

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Does the Scientific Study of Religion Cast Doubt on Belief in God?

The 2012 James Martineau Memorial Lecture is on this week and will focus on the scientific study of religion.

All are welcome to attend this free public event.

The lecture, *Does the Scientific Study of Religion Cast Doubt on Belief in God?*, will be presented by Joshua C. Thurow.

Dr Thurow is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of Texas at San Antonio (USA) who specialises in epistemology, metaphysics and philosophy of religion.

“Cognitive scientists, anthropologists and evolutionary theorists have developed sophisticated and testable theories of why humans believe in gods and other invisible beings,” he said.

“Should these theories, which are purely naturalistic, lead believers in God to doubt their beliefs and instead suspect that it is nature and not God that explains why they believe?”

After surveying some of the recent theories, Dr Thurow will argue that believers in God may be entirely rational in holding their religious beliefs even with full knowledge of these theories, although they may need to reject some common reasons for believing in God.

Launceston: Tuesday 30 October, 6-7.30pm
Lecture Theatre 5, Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, UTAS Newnham campus

Hobart: Wednesday 31 October, 6-7.30pm
Stanley Burbury Theatre, University Centre, UTAS Sandy Bay campus

The James Martineau Memorial lecture is sponsored by the UTAS School of Philosophy and is supported by a bequest from Tasmanian educator Samuel Lovell.

Information Released by:

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