

'Probably the biggest one-day philosophy conference in the UK this year' was how Dr Daniel Hill of the University of Liverpool described a recent seminar on design in the natural world.

Saturday 14 July saw over 90 delegates, including a Nobel Laureate, cram into the Pavilion Room at Hughes Hall, Cambridge, for Tyndale Philosophy's 'Design in Nature? Perspectives from Science and Philosophy' conference.

Taking as its theme the controversial idea that neo-Darwinism has not, after all, refuted the arguments for design in nature, the conference attracted one of the world's leading speakers on Intelligent Design – Dr Stephen Meyer.

Dr Meyer, who earned his PhD in the history and philosophy of science at Cambridge, held a packed academic audience spellbound as he described the awesome complexity of the living cell. His talk, 'Intelligent Design – the Most Credible Idea?', highlighted the information content in DNA and the breathtaking nano-technology of biological molecular machinery. He argued that the scientifically most credible explanation is not neo-Darwinism but Intelligent Design.

Also speaking were Professor Steve Fuller of Warwick University on 'Why some people like the idea of design in nature – and others don't', Professor Stephen Clark of Liverpool University on 'Does Darwinism make it difficult to establish objective truth and morals?', and Dr David Glass of the University of Ulster on 'Design in Biology and Physics – strengths and weaknesses'.

One delegate commented: 'It was good to hear corrected some misunderstandings about the modern argument from design, and to learn that a number of criticisms were beside the mark.'

A video of the conference will be posted on YouTube.

For biographies of the speakers see:

Dr Stephen Meyer – <http://www.discovery.org/p/11>

Prof Steve Fuller – <http://homepages.warwick.ac.uk/~sysdt/Index.html>

Professor Stephen Clark – <http://www.liv.ac.uk/info/staff/A639849>

Dr David Glass – http://www.infj.ulst.ac.uk/~dvglass/research_interests.html