

God and Darwin in the Low Countries: Intelligent Design Creationism in Flanders and the Netherlands.

Creationism is mostly regarded as a typically North-American phenomenon, and so it has been for a long time. But with Intelligent Design, creationism goes European. No longer explicitly mentioning God in their publications and selling their message in scientific formats, ID-adepts are able to address a much wider, more 'skeptical' audience. Intelligent Design is presented as a viable alternative to Darwinism, which they call a theory in decline. Biochemical studies on intracellular level point toward the edge of evolution, making room for design as the most appropriate explanation. Only the blind still hold on to the Darwinian dogma...

In the Low Countries (in Flanders, but especially in the Netherlands) we find indications that Intelligent Design Creationism (IDC) is on the rise. Recent inquiries suggest that almost one out of four people in the Low Countries is not insensible towards ideas that could easily merge with IDC. The media pay more attention than ever to topics regarding creationism and some Christian politicians have shown sympathy with IDC. In the Netherlands, as many as three books have been published covering IDC, with some of the authors being highly regarded scientists. While some people might feel that IDC is not an issue in this region, we tend to disagree.

That is the reason why we decided to take a closer look at IDC in the Low Countries. Always keeping a firm eye on the United States, we will try to understand and explain IDC in Flanders and the Netherlands, each within its own cultural, historical, philosophical and religious context. In dissecting the arguments IDC adepts use, we will make clear that only their own religion, and not science, is their concern. Therefore, to counteract IDC, we not only should promote a better understanding of evolution theory, but also of science itself.