

# THE CREATION PROJECT

RESIDENT  
FELLOWSHIP

CARL F. H.  
**Henry**



2017-2018

AFFIRMING THE DOCTRINE OF CREATION IN AN AGE OF SCIENCE



**HENRY CENTER**  
**TRINITY EVANGELICAL DIVINITY SCHOOL**

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## THE CREATION PROJECT

### CARL F.H. HENRY FELLOWSHIP

**THE CARL F. H. HENRY RESIDENT FELLOWSHIP** supports new approaches to theological inquiry in the doctrine of creation that address foundational questions of the nature of the world, as well as demonstrate theological humility and openness to the claims of science. As a resident fellowship community, the fellowship houses four concurrent research positions on Trinity's campus, creating a collaborative, interdisciplinary research and learning environment. It is designed to advance evangelical understanding of the doctrine of creation by investing in the intellectual development and productivity of its leading theologians.

Because of the doctrinal nature of the project and the objectives that we hope to accomplish, our residency program will primarily be oriented towards philosophical and theological projects and disciplines (generally understood). Scientists are encouraged to apply for the discussion fellowship (pp. 14-15). The following fellowships will be awarded on a competitive basis:

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#### SENIOR RESEARCH RESIDENT FELLOWSHIP

Two awarded annually

Up to \$100,000 + up to \$15,000 relocation stipend

Learn more, pages 10-11

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#### RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Up to four awarded annually (may apply for semester or full year)

\$32,000/semester + up to \$5,000 relocation stipend

Learn more, pages 12-13

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#### DISCUSSION FELLOWSHIP

10 awarded annually

\$1,000 stipend + travel expenses

Learn more, pages 14-15



# ADVANCING EVANGELICAL SCHOLARSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING THROUGH RESEARCH AND WRITING

The underlying conviction of The Creation Project is the twofold belief that much of the current confusion in the evangelical church at the intersection of science and theology stems in part from an anemic doctrine of creation and, correspondingly, that rehabilitating that doctrine is an essential first step in the way forward. The Henry Fellowship thus aims to advance evangelical scholarship on the doctrine of creation by investing in the learning, research, and writing projects of its leading and emerging scholars. Whether your project is field-advancing research, a needed resource for curriculum learning, or has found a neglected niche in popular literature, if you're interested in stimulating thought in the doctrine of creation, the Henry Fellowship is interested in supporting you and your research.

## BENEFITS OF THE RESIDENT FELLOWSHIP

**DISTRACTION-FREE RESEARCH:** A busy week includes attending a luncheon, a public lecture, and a dinner gathering. No committee meetings, no grading; no housing maintenance or lawn projects. Your only priority is your study.

**PERSONAL OFFICE:** Fully-equipped personal office in an office suite with just you and the other fellows, in a quiet corner of Trinity's campus.

**ON-CAMPUS HOUSING:** Guaranteed on-campus, two-bedroom housing at a reasonable rate. Your daily commute to the office is only a short walk.

**CHICAGOLAND AREA:** Less than 30 miles from Chicago, enjoy all the attractions of a world-class city during your evenings and weekends.

"I have been more productive here than at any time in my life, including sabbaticals. The living arrangements and the collegial atmosphere of the Henry Center fellows and staff promote both enjoyment and steady work."

**C. JOHN COLLINS**  
COVENANT SEMINARY  
2016-2017 SENIOR FELLOW



“The other fellows who are sounding boards offer not only encouragement; the interaction with them provides confidence that my thinking is on a good track long before it is tested in a conference paper or in formal peer review.”

JOHN HILBER

GRAND RAPIDS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
2016-2017 SENIOR FELLOW



## FOSTERING A COMMUNITY OF COLLABORATIVE, INTERDISCIPLINARY INQUIRY

In our increasingly hectic, specialized, and fragmented world, collaborative learning is not only becoming more difficult, but also more urgent. On multiple fronts, the Henry Fellowship cultivates just such a learning environment. Through daily tea times, weekly reading groups, and quarterly colloquia—not to mention participation in the various public lectures and events featuring renowned scholars—the fellowship creates an environment that fosters continual discussion and interaction, across many disciplines, and in relation to shared topics of interest. Add to these formal activities the informal ones of sharing life together, and the fellowship provides a unique learning and writing opportunity.

### BENEFITS OF THE RESIDENT FELLOWSHIP

**COLLABORATIVE LEARNING:** Live and work in proximity to like-minded scholars committed to advancing the doctrine of creation.

**COMMON RESEARCH INTERESTS:** The shared research interests among the fellows both stimulate new questions and support greater understanding.

**INTERDISCIPLINARY ENGAGEMENT:** The disciplinary distinctions of the fellowship create a unique breadth of expertise and depth of communal discussion.

**HUMBLE INQUIRY:** Proximity, common research, and interdisciplinary alone will not foster communal learning. The fellowship provides a community where humble inquiry will be nurtured and developed.



