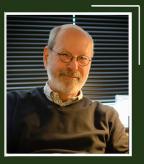www.iust.ac.in

**ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AWANTIPORA, J&K**

# CALL FOR PAPERS
## Two-day International Webinar
## on
## Philosophy and Science: Can the Twain Meet?

**PATRON**
Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor
Islamic University of Science and Technology

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**
Professor Elliott Sober
Hans Reichenbach Professor of Philosophy, and
William F. Vilas Research Professor
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Organised by
Averroes Center for Philosophical Studies, IUST
from
26 - 28 August 2022

Webinar Director
Prof Lily Want
Director, Averroes Center for
Philosophical Studies, IUST

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Faculty /Scholars from disciplines of Philosophy, Humanities and Social Sciences and Sciences.

## SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS:

Faculty and scholars can submit their abstracts (Max. 250 words) and a brief bionote (100 words) as a word document at *lilywant@yahoo.co.in*

## IMPORTANT DATES:

| | |
|---|---|
| Last date of submission of abstracts: | 10 August 2022 |
| Information with regard to acceptance of abstacts | 15 August 2022 |

## REGISTRATION FEE

INR 500/-

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**Islamic University of Science & Technology**

## Averroes Center
## for
## Philosophical Studies

Islamic University of Science and Technology
organises

## Two-day International Webinar
## on
## *Philosophy and Science:*
## *Can the Twain Meet?*

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## Islamic University of Science & Technology, Awantipora

Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) is located in Awantipora, (Jammu and Kashmir) approximately 30 km south of Srinagar, between the beautiful Wastoorvan mountain range on the one side and a majestic view of the Jhelum and Pir Panjal on the other. The University is adjacent to the famed saffron fields. This historically significantly town was the capital of Kashmir during the reign of Raja Awantivarman.

The University was established through an Act passed by J&K legislature and notified through Jammu and Kashmir Government Gazette in 2005. The academic programs started in the varsity from July 2006. The university is accredited by NAAC and is recognized by University Grants Commission (UGC) under section 2(f) and section 12 (b) of UGC Act. The technical, nursing, and Architectural programmes offered by the University are approved by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Indian Nursing Council (INC) and Council of Architecture (COA) respectively. The University is a member of Association of Indian Universities (AIU). The University strives to nurture an environment where students can develop, cultivate and support an academic culture that values interdisciplinary learning. The focus is on promoting studies and research that are socially relevant and that make students aware of their social and cultural responsibilities.

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## Averroes Center for Philosophical Studies

Averroes Centre for Philosophical Studies, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, Kashmir functions as a teaching and research centre with regard to classical, medieval and modern schools of philosophy across spatio-temporal trajectories. The Centre provides opportunities to students and researchers to build a formidable foundation in Philosophical Studies and contribute to the existing body of scholarly work through their learning and understanding of philosophical concepts such as Ontology and Epistemology (Western, Indian and Islamic), Metaphysics (Western, Indian and Islamic), Value theory, Symbolic Logic, Philosophy of Religion, Social and Political Philosophy etc.

The Centre has been named after the Muslim polymath and jurist, Ibn Rushd whose philosophical works especially his insightful commentaries on Aristotle earned him the title of the 'Commentator and Father of Rationalism'. Referred to as Averroes in Latin West, Ibn Rushd not only paved the way for philosophy as one of the three valid paths of arriving at religious truths but also had a lasting influence on medieval thought and the Western philosophical tradition. He underscored the significance of a critical and philosophical engagement with religion to unravel not only the deeper meanings of Islam but also to arrive at a true and correct understanding of the divine. As such, to name a research centre of philosophical studies after him, means to perceive the relation between philosophy and religion, the non-contradiction of reason and revelation and the consilience of eastern and western philosophical paradigms.

