



AUTUMN LECTURES

2014

WORLDVIEWS

Prof. Mikael Stenmark IN SCIENCE (ALONE) WE TRUST?

Tuesday September 23

19:00

Contemporary Western culture appears to be in the grip of two seemingly contradictory forces. One pushes the culture towards relativism, the view that there are no absolutes, whether in science, religion, morality, or anywhere else. The other pushes towards an uncompromising affirmation of this or that absolute truth, be it in the form of religious fundamentalism, new atheism, or scientism. In this talk I will focus not on religious fundamentalism but on another form of absolutism, namely scientism. What is scientism? Why do people embrace it? Is there any problem with scientism? Is it a threat to the Humanities? I will address these issues and explain why I think we in the end should reject scientism. I shall also say a few things about the opposite extreme, relativism and why the relativistic qualifier - “for me” or “for us” has become almost a reflex in our days.

Mikael Stenmark is professor in Philosophy of Religion and former Dean of the Faculty of Theology. He teaches classes in philosophy of religion. His research focuses on how to think about the relationship between science and religion (or faith and reason) as well as the relationship between Christians and Muslims. In his research he has also explored different conceptions of God, human nature and of the natural world. One of his latest publication is: *Relativism: A Pervasive Feature of the Contemporary Western World. Social Epistemology* (2013).

Discussant: Prof. Alparslan Açıkgenç, Yıldız Technical University, Department of Philosophy, Istanbul

For attendance registration at helins@sri.org.tr is necessary

Refreshments are served after the lecture

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