



## **Research Conference on Secularism and the Enlightenment**

**June 16-18, 2008, Claremont-McKenna College**  
Claremont, California

The Institute for the Study of Secularism in Society and Culture, in conjunction with the Henry Salvatori Center for the Study of Individual Freedom in the Modern World and the Dean of the Faculty's Office, hosted a three-day conference at CMC on Monday, June 16 through Wednesday June 18 examining Secularism and the Enlightenment. Free and open to the public, the conference was held in Founders Room, Bauer North.

Fifteen scholars presented papers devoted to a particular Enlightenment author or tested and discussed their relevance to the theme.

### **Schedule of Events**

#### **Monday, June 16**

**2:30-4:30 p.m.**

##### **Panel I**

Christopher Lynch, Carthage College – Machiavelli

John Alcorn, Trinity College – Giacomo Leopardi

Dean DiSpalatro – Concordia University, Canada – Bayle's Machiavellianism

#### **Tuesday, June 17**

**8:15-10:15 a.m.**

##### **Panel II**

Svetozar Minkov, Roosevelt University – Bacon's Essays

Nasser Behnegar, Boston College – Locke on Property

Brian Glenn, Emerson College, Origins of Commercial Insurance

**10:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.**

**Panel III**

Benjamin Story, Furman University – Montaigne, *Essays*

John T. Scott, UC Davis – Rousseau, "Confession of Faith of the Savoyard Vicar."

Jean Marc Kehres, Trinity College – Diderot, *Entretien d'un philosophe avec la maréchale*

**2:30-4:30 p.m.**

**Panel IV**

David Janssens, Tilburg University, Netherlands – The Spinoza controversy in Germany: Jacobi and Lessing

Alan Arkush, SUNY – Mendelssohn, *Jerusalem*

Jeffery High, CSULB – Schiller, "The Gods of Greece"

**Wednesday, June 18**

**9-11:30 a.m.**

**Panel V**

Ralph Lerner, Univ. of Chicago – Benjamin Franklin, *Autobiography*

George Thomas, CMC – James Madison, *Memorial and Remonstrance*

Alice Behnegar, Boston College – Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*

The Institute for the Study of Secularism in Society and Culture (ISSSC) was established in 2005 to advance understanding of the role of secular values and the process of secularization in contemporary society and culture. Nonpartisan and multidisciplinary, the Institute conducts academic research, sponsors curriculum development, and presents public events. It has sponsored course development grants at The Claremont Colleges over the past two years on the themes of The Pre-modern Roots of Secularism and Secularism and the Enlightenment. Grants are again available this year for courses that consider the Global Impact of Secularism.

The ISSSC has a global research agenda and aims to develop strong international links. In the teaching sphere innovative courses are being developed on secularism and secularization at both undergraduate and graduate levels, including curricula, bibliographies and syllabi. The Institute serves as a forum for civic education and debate through lectures, seminars and conferences.