

2024/2025 Research Seminar #10

Distinguished Scholar Series

WHAT MAKES US HUMANS? UNDERSTANDING THE SOUL IN AI TIMES



by:

Fr. Javier Sánchez Cañizares
Professor of UNIVERSITY OF
NAVARRA

Fr. Javier Sánchez Cañizares is a researcher in the "Mind-Brain" Group at the Institute for Culture and Society (ICS) and a member of the "Science, Reason and Faith" (CRYF) Group at the University of Navarra. He holds a Ph.D. in Physics from the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid (1999) and a Ph.D. in Theology from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome (2006).



Discussant: Prof. Denis Chang

Prof Denis Chang, SC, KC, is Council Chair of SFU, Head of Denis Chang's Chambers and Hon. Prof of the Law Faculty, HKU. Prof Chang remarks: "Fr. Javier in 2018 received the prestigious "Expanded Reason Award" for his work "Universo Singular" in which he identified *consciousness* as one of several *singularities*. Recently he elaborated on how the Spirit works in the world and developed, inter alia, his ground-breaking notion of non-material causes, reinforcing his critique of Integrated Information Theory (IIT) as a solution to "the hard problem of consciousness." I propose to bring up for discussion as a lead-up to the Q&A Session a few reflections on some key ideas which I anticipate Fr Javier will be covering on what it means to be humans, keeping in mind *Antiqua et Nova* (2025, Vatican) that stresses the importance of the Augustinian "*Wisdom of the Heart*", of embodiment and intentionality and of Relational Intelligence and the gap between human and artificial intelligence."



22 July 2025



2:30PM - 5:30PM



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