



Fraser Prize essay 2015

Topic: What are the challenges of modern biology to theology today?

Entries were assessed by a Reading Panel drawn from the journal *Theology in Scotland* and the Scottish Church Theology Society.

The views of the Fraser Prize Reading Panel:

John Starr

As the twenty-first century progresses, thanks to the benefits of modern medical science, the average lifespan in European populations is gradually increasing. This longevity has resulted, in turn, in the number of older citizens increasing as a percentage of the overall population. Reflecting on these biological, statistical and generational facts in his paper, Dr John Starr develops a theology of daughterhood in a very interesting and original way, drawing on the varied relationships of daughters to parents as this is found in the biblical sources.

To quote the Reading Panel for the Fraser Prize for 2015:

“The essay *A Theology of Daughterhood* surveys a range of biblical examples of daughters and daughters-in-law in relation to their parents, alongside an examination of the classic self-understanding of the early Church as ‘daughter’. It is made clear that this is a first step towards developing a theological view of the contemporary social transformation of the role of daughters towards that of carers. While this, of course, is a ‘preliminary study’ in the area it surveys it is well-written, well-researched, well-expressed and clearly presented, opening up valuable lines of theological investigation. It is, in brief, ‘a brave path through new territory’.”

The Fraser Prize Reading Panel, Autumn 2015