

International Conference:
Religious Communities and Sustainable Development.
Points of Departure for a Post-2030 Development Agenda
08 – 11 June 2021

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Physical Foundations of Sustainability

“For instance, Faraday, in his mind’s eye, saw centres of force attracting at a distance; Faraday saw a medium (medium, a carrier for the transmission of a signal) where they saw nothing but a distance; while Faraday sought the seat of the phenomena in real actions going on in the medium, they were satisfied that they had found it in a power of action at a distance impressed on the electric fluids.” Maxwell, Treatise on Electricity and Magnetism, 1875.

“A courageous scientific imagination was needed to realize fully that not the behaviour of bodies, but the behaviour of something between them, that is the field, may be essential for ordering and understanding events.” Albert Einstein, The Evolution of Physics, 1956

“Quantum entanglement is a very strange thing. It is somewhere between objects being separate and being in communication with each other.” Roger Penrose, 2000

On the fundamental various physical levels, sustainability has the meaning of transmission, transitions, connections, togetherness, communication, one being, relationships, entanglements, passage, mean, interactions, between.

“The connexity of existence is of the essence of understanding” (Alfred North Whitehead). Such fundamental physical concepts as the notions of transmission or entanglement can give the idea of sustainability a precision and weight that it sometimes completely lacks in ecological or economic or religious discussions.

Keywords: sustainability, physics, ecology, economy, religion