

New Methods in Public Engagement: A Dialogue on Nanotechnology and Religion, May 2008

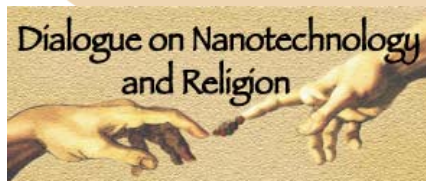
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To broaden the public engagement process in order to more personally explore the social and ethical implications of nanotechnology, Milford and Wetmore conducted a workshop dialogue that specifically incorporated religious perspective into a discourse on brain-machine interface technologies. Participants included representatives of various religious perspectives as well as scientists who were encouraged to step outside of their customary expertise and engage as “interested citizens.”



The dialogue yielded robust ethical reflection, including an atypical discussion of the potentially beneficial role of suffering to the human condition. Participants also discussed the limits of technology with regard to the manipulation of emotional states and the implications of this for community. Dialogues that engage participants at varying levels of identity can open up new lines of questioning and debate that go beyond typical policy considerations.



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