



CONTACT: Donald Lehr – The Nolan/Lehr Group  
+1 (212) 967-8200 / mob +1 (917) 304-4058  
[dblehr@cs.com](mailto:dblehr@cs.com) / [www.templetonprize.org](http://www.templetonprize.org)

**FOR RELEASE:**  
**Tuesday, March 19, 2019**

### **Heather Templeton Dill Announces the 2019 Templeton Prize**

It is a distinct honor, and a great joy, to announce the winner of the 2019 Templeton Prize: Marcelo Gleiser – theoretical physicist, cosmologist, and a leading proponent of the view that science, philosophy, and spirituality are complementary expressions of humanity’s need to embrace mystery and explore the unknown.

A native of Brazil, where his books are bestsellers and his television series draw audiences in the millions, he is the Appleton Professor of Natural Philosophy and a professor of physics and astronomy at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire.

My grandfather Sir John Templeton created the Templeton Prize in 1972 because he thought that Alfred Nobel had overlooked a very important component of human existence, and that is, religion and spirituality. There are a variety of individuals who have won the Prize and all of them together reflect the many ways in which we can explore aspects of spiritual existence and the nature of the divine.

Professor Gleiser embodies the values that inspired Sir John to establish the Templeton Prize and to create the John Templeton Foundation. Two values which were especially important for Sir John, and the focus of various Foundation grants, are the pursuit of joy in all aspects of life, and the profound human experience of awe. Sir John was intensely interested in the connections between joy and purpose, joy and gratitude, and even joy and the scientific process.

Professor Gleiser’s work displays an undeniable joy of exploration. From the breadth of his investigations into the fundamental questions of existence, to his efforts to create a constructive engagement between the sciences and the humanities, and to propose a unifying vision rooted in an appreciation for humankind’s uniqueness in the cosmos, Professor Gleiser’s work is truly inspiring.

He maintains the same sense of awe and wonderment that he first experienced as a child on the Copacabana beach, gazing at the horizon or the starry night sky, curious about what lies beyond. As he writes in *The Island of Knowledge*, ‘Awe is the bridge between our past and present, taking us forward into the future as we keep on searching.’

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation, we celebrate his work and congratulate the 2019 Templeton Prize Laureate, Professor Marcelo Gleiser.

# # #