## YEAR TWO

## AFFIRMING THE DOCTRINE OF CREATION IN AN AGE OF SCIENCE

The Christian doctrine of creation has been the subject of immense controversy in recent years, and such controversy has further obscured the doctrine rather than bring it more clearly into open and honest discussion. When many evangelical Christians think of “creation,” for instance, they immediately think of “evolution,” and they often do so in terms that are either dismissive of “evolution” or “those ‘fundamentalists’ who don’t believe in evolution”—with retrenchment often following. Too frequently, evangelical discussions of the doctrine of creation have become so narrowly focused on questions of cosmological and biological origins that current theological inquiry has not developed key elements of the doctrine of creation. Yet, these elements are vital for a recovering of the doctrine of creation. They also provide fertile ground for new explorations between theology and science, and room for humble and open engagement with modern science. Recovery of these elements of the classic doctrine of creation (e.g., topics like *ex nihilo*, goodness, divine action) with special attention to important questions and potential challenges to these topics from modern science, will thus be the focus of Year 2.

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YEAR ONE | 2016–2017

READING GENESIS IN AN AGE OF SCIENCE

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YEAR THREE | 2018–2019

RECLAIMING THEOLOGICAL  
ANTHROPOLOGY IN AN AGE OF SCIENCE

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### YEAR TWO TOPICS OF INQUIRY

The work of this year will address the following types of questions and concerns:

- Historically, what was at stake in debates over the goodness of creation? What is at stake in the current debates? E.g., what does it mean to affirm the goodness of creation if creation was never a place of shalom but was always and primordially a place of self-centered and destructive violence? How important is this doctrine in Christian theology? What are we to make of it today?
- What does it mean to affirm the contingency of creation? What do such claims entail? How do confessions of the contingency of creation relate to various findings in the natural sciences? What is at stake (theologically) here?
- What are contemporary Christians to make of the doctrine of *creatio ex nihilo*? What is the dogmatic significance of this doctrine? And where is one to search for its biblical support? Addition, is this doctrine “confirmed” by science, undermined by it, underdetermined by it, or just what?
- How should we think about divine action in light of modern science?
- How should evangelicals think about “natural theology?”

# SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Applicants for the Henry Senior Research Fellowship should be full-time tenured faculty members at accredited institutions of higher education and experts in the conversation. They should be interested in the pursuit of a research program that is relevant to the topic of inquiry and that advances the conversation while bringing new insights into the doctrine of creation, and they should be open to interdisciplinary discussions in theology, philosophy, and the natural sciences. In addition to their own research interests and regular collaboration, the Senior Fellows will also be included in leadership decisions related to the Creation Project. The selected fellows will be compensated 110% of their annual salary (up to \$100,000) with an additional housing and relocation stipend of up to \$15,000. Those eligible for the Senior Research Fellowship are also welcome to apply for the Research Fellowship (see page 12–13).

## ELIGIBILITY

- Full-time tenured faculty members at accredited institutions of higher education
- Established research record in the area of creation and/or the specific topic of inquiry
- Open to interdisciplinary discussions in theology, philosophy, and the natural sciences
- University approval of course release for fellowship

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF FELLOWS

- The pursuit of a major research project, ordinarily to result in a monograph or several articles and essays;
- Regular office hours (intended to foster an ethos of collaboration among the fellowship community);
- Leadership at weekly Creation Project discussions with other resident fellows and faculty members at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School;
- Availability to provide guidance and leadership in planning the content of annual public events and summer Dabar Conference;
- Attendance at, and participation in, select Creation Project events.

## QUICK FACTS

Two year-long resident fellowship  
110% salary compensation (up to \$100,000)  
Up to \$15,000 moving stipend  
Applications due January 15  
Apply online at [henrycenter.org](http://henrycenter.org)

## IMPORTANT DATES 2017-2018

January 15—Proposals due  
March 1—Recipients announced  
August 28—Fellowship begins  
Dec. 15–Jan. 15—Holiday recess  
May 11—Fellowship end date

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- A cover letter explaining your interest in the program and fit with the overall program and specific theme;
- A complete and current curriculum vitae;
- A project abstract of no more than 150 words;
- A statement between 1,200 and 1,500 words describing the project. The proposal should clearly state the relation between your research and the Center's theme, the significance of the research, and the distinctive character of the argument advanced;
- Confirmation of academic release from university administrator(s)
- Names of three scholars who can serve as references for you.

**NOTE:** *If your project is more introductory/popular than research-oriented, then your project description must include a "hypothesis" about the social conditions that you wish to address and why you think this project will be able to do so.*

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Scholarly contributions within the scholar's own field as it relates to the doctrine of creation, or, if popular in nature, ability to impact a specific sphere of influence;
- Openness to interdisciplinary engagement, especially in relation to significant work in recent biology, primatology, physics, and other sciences;
- The promise of new spiritual insights and progress for the sake of the church;
- Helpfulness to ecclesial communities within evangelical circles on the relation of the doctrine of creation to important work in the natural sciences.

## RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Applicants for the Henry Research Fellowship program should ordinarily hold a PhD/ThD (in exceptional cases doctoral students may be considered), they should be interested in the pursuit of a research program that is relevant to the inquiry, and they should be open to interdisciplinary discussions in theology, philosophy, and the natural sciences. The selected fellows will be compensated \$32,000/semester with an additional stipend of \$4,000 for relocation/housing. Applications for either year-long or semester-long residencies will be accepted. Office space at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School will be provided as part of the collaborative design of the resident fellowship.

### ELIGIBILITY

- Holds a PhD/ThD (in exceptional cases doctoral students may be considered)
- Open to interdisciplinary discussions in theology, philosophy, and the natural sciences.
- If currently employed, university approval of course release for fellowship

### RESPONSIBILITIES OF FELLOWS

- The pursuit of a major research project, ordinarily to result in a monograph or several articles and essays
- Regular office hours (intended to foster an ethos of collaboration among the fellowship community)
- Presence at weekly Creation Project discussions with other resident fellows and faculty members at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
- Availability to provide guidance and leadership in planning the content of annual public events and summer Dabar Conference
- Attendance at, and participation in, select Creation Project events

### APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- A cover letter explaining your interest in the program and offering a brief summary of your qualifications
- A complete and current curriculum vitae
- A project abstract of no more than 150 words
- A statement of 1,200-1,500 words describing the project. The proposal should clearly state the relation between your research and the Center's theme, the significance of the research, and the distinctive character of the argument advanced

### QUICK FACTS

Four semester-long resident fellowship  
May apply for 1 or 2 semesters  
\$32,000/semester\*  
Up to \$5,000 moving stipend  
Applications due January 15  
Apply online at Henrycenter.org

### IMPORTANT DATES 2017-2018

January 15—Proposals due  
March 1—Recipients announced  
August 28—Fall Fellowship begins  
Dec. 18—Fall term ends  
Jan. 16—Spring Fellowship begins  
May 11—Spring term ends

\* Due to various federal regulations, scholars (i) applying for a full year, and (ii) without a sponsoring organization, will be treated as full-time employees of Trinity. This results in an adjusted nominal award, but does not change gross award value.

- If currently employed, confirmation of academic release from university administrator(s)
- Names of three scholars who can serve as references for you

If the applicant has less than three years of experience in a tenure-track position, please also provide:

- A paper (published or unpublished) that is representative of your best academic research and writing
- Letters of recommendation from three scholars listed above. These should address (a) your overall academic ability; (b) the merits of your proposed research program; and (c) your ability to make productive use of your time at the Henry Center

**NOTE:** If your project is more introductory/popular than research oriented, then your project description must include a "hypothesis" about the social conditions that you wish to address and why you think this project will be able to do so.

### EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Scholarly contributions within the scholar's own field as it relates to the doctrine of creation
- Openness to interdisciplinary engagement, especially in relation to significant work in recent biology, primatology, physics, and other sciences
- The promise of new spiritual insights and progress for the sake of the church
- Helpfulness to ecclesial communities within evangelical circles on the relation of the doctrine of creation to important work in the natural sciences

## REGIONAL DISCUSSION FELLOWSHIP

Applicants for the Henry Discussion Fellowship Program should ordinarily be faculty members at accredited institutions of higher education, they should be interested in interdisciplinary discussions that involve theology, philosophy, and the natural sciences, and they should be interested in the broader dissemination of current and new insights. Both applicants who are currently engaged in the interdisciplinary conversation and those wishing to become acquainted with it are encouraged to apply.

The colloquium will gather quarterly for a half-day colloquium that includes discussion of important recent books in the field, presentation of papers that are in progress, and other activities that will advance understanding and interdisciplinary engagement. All meals will be provided. Participants will receive reimbursement for travel and a stipend of \$1,000.

### QUICK FACTS

10 fellowships awarded annually

4 quarterly half-day colloquia

\$1,000 stipend + travel expenses

Applications due June 15

Apply online at [Henrycenter.org](http://Henrycenter.org)

### IMPORTANT DATES 2017-2018

June 15—Proposals due

July 15—Recipients announced

\* The dates of the four colloquia will be established after the members of the Discussion Fellowship are finalized.

### COMMITMENT INVOLVES

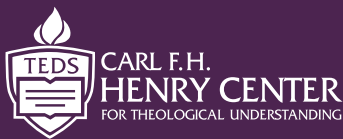
- Attendance at all quarterly meetings with other members of this group and with the Resident Fellows
- Pre-reading of all selected material and group presentations
- The submission of one's own work will also be strongly encouraged
- Participation in the Dabar Conference to be held in the spring/early summer at the Deerfield, IL campus of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

### APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- A cover letter explaining your interest in the program, providing a summary of your qualifications, and stating what contribution you believe you would make to these discussions. The letter should not exceed 1,000 words
- A complete and current curriculum vitae







Templeton  
Religion Trust

*The Creation Project is a three year, six-initiative project directed by the Henry Center for Theological Understanding at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and funded by a generous grant from the Templeton Religion Trust. The project seeks to recover the meaning and importance of the grand themes of the Doctrine of Creation, and to articulate the doctrine in a way that is faithful to revealed truth and in open and earnest dialogue with the insights of modern science.*