

# THE "ETTORE MAJORANA" FOUNDATION AND CENTRE FOR SCIENTIFIC CULTURE

President: Prof. Antonino Zichichi



## INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF ETHOLOGY "Dànilo Mainardi"

Director of the School: Prof. Stefano Parmigiani

# FUTURE DIRECTIONS ON THE EVOLUTION OF RITUALS, BELIEFS AND RELIGIOUS MINDS

**May 9-14, 2018**  
**Erice, Sicily, ITALY**

### WORKSHOP ORGANIZERS

**Ara Norenzayan** (*University of British Columbia*)

**Joe Henrich** (*Harvard University*)

**Edward Slingerland** (*University of British Columbia*)

**Stefano Parmigiani** (*University of Parma*)

### Purpose of the workshop

As a deep and enduring aspect of human societies and individual psychology, religion remains an evolutionary puzzle. Considering its centrality in so many lives, however, the scientific study of religion remains a largely neglected and fragmented topic. In this workshop, an international and interdisciplinary group of eminent scholars explore the current state of our knowledge concerning religion as a complex bundle of behavior-belief packages rooted in genetic and cultural evolution. The focus will be on fresh developments and current controversies about the evolution of commitments to gods, rituals, sacred values, as well as religious cooperation and conflict in the world today. The format will encourage brief talks followed by extensive discussion and debate. Speakers are asked to reflect on emerging themes across disciplinary boundaries, and formulate the new and important questions that will shape future developments of this growing field over the next decade.

**Confirmed invited speakers:** Ara Norenzayan, Joe Henrich, Edward Slingerland, David S. Wilson, Scott Atran, Paul Bloom, Cristine Legare, Harvey Whitehouse, Colleen Shantz, Pascal Boyer, Ann Taves, Russell Gray, Eleanor Power, Richard Sosis, Jesper Sørensen, Dimitris Xygalatas, Claire White, Dominic Johnson, Robert McCauley, Joseph Bulbulia

**Information and Registration:** <http://schools.centromajorana.it/relmind2018/>

**Registration Deadline:** March 1<sup>st</sup> 2018