

International Summer University 2015

*Pursuing the
Wholeness of Nature*

August 3 to 14, 2015

Venue: Lötsental and Dornach, Switzerland

Course offered to scholars in the sciences and humanities

Languages: English and German



REGISTRATION

Research Institute of the Science Section
Goetheanum, Postach, CH-4143 Dornach

INFORMATION

science@goetheanum.ch

www.science.goetheanum.org

Goetheanum

International Summer University 2015

We invite students and scientists to analyze concepts and theories in physics and biology and to assess their “complementarity”. How does quantum physics stand in relation to classical physics? What challenges does a chemistry based on the elements face versus a chemistry rooted in composite mixes, experienced by our senses? What separates the classical evolutionary theory of random variation and selection from the new view of directed epigenetic processes?

Issues such as these will be studied using actual scientific publications and discussed in depth. With Goethe and Steiner as a basis, we will pave the way for considering other modern thinkers who have dealt with questions of a holistic integral science. We will try to find out to what extent they help to reconcile disparate views.

During the first week, guided observation exercises in the alpine valley of „Lötschental“ will reveal how prescribed methods of observation structure perception and shape meaning. In the second week, comparison of these experiences with the approaches in scientific publications will help us trace how scientific facts emerge and develop.

We are looking for people who are willing to share their scientific background, current research projects, outcomes and potential deficits with others.

The Research Institute at the Goetheanum

Modern science is challenged by the limitations of a particulate or molecular perspective. The Science Section aims to address and overcome these challenges, i.e. to rediscover the wholeness in Nature. We draw from a spectrum of phenomenological methods originating in Goethe's scientific work and developed further through Rudolf Steiner's anthroposophy as spiritual science. Critical reflection and epistemological assessment of these methods are an integral part of the research process. We aspire to shift the position of the researcher from external observer to participatory observer. In this way, knowledge leading to technological progress is metamorphosed into knowledge for the evolution of consciousness in service to Nature.

Course Leaders

Johannes Kühl, physics; Laura Liska, nature observation; Matthias Rang, PhD, physics; Ruth Richter, philosophy of biology; Johannes Wirz, PhD, biology.

Auf der Suche nach der Ganzheit der Natur

Programme 1st week - the Lötschental: Observing Nature

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Understanding phenomena – Guided observations				
Epistemology of Goethean Science	Goethean Physics	Excursion: Mountain top or glacier mouth	Goethean Biology	Goethean Humanities
Modern Epistemology	Modern physics		Gestalt and Genetics	Cultural phenomena
Observations: Physics	Observations: Plant morphology and environment		Observations: Landscape and culture	Observing thinking Closing
On the scientific and spiritual path – Exercises out of sense perception				
Reading – Discussion - Reflection				

Programme 2nd week - Dornach: Observing Thinking

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Developing flexible thinking – Exercises in geometry				
Discussing modern thinkers: Hasok Chang – Is Water H ₂ O?, Thomas Nagel – Mind and Cosmos, Hans Jonas – The Phenomenon of Life				
Science talks: discussing selected papers (*)				
On the scientific and spiritual path – Exercises out of thinking				
Reading – Preparation	Reading – Preparation	Reading – Preparation	Swimming in the Rhine	Overnight excursion: sunset and sunrise

(*) *Copies of required texts will be sent via email once you have registered.*

Accommodation & Meals

The 1st week will be spent at Haus Städelfluh, CH-3919 Blatten (Lötschen) in simple dormitories with 4-6 beds. Hotel rooms are available about 15 minutes away (costs to be paid by participant.) **Participants are expected to arrive in the Lötschental by the evening of August 2nd.** Arrangements can be made for pickup at the local bus/train station. Transportation from the Lötschental to Dornach will be arranged (approx 50 CHF per person.) Travel costs are **not included** in course fee. Housing and vegetarian meal costs for the first week are covered by the “accommodations & meals” fee.

For the 2nd week, participants are responsible for their own accommodations and meals. A list of contacts for accommodations is available on our website.

Course Fees

- Course fee for both weeks CHF **900.-** (regular) **750.-** (students)
- Early registration (until June 20) CHF **750.-**(regular) **595.-** (students)
- Accommodation & meals 1st week (does not include travel costs): CHF **380.-**
- Participation for one week by special request.

Registration deadline

July 4, 2015

To Register

Send or email registration in writing to the Research Institute. Include your **name, mailing address, email address., and phone number.** If you are applying for the student rate, include a copy of your student ID. You will be sent an invoice, to be paid in full prior to your arrival. For the early registration discount, payment **must** be received by June 27.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations must be submitted in writing. Written cancellations received by July 20, 2015 (2 weeks prior to the course) will receive a full refund. After that date, 70% of the course fee will be refunded, but there will be no refund for the “accommodations & meals” fee. No refunds will be given once course begins.

Please Bring:

- coloured pencils, ruler, drawing paper, notebook
- sleeping bag and pad, warm and waterproof clothing, rain gear, hiking boots
- sun protection (hat, sunscreen, sunglasses), backpack, water bottle or thermos
- binoculars, magnifying glass