

Photo: Mark Utting

I think most people would agree that any scientist, either tacitly, implicitly or openly, must have various philosophical agendas.



Photo: Emily Winslow Stark

The Convergence of

Lady Margaret Beaufort, founder of St. John's, stamping out ignorance

Darwin was inspired in his theory of evolution by his observation of unique types of birds on various islands in the Galapagos. His expectation, which was the prevailing Christian view, had been that specially created animals would never change—they would remain exactly as they had been created over generations. However, what he observed was that creatures in isolated places, like islands, were unique, implying that they had developed over time in isolation. He also observed that their similarities with other unique creatures were more pronounced when their isolated habitats were closer geographically, again implying that they had developed over time, from a once-shared past, a past that would be more alike the closer they were physically.

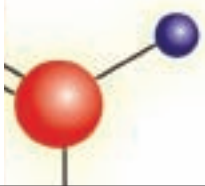
These observations led to the theory that life-forms, including humans, were not static as created and instead developed over time.

This is a view that Simon Conway Morris, as an evolutionist, embraces. However, his work on “convergence” demonstrates that, against statistical odds, identical biological systems have arisen within very different creatures in isolation from one another. This is just what Darwin had at first expected to find in a created world, except it’s on the scale of biological systems within living things, not the exterior forms of whole living things. This view argues against randomness, and proposes that the current forms of life on this planet were therefore inevitable, and therefore possibly created.

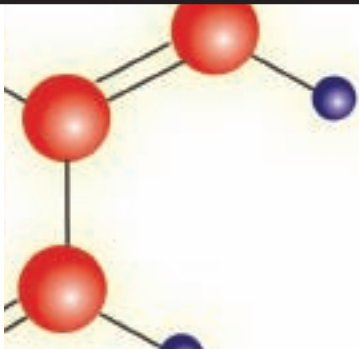
Simon Conway Morris is a paleontologist-turned-biologist, Fellow of St. John’s College, Professor of Earth Sciences at Cambridge University, a Fellow of the Royal Society, and the author of *Life’s Solution: Inevitable Humans in a Lonely Universe* (Cambridge University Press).

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Photo: Emily Winslow Stark



Faith and Science



**The Wittenburg Door Interview:
Simon Conway Morris**
By Emily Winslow Stark