# About the Webinar

Philosophy is inherently connected to a wide array of other disciplines including science. In fact, philosophy, science, mathematics and many other disciplines were unified under the rubric of philosophy in the Greek period. Einstein argues that philosophy is of value to scientists not just for methodical reasons but also for theoretical reasons. Philosophy not only connects us with the history of human thought and civilization but also arms us with the power of reflection and critical thought. Since it teaches us to question our beliefs and think rationally therefore it necessarily contributes to the critique of scientific assumptions. On the one hand, it formulates productive theories that pave new paths for empirical research while on the other it deals with experiences that transcend what is empirically measurable. Philosophy undoubtedly emerges as an indispensable branch if we want to mark our progress in science and technology with responsibility and ethical standards.

N. R. Hanson made a very pertinent statement when he said, 'History of science without philosophy of science is blind, and Philosophy of science without history of science is empty'. Philosophy helps to explore the epistemology of sciences while the sciences reinforce the ontological investigation of philosophy. This obviously means that philosophy is the rational outlook of scientific problems while science provides the means, system and ways to resolve the philosophical problems of the world. The sciences make use of philosophical methodology in their theoretical praxis and philosophy offers the explanation that scientists require in their arguments of structure, system, hypothesis, causation, and the results of their theories. Philosophers and scientists who have invariably been associated with philosophy of science are Pythagoras, Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Bacon, Galileo Galelei, Leibnitz, Hume, Copernicus, Frege, Russell, Moore, Wittgenstein, Whitehead, Kuhn, Popper, Peirce, Quine, Feyerabend, Carnap, Newton, Hasenberg, Boole and others.

Yet there is a denial to view both philosophy and science as equal partners despite the fact that both assist creative thought in their explorations of attaining generalizing truths. There is a tendency to question the significance and value of philosophy for the sciences. For example, the existing state of knowledge of Physics seeks to explain only five percent of the real world as we know it. The rest of the knowledge is obscured in a chasm of ignorance as evidenced in a plethora of theories propounded to explain the same. This naturally brings us to the lofty cloud of philosophy that hangs over all the sciences. Philosophy of science enables us to learn the principles that science has been founded on and the ideas that have influenced our scientific thinking. It subsequently helps get rid of the scepticism that scientists harbour towards philosophy. As a result, philosophy of science gains significance as it helps foster deeper reflection on the concepts, methods, and issues that are fundamental within the sciences. Philosophers have thought deeply and systematically about the conceptual questions with regard to the nature of philosophy and comparative questions about its logic in the different sciences. As a result, philosophers can help students and scholars grapple intellectually with the questions not only in philosophy but also in the sciences. With metaphysics and epistemology as its two core branches, it is pertinent to understand how philosophy arms sciences with general principles of theoretical thinking and with a method of cognition and world-view. Logic and critical thinking as the essential tenets of philosophy necessarily help us comprehend the basics of argumentation including induction and deduction.

The present conference attempts to present a concise yet compelling vision of the role of philosophy in the sciences. The primary concern of the conference is to reinforce how reading, studying and evaluating philosophical arguments in tandem with the sciences as premises and conclusions help face new challenges that emerge as society progresses and technology develops. The event will offer a platform to discuss how Philosophy studies the history of ideas and texts that have profoundly shaped the traditional Western canon as well as Eastern and Southern philosophical thought about basic ethical values, the nature of knowledge and science and the fundamental structure of reality. The discussion shall revolve around how philosophy continues to ask questions on topics like cloning, stem cell research, development of AI, effects of globalization, climate change phenomenon and helps create rational, moral beings who think correctly and aspire to build a better and a just world. One of the aims of this conference would be to provide a historical perspective and broad framework of ethics and morality to examine the values and ethics behind the sciences.

In addition to these themes, the following areas of exploration are also suggested but, by no means, prescribed:

- Postmodern Philosophy and Science
- Modern Philosophy and Science
- Metaphysics and Science
- Language, Logic and Science
- Muslim Philosophy and Science
- Indian Philosophy and Science
- Religion and Science
- Ethics and Science

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