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Session leader: Professor Bob Bowie
Co-presenter / accompanying teacher: TBC at this time
Session title: Beginning Teachers and the Science Religion Encounter in the Classroom
Key questions asked: • What is beginning teachers experience of the science religion encounter in the classroom? • What do student teachers bring to that experience as they make sense of it? • How do they understand it? • How can we support beginning teachers for that?
Main content and activities of session: • This will outline a three year TWCF funded project to find out the experience of beginning teachers in their 'training year' and their early career development. It is the first national study to capture this experience and try to develop responses through training providers to help support teachers with these experiences and help bring better outcomes for teachers and pupils. • Newly qualified teachers are usually neither prepared nor confident in their response to students' questions about science and religion, such as how to reconcile scientific accounts of the origins of the world with accounts of origins from different world religions. But these and other big questions about origins, meaning, and purpose that bring science and religion together are critical for developing students' understanding of how knowledge works. • This project will examine closely the formative "science and religion" encounters of newly qualified teachers. Analyses of their experiences will inform teacher training programs to build teacher confidence and skill. • By understanding and influencing this formative time of teachers' development, this project will deepen our understanding of how teachers can most effectively help their students gain insight about how knowledge works in these important learning experiences. • This session is at an early reporting from the pilot phase of the project, bringing some initial findings from the project and encouraging participation in the project from Beginning Teachers (teachers in years 1-3 of practice). • These teachers include Primary and Secondary Science and RE teachers. It is part of the BQIC, Big Questions in the Classroom initiative of TWCF.
Links to resources, publications, etc : Information about this project is available at http://nicer.org.uk/beginning-teachers and here: https://www.templetonworldcharity.org/projects-database/beginning-teacher-science-religion-encounter-building-confidence-integrated-vision