

Appignani Foundation Lectures on Science, Reason and Secular Ethics

Thursday, November 20, 2008

The Ethics of Capitalism

Do free markets exploit workers and consumers? Should businesses be constrained by considerations of justice? Should government protect people from the excesses of market forces?

Paper: 7:00 pm; Learning Center, Room 110.

Reception following the discussion.

“Socially Responsible Investment”

Jon Elster

Robert K. Merton Professor of Social Sciences
Columbia University



Before coming to Columbia University, Dr. Jon Elster taught in Paris, Oslo and Chicago. His publications include *Leibniz et la formation de l'esprit capitaliste* (Paris, 1975), *Ulysses and the Sirens* (Cambridge, 1979), *Sour Grapes: Studies in the Subversion of Rationality* (Cambridge, 1983), *Making Sense of Marx* (Cambridge, 1985), *Strong Feelings: Emotion, Addiction, and Human Behavior* (MIT Press, 1999), *Ulysses Unbound: Studies in Rationality, Precommitment, and Constraints* (Cambridge, 2002), *Closing the Books: Transitional Justice in Historical Perspective* (Cambridge, 2004), and *Explaining Social Behavior: More Nuts and Bolts for the Social Sciences* (Cambridge, 2007). His research interests include the theory of rational choice, the theory of distributive justice and the history of social thought (Marx and Tocqueville). He is currently working on a comparative study of constitution-making processes from the Federal Convention to the present and on a study of retroactive justice in countries that have recently emerged from authoritarian or totalitarian rule.

“The Ethics & Economics of Life Without Guarantees”

David Schmitz

Kendrick Professor of Philosophy, joint Professor of Economics
University of Arizona



Dr. David Schmitz received his Ph.D. from the University of Arizona in 1988 and is currently Kendrick Professor of Philosophy and joint Professor of Economics at the University of Arizona. His interests include ethics, philosophy of law, and social and political philosophy. He currently is President of the American Society for Value Inquiry and has published many articles and several books including *Person, Polis, Planet* (Oxford, 2009), *Elements of Justice* (Cambridge, 2006), *Rational Choice and Moral Agency* (Princeton, 1995), and *The Limits of Government: An Essay on the Public Goods Argument* (Westview, 1991).

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