“FREE THINKERS”
An Extraordinary FREE Lecture Series Exclusively for Members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Tufts

Dr. Michael Shermer
Acclaimed Skeptic & Science Writer
The Scientific Search for the Afterlife, Immortality, and Utopia
Monday, Sept 17 • 7:30—9:00pm $25

Michael Shermer is the founder of the Skeptics Society, founding publisher of Skeptic magazine, a monthly columnist for Scientific American, and a Presidential Fellow at Chapman University in California, where he teaches Skepticism 101. He is the author of New York Times bestsellers The Believing Brain, The Science of Good and Evil, Why Darwin Matters, The Moral Arc, and Why People Believe Weird Things. Michael regularly contributes opinion editorials, essays, and reviews to the Wall Street Journal, the Los Angeles Times, Science, Nature, and other publications. He has appeared on such shows as The Colbert Report, 20/20, Dateline, Charlie Rose, Oprah, and Larry King Live—but, proudly, never on King Live. Over the years, he has won numerous broadcast awards, including the Edward R. Murrow Regional Broadcasters Award, the Ohio State Award and the Robert R. McCammon Award for his documentary, Chernobyl Revisited. In 2002, his Inside Out documentary, Chernobyl Revisited won the Robert F. Kennedy Award for best radio feature, and in 2006 he was awarded a Knight Wallace Fellowship at the University of Michigan, where he spent a year of sabbatical studies focusing on urban violence and wrongful convictions.

Anthony Brooks
Award-Winning Public Radio Journalist
Afflicting the Comfortable & Comforting the Afflicted: The Pursuit of Truth in the Age of Fake News
Thursday, Oct. 11 • 7:30—9:00pm $25

Anthony Brooks has been working in public radio for more than 30 years, most recently as a producer, editor, reporter, and host for WBUR and NPR. Before becoming WBUR’s senior political reporter, he was the co-host of Radio Boston, WBUR’s local news and talk show. For many years he worked as a reporter for NPR, covering regional issues across New England, including politics, the economy, education, criminal justice, and urban affairs. During the 2000 presidential election he was one of NPR’s lead political reporters, covering Vice President Al Gore’s campaign from the early primaries through the Supreme Court’s Bush v. Gore ruling. His reports have been heard on NPR’s Morning Edition, All Things Considered, and Weekend Edition. Over the years, he has won numerous broadcast awards, including the Edward R. Murrow Regional Broadcasters Award, the AP Broadcaster’s Award, the Ohio State Award and the Robert L. Kozik Award for his Soundprint documentary, Chernobyl Revisited. In 2002, his Inside Out documentary, Testing DNA and The Death Penalty, won the Robert F. Kennedy Award for best radio feature, and in 2006 he was awarded a Knight Wallace Fellowship at the University of Michigan, where he spent a year of sabbatical studies focusing on urban violence and wrongful convictions.

Daniel C. Dennett
Celebrated Philosopher & Cognitive Scientist
From Bacteria to Bach and Back: The Evolution of Minds
Tuesday, Oct. 30 • 7:30—9:00pm $25

Daniel Dennett is a world-renowned philosopher, writer, and cognitive scientist. He is the co-director of the Center for Cognitive Studies and the Austin B. Fletcher Professor of Philosophy at Tufts, where he has been teaching since 1971. He has received two Guggenheim Fellowships, a Fulbright Fellowship, and a Fellowship at the Center for Advanced Studies in Behavioral Science. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1987, and is a Fellow of the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry, a Humanist Laureate of the International Academy of Humanism, and a member of the advisory board of the Secular Coalition for America. He is often referred to as one of the “Four Horsemen of New Atheism,” along with Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, and the late Christopher Hitchens. He is the author of more than 400 scholarly articles on various aspects on the mind, published in journals ranging from Artificial Intelligence and Behavioral and Brain Sciences to Poetics Today and The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism. His most recent books are Intuition Pumps and Other Tools for Thinking; Caught in the Pulpit: Leaving Belief Behind (with Linda LaScola); and From Bacteria to Bach and Back: The Evolution of Minds.

All talks will take place in Robinson Hall, room 253. Free parking on campus and in Dowling Garage. Seating is limited: Advance registration is required. To register, call 617-627-5699. Registrations will be accepted starting three weeks before each talk.

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