

## **Secularization, Enchantment, and the Divine**

The Lutheran Academy of Scholars Summer Seminar  
Currier House, Harvard University  
July 12-25, 2009

The Lutheran Academy of Scholars invites faculty from all fields of study to consider the social, intellectual, and spiritual phenomenon of secularization. While many have argued that the upsurge in public religion worldwide has thoroughly discredited theories of secularization, Charles Taylor in his recent opus *A Secular Age* has offered a new sophisticated account of secularity. In today's world God no longer functions as an explanatory hypothesis in scholarly fields, and yet elements of enchantment and mystery seem increasingly important to intellectual inquiry. How do enchantment and methodological atheism coexist in the academy? What roles do faith, imagination, and intimations of transcendence play in our intellectual lives? How might secularity and enchantment play out differently in diverse cultural settings? Of particular interest to the seminar will be the place of the Protestant Reformation in the historical development of secularization as well as the Lutheran theological perspective on this process. The Academy encourages project proposals tracing the implications and tensions within secularization from a wide variety of disciplinary perspectives.

Up to eight seminar members will be selected. Each will receive a \$1,000 stipend for participation in the seminar in addition to \$400 to defray costs while in Cambridge. Lodging and breakfasts at Harvard's Currier House are provided by the Academy. Travel costs of participants are to be covered by their home institutions.

Seminar Leader: **Ronald F. Thiemann**, Benjamin Bussey Professor of Theology, Harvard Divinity School and Faculty Associate, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University.

Coordinator: **Jacqueline Bussie**, Associate Professor of Religion at Capital University.

Applications are due March 1, 2009. Seminar participants will be selected by March 15, 2009. Applications should include: a letter of application, a current c.v., a one-page description of the applicant's scholarly project, and a letter of endorsement from the applicant's dean. Institutions not currently members of the Academy will be responsible for a \$1000 subsidy for seminar expenses. Please send applications to George Connell, Director, Lutheran Academy of Scholars, Concordia College, 901 8<sup>th</sup> St. So., Moorhead, MN 56562. Please direct any questions to George Connell at [las@cord.edu](mailto:las@cord.edu).