

**Swami Atmapriyananda** is the Vice Chancellor of Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Education and Research Institute (RKMVERI), Belur. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Madras, India, in Theoretical Physics for his work in particle theory and has a number of research publications in reputed international journals. Inspired by Ramakrishna-Vivekananda ideology, he joined the Ramakrishna Order of monks in 1978 and was posted at Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira, a premier college of Ramakrishna Mission at Belur Math, where he taught Physics for nearly 25 years besides serving as Vice-Principal and Principal for 19 years before taking charges as Vice Chancellor of Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University in July 2005.

As a monk and an educationist, his present interests are: (i) Swami Vivekananda's educational vision education for character building in the youth (ii) Yoga-Vedanta vis-à-vis modern science, (iii) Ramakrishna Vivekananda thought in the context of present day challenges, (iv) Consciousness Studies as taught in the Upanishads, (v) Synthesis of the four yogas as taught by Swami Vivekananda and Bhagavad-Gita, and (vi) Harmony of religions as lived and taught by Sri Ramakrishna. He has a good number of publications on the above subjects in the journals of Ramakrishna Order and of various organizations.

**Dr. Aleksandar Zecevic** is a Professor of Electrical Engineering at Santa Clara University, and the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies. His technical research interests include graph theoretic decomposition algorithms, electric power systems, Boolean networks and the control of complex dynamic systems. He has published more than 40 papers in the leading journals in these fields, and some of his most important results are summarized in his book: Control of Complex System: Structural Constraints and Uncertainty (2010).

<http://www.engr.scu.edu/~azecevic/>

Over the past 15 years, Dr. Zecevic has also done a considerable amount of work in the area of science and religion. He has recently published two books on this subject: Truly, Beauty and the Limits of Knowledge: A Path from Science to Religion (which is aimed at a broad audience), and The Unknowable and the Counterintuitive: The Surprising Insights of Modern Science (which provides an advanced treatment of technical topics such as chaos theory, Metamathematics, quantum mechanics and relativity).

In 2005, Dr. Zecevic developed a unique new course entitled: Chaos Theory, Metamathematics and the Limits of Knowledge: A scientific Perspective on Religion. What makes this course unusual is the fact that it counts both as a technical elective for engineering students, and satisfies the third religious studies requirement in Santa Clara University's Core Curriculum. This may well be the only religious studies course in the world that has differential equations as a prerequisite, and requires extensive programming and simulation.

**Rev. Dr. Xavier Savarimuthu, SJ**, is a Jesuit priest, heading the department of Environmental studies at St. Xavier's College, Kolkata. He teaches in the departments of environmental science and microbiology with a Ph.D. in the epidemiological research on arsenic poisoning and its health impacts on the affected population of North and South 24 Parana's district in West Bengal. He is involved in a dug well program in India to provide arsenic-safe water to the poor villagers in the arsenic affected blocks of Degonga and Habra(I) in North 24 Parana's district. He has presented and published valuable papers on his work in arsenic both in India and abroad. His latest article is on "The Earth we want requires reconciliation with creation".

(<http://www.sjweb.info/sis/headlines/newsShow.cfm?PubTextID=13034&Pubid=14371>).

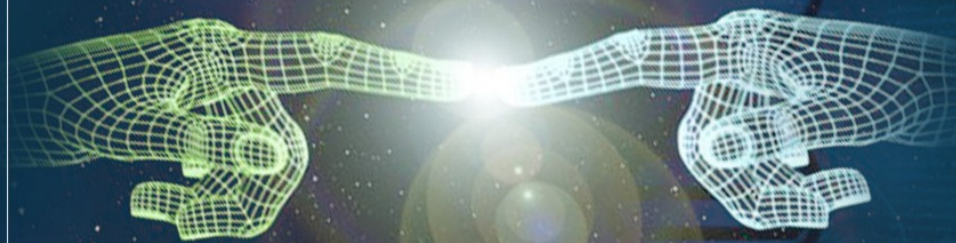
He conducted courses on "environment and public health in South Asia" at Santa Clara University, California. He is also a consultant in the arsenic research taking place at the bioengineering department of Santa Clara University and the Institute of Catholic Bioethics, Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



## International Seminar On Emerging Issues on the Interface of Science and Religion

February 18 & 19, 2018

"THE UNKNOWABLE AND THE COUNTERINTUITIVE"



Venue:

Day 1 - Fr. Depelchin Auditorium, Time : 4.00 am to 6.45 pm

Day 2- R. K. Hall, Time : 10.00 am to 5.00 pm

Organized by  
The Goethals Indian Library & Research Society  
Physics and EVS Departments, St. Xavier's College, Kolkata



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“THE UNKNOWABLE AND THE COUNTERINTUITIVE”

### “The Unknowable and the Counterintuitive”

India, a land of spirituality, is ushering in as a new center of superpower showing potential and sustainable strength in Military, Economic and Science & Technology areas day by day. Consequently, there is a growing need of a synergy of Religious & Scientific strengths. In an age of religious intolerance and extreme spread of consumerism, the country should have active centers of interdisciplinary research centers catering to the society through the apparently diversified paths of Religion and Science & Technology. They should be dedicated to relating religions traditions and the best scientific knowledge in order to gain insight into the origins, nature and destiny of humans and their environment and to realize the common goal of a world in which love, justice, and responsible patterns of living prevail.

Development of scientific temperament is not new among the practitioners of religion. Many of the Christian Missionaries in India & the world have had the influence of scientific spirit behind their social works. Swami Vivekananda, the great Hindu Monk advocated for a scientific foundation of the religious practices so that the society can get rid of the evil ones that bear no scientific logic and play havoc on the life of the poor people. There are a lot of monks now among different religious orders who are engaged in exploring the reconciling aspects on the apparently conflicting schools of thought i.e. science & religion.

Traditionally, Science is a branch of human knowledge with a quest to understand Nature & the Universe tested in the mirror of Scientific Logic & Experiments so as to serve mankind better. Religion, on the other hand has been the most powerful facet of human endeavour to understand the same but from a different viewpoint of practice & belief so as to live in a better society.

In the developed world, regular seminar/conference/workshops are held round the year on topics related to Science, Religion and Society as is evident from the activities of a number of organizations like The Metanexus Institute, the Zygon Center for Religion and Science, The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion at the University of Cambridge UK etc. In the present seminar, most of the talks would therefore be devoted to the idea that scientific knowledge can often be helpful in initiating interreligious and intercultural conversations.



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### Programme Schedule

#### Day 1: Discourse: Open to all

- 4.00 pm - 4.30 pm : Registration
- 4.30 pm - 4.45 pm : Inauguration by Rev Fr. Dr. Felix Raj, SJ, Director, GILRS
- 4.45pm - 5.15 pm : Keynote address: Rev. Fr. Dr. Xavier Savarimuthu, SJ, Asst. Director, GILRS
- 5.15pm - 6.00 pm : Lecture 1 - Swami Atmapriyananda, Vice Chancellor, RKMVERI, Belur
- 6.00pm - 6.45 pm : Lecture 2 - Prof. Dr. Alexander Zecevic, Santa Clara University, USA
- 6.45pm : Interaction

#### Day 2:

- 10.30 am - 1.00 pm : Session - I
- 10.30 am - 11.30 am : Lecture 1 - Buddhism :
- 11.30 am - 11.45 am : Interaction
- 11.45 am - 12.45 pm : Lecture 2 - Hinduism :
- 12.45 pm - 1.00 pm : Interaction
- 1.00 pm - 2.00 pm : Lunch
- 2.00 pm - 4.30 pm : Session - II
- 2.00 pm - 3.00 pm : Lecture 3 - Islam :
- 3.00 pm - 3.15 pm : Interaction
- 3.15 pm - 4.15 pm : Lecture 4 - Christianity : Rev. Fr. Dr. Xavier Savarimuthu, SJ
- 4.15 pm - 4.30 pm : Interaction
- 4.30 pm - 5.00 pm : Feedback & Closing session

#### Organisation:

The Goethals Indian Library and Research Society (GILRS)  
St. Xavier's College, Kolkata.  
<http://www.goethals.in>