techno-optimism.

[Register](#)

VERITAS
GRADUATE
CONFERENCE

The Veritas Graduate Conference

*South Bend, IN
Tuesday, July 6 – Friday, July 9*

The Veritas Graduate Conference supports Christian Ph.D. students by connecting them with faculty mentors and high-caliber peers in their disciplines (and across disciplines) around a broad vision of academic vocation. Tell a student you know about this opportunity – all conference-related expenses are covered for accepted applicants. Applications are due Tuesday, December 1.

Learn more and apply



Register for the Windrider Summit

*Louisville, CO
Sunday, January 24 – Friday, January 29*

The Windrider Summit & The Sundance Film Festival Experience takes place in January every year. The Windrider Summit is a one-of-a-kind cultural experience. It is an opportunity to attend the premiere festival for independent films and interact with a community who shares a belief in the transformative power of story. It is also a chance to bring a distinctively spiritual and theological lens to film and explore some of the most important topics in our culture. Windrider provides a customized experience, curating the best of Sundance's offerings along with exclusive benefits available only to Windrider Summit participants. Registration closes Monday, November 30.

Register



Wycliffe Hall Forum

*Houston, TX
Friday, November 6 – Saturday, November 7*

Can we trace a wise biblical path through today's complex and contentious issues? Join **N.T. Wright, Tish Harrison Warren**, and other members of the Wycliffe team as they delve deeper into Scripture to navigate the difficult but vital area of Christian political responsibility faithfully and in a way that gives hope in an age of polarisation and division.

[Register](#)

Recommendations



TRH: "Theology Belongs in the U.S. Public University"

The Raised Hand has returned! The new series addresses the question "How should educators respond to the return of enchantment?" and begins with an essay by Scholar-in-Residence at Lewis House, **Derek King**. Derek sees the return of enchantment as offering "an invaluable opportunity" for Christian Study Centers to find welcome for theology at public universities. Click below to read the full essay.

[Read now](#)



Michael Kruger Interview

This extended conversation between **Madison Perry** (Executive Director of the North Carolina Study Center) and **Michael Kruger** (author of *Surviving Religion 101*) discusses faith in college, advice for students, and the philosophy behind study centers.

[Watch now](#)



Brad East Honored by The Trinity Forum

Earlier this month, the Trinity Forum awarded the second annual *Michael J. Gerson Prize for Excellence in Writing on Faith and Public Life* to **Brad East**, who was one of the keynote speakers at the Consortium's recent Annual Meeting. Click below to learn more about the prize and to watch Brad's acceptance of the award.

[Watch now](#)

Job Openings



Center for
Christian Study

Director of Operations & Administration

[Apply here](#)



ANSELM
HOUSE

Food Service Manager

Director of Student Formation

Director of Digital Technologies & the Human Future Initiative

[Apply here](#)

SL BROWN
FOUNDATION

Facilities Assistant

Payroll and Benefits Administrator

[Apply here](#)



CENTER FOR
PUBLIC JUSTICE

Civitas Fellowship Manager

[Apply here](#)



The Christian Study Center Movement

Have you seen the Consortium's video about the study center movement yet?
View and share the video [here](#).

As always, keep sending your events our way so that we may distribute them to all who have expressed interest in the good work of the Consortium's members and partners.

Did someone forward this newsletter to you?

[Sign Up](#)

[Support the Movement](#)



Cultivating Thoughtful Christian Presence

Our Contact Information

Consortium of Christian Study Centers
PO Box 6555
Charlottesville, VA 22906
434-296-3333
<http://www.cscmovement.org>



[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage email preferences](#)