

## **EXPERTISE CENTER ON ZERO (XCZ)**

*An attractive, complementary, expansionary initiative: Scientific Breakthroughs (physics and biology), Deception, Music and the Brain, Mathematical Breakthroughs, Philosophy of Biology, Art Seeking Understanding, Global Philosophy of Religion, Eastern Traditions and the Big Questions.*

*The concept of Zero is both a critical event in intellectual history and a milestone in the development of mathematics, science and technology. The exploration of zero's origin, culturally and linguistically as well as mathematically and philosophically, could elicit novel ideas and new ways of thinking.*

*Moreover, the broader philosophical significance of Zero reveals transcendental ideas of Nothing, Emptiness, Void, Blank as features of reality to be apprehended and appreciated and perhaps applied to entirely new categories of thought. Indeed, "Nothing" is a prime Closer To Truth theme.*

*– Dr Robert Lawrence Kuhn, producer-host Closer to Truth*

### **Proposal Interdisciplinary Project**

It occurred repeatedly that in approaching universities in connection with researching the invention of zero or its transmission in the country/region concerned (Far East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, Middle East, North Africa, Europe, South and Central America) academics would on the one hand laud the objective of the Zero Project to shed light on the invention of zero, while of the other hand disqualifying themselves as specialist not proficient in related fields required to address the interdisciplinary issues involved. Thus the sciences defer to the humanities and vice versa.

The Zero Project's online *International Conference-cum-Workshop on Zero* (October '21 – April '22, awarded UNESCO **Patronage**, made apparent that the subject is too wide-ranging for a single Endowed Chair and that an *Expertise Center* may be better suited to the purpose. A cursory inventory based on the Zero Project's literature search, the compilation of papers in the *Monograph on Zero* book project, cover editor Dr Robert Lawrence Kuhn, and discussion with contributors to date suggest at least the following subjects that may require further expansion:

- Cosmology / (history of) physics / mathematics / philosophy / ontology / epistemology / linguistics / (quantum) logic / semiotics / technology / IT / informatics;
- Evolution / consciousness / brain / mind / cognitive science / philosophy of mind;
- Meaning / God / theism / atheism / agnosticism / religion / philosophy of religion / critical thinking;
- Epigraphy / archeology / paleontology / anthropology;
- The Arts: world-class visual artist, Anish Kapoor, had instant affinity with the Zero Project and the concept of Emptiness as a source of inspiration in his work. He contributed a dozen photos of his sculptures as illustration material for the Monograph book project. Dutch visual artist and art historian, Irma den Hertog, contributed a paper to the book project and cover illustration; and VU's Art Curator, Wende Wallert, designed an exhibition around the theme.

Meanwhile the following Universities endorsed or joined the *Expertise Center on Zero*, formally launched on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022:

- Prof. Alberto Pelissero, University of Turin, Italy
- Prof. Friedhelm Hoffmann, LMU Munich, Germany
- Prof. Kaspars Klavins, University of Latvia, Latvia
- Pusan National University, South Korea
- Prof. Sisir Roy, NIAS, Bangalore, India
- Prof. Ravi Prakash Arya, Maharishi Dayanand University, Haryana, India
- Prof Djamil Aissani, University of Bejaïa, Algeria
- Dr Chinmay Pandya, DSVV University, Haridwar, India
- Prof. Harsh Purohit and Prof. Sharda Nandram, Banasthali Vidyapith, Rajasthan, India
- Prof. Parthasarathi Mukhopadhyay, RKMRC, Narendrapur, Kolkata, West Bengal, India

### **THE ZERO PROJECT**

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