

The Secular Conscience: Why Belief Belongs in Public Life

with Austin Dacey, Ph.D.

March 6th: 7:30 – 9:30 pm

University of Waterloo

MC 2066 (Math & Computer Building)

200 University Avenue West, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1

March 7th: 2:00 – 4:00 pm

University of Toronto at Scarborough

Outside Bluff's Restaurant, Lower Level of the Students' Centre

1265 Military Trail, Toronto, ON M1C 1A4

7:30 – 9:30 pm

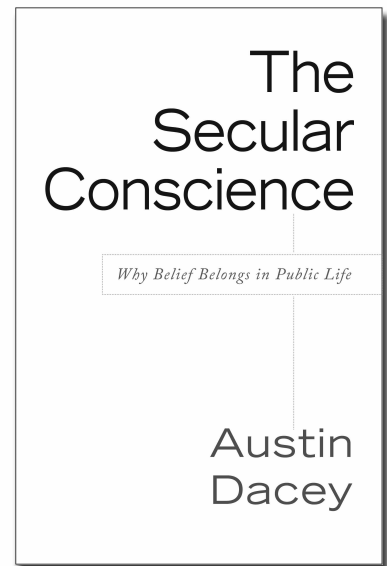
Centre for Inquiry Ontario, 216 Beverley St, downtown Toronto

General Admission: \$6; Students: \$4; Friends of the Centre: FREE

A catered reception exclusively for Friends of the Centre will precede the public event from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Contact CFI Ontario to join today!

Who holds the monopoly on morality? Cultural conservatives from the Vatican to Washington tell us that ethics presupposes religion, and so religion belongs in public life. Secular liberals counter that conscience is a private matter, a personal choice free from shared standards of truth or right. Conservatives charge that conscience without standards is relativism. Liberals didn't lose their moral compass—they gave it away.

Basing the talk on his incisive new book *The Secular Conscience* (Prometheus 2008), philosopher Austin Dacey breaks this ideological deadlock by boldly rethinking the nature of conscience and its role in public life. Inspired by an earlier tradition he traces to Spinoza and John Stuart Mill, Dacey urges secular liberals to reclaim the language of objective values.



Dacey seeks nothing less than to interrupt a suicide, and he has written a beautiful primer on how our secular tradition can be rescued from self-defeat ... This is an extraordinarily useful and lucid book.

– Sam Harris, author of
The End of Faith and *Letter to a Christian Nation*

Austin Dacey is a representative to the United Nations for the Center for Inquiry in New York City, where he works on issues of secular values, science, and ethics. He holds a doctorate in applied ethics and social philosophy. His website is www.austindacey.com.

For more information about these events, visit www.centerforinquiry.net/ontario
or email ontario@centerforinquiry.net, (416) 971-5676

