

Session title: Religion as a means for/against communicating sciences: Orthodoxy, Catholicism, and Reformation

**THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION OF DINOSAURS
AMONG CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIANS:
FROM EVIDENCE OF EVOLUTION TO
SYMBOL OF CREATIONISM**

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Before World War II and even into the postwar period conservative North American Christians tended to view dinosaurs as highly suspect evidence of evolution. Some doubted that dinosaurs had ever existed; others viewed them as a Satanic trick. In recent decades, however, dinosaurs have become the darlings of creationists. Ken Ham's 27-million-dollar Creation Museum in northern Kentucky, for instance, features nearly 30 dinosaurs, which, the museum proclaims, appeared on earth no more than 10,000 years ago and for millennia shared the planet with humans. The associated Answer in Genesis bookstore sells dinosaur jigsaw puzzles, stickers, coloring books, mugs, journals, activity books, bookmarks, books, and magazines, aimed primarily at children. A number of creationist colleges proudly promote dinosaur museums and field excavations. This paper explores how this counterintuitive dinosaur revolution occurred.