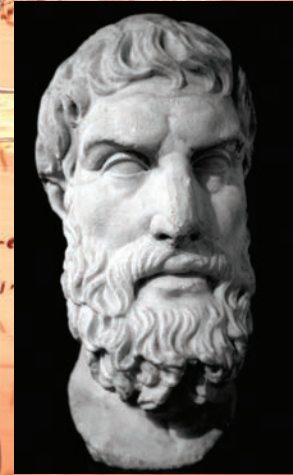




Lucretius the Physicist and Modern Science

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES

A public lecture by David Konstan, Professor of Classics at
New York University



Lucretius' poem *On Nature* presents a detailed overview of ancient atomic physