**Richard Swinburne** - short intellectual autobiography (https://users.ox.ac.uk/~orie0087/)

I began my academic life at the University of Oxford, with undergraduate (1954-7) and graduate (1957-9)  degrees in philosophy and then a diploma in theology (1959-60). During my period as an undergraduate I developed my abiding interest in all the central problems of philosophy, and especially in the issue of whether there is adequate justification for belief in God, and more particularily in the doctrines of the Christian religion. (I have been a Christian all my life, and a member of the Orthodox church since 1995.) I saw the achievements of the sciences as central to the modern world-view ; and so (financed by two research fellowships - a Fereday Fellowship at St John’s College, Oxford, and a Leverhulme Fellowship in the history and philosophy of science at the University of Leeds) I devoted the next three  years to learning much about the history of the physical and biological sciences and beginning to philosophise about them. In 1963 I became a lecturer in philosophy at the University of Hull.   Almost all my work for the next nine years was concerned with the philosophy of science. My first book *Space and Time* was published in 1968 and sought to give an account of the nature of space and time in the light of the detailed achievements of Relativity theory and cosmology. My next large-scale book *An Introduction to Confirmation Theory* was concerned with the formalisation by the calculus of probability, of what is evidence for what.  My move to be Professor of Philosophy at the University of Keele in 1972 coincided with a shift of academic focus to the philosophy of religion on which so far I had  published only one small book, *The Concept of Miracle* (1971).  The next twelve years saw the publication of my trilogy on the philosophy of theism - *The Coherence of Theism* (1997, revised ed.,1993), *The Existence of God* (1979, 2nd edition 2004), and *Faith & Reason* (1981, 2nd edition 2005).  The central work, *The Existence of God,* sought to reestablish natural theology, by providing probabilistic arguments from the general features of the world to the existence of God; and this is the achievement for which I am best known. My work in the early 1980s on the relation of mind and body saw published form first in *Personal Identity* (co-authored with Sydney Shoemaker, 1984); and more fully in *The Evolution of the Soul* (1986, revised ed., 1997).  In 1985 I became Nolloth Professor of the Philosophy of Christian Religion at the University of Oxford. For the next eighteen years my work was  focused on the meaning and justification of the doctrines which distinguish Christianity from other religions, and this work saw published form in four books-  *Responsibility and Atonement*, (1989), *Revelation* (1992; 2nd ed, 2007), *The Christian God* (1994), and *Providence and the Problem of Evil* (1998).  *Epistemic Justification,* an examination of what constitutes the justification of a belief (and what constitutes knowledge) was published in 2001. *The Resurrection of God Incarnate* was an examination with the aid of all my past work on what is evidence for what, of the evidence for the bodily Resurrection of Jesus, was published in 2003. As the Resurrection of Jesus provides a substantial ground for believing many of the detailed claims of Christian doctrine, this was a necessary final piece of my apologetic programme. Since my retirement from the Nolloth Professorship in 2002, much of my work has been devoted to producing 2nd editions (largely rewritten and updated) of previous works - *The Existence of God* (2004)*, Faith & Reason* (2005), *Revelation* (2007), and *The Coherence of Theism* (2016).. I have also written two short 'popular' books summarising my work on the philosophy of religion *Is there a God?* (1996), and *Was Jesus God*? (2008). For the next five years I worked again on the issue of the relation of mind and body, and I worked also on the connected issue of whether humans have free will and the relevance to it of recent neuroscience. This work resulted in a new book *Mind, Brain, and Free Will,* published in 2013, in which I argue that all humans consist of two parts -soul (essential part) and body (contingent part), and that we probably have free will (of an indeterministic kind). During the next two years I worked mainly on the 2nd edition (largely rewritten and updated) of *The Coherence of Theism*, published in 2016*.* This book seeks to produce a coherent account of what 'There is a God' means (and so examines what it is for a being to be omnipotent, omniscient, perfectly good etc.), which is a prolegomenon to my arguments in favour of the existence of God. Since then I have written articles on various philosophical topics, and I have written a more 'popular' book, with the title *Are We Bodies or Souls?*, summarizing and developing my views on the nature of the soul and its connection with the body, which was published in 2019; a slightly revised version of this will be published early in 2023.I am just finishing a "debate book" with James Sterba, *Would a good God permit so much suffering?* which will be published probably in late 2023.  I was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1993.Over many years I have held visiting professorships at American and other overseas universities, and lectured extensively for shorter periods in very many different countries. I have been awarded Honorary Doctorates by the Catholic Universitty of Lublin.(2015),by Dimitrie Cantemir Christian University, Bucharest (2016), and  by the International Academy of Philosophy, Liechtenstein (2017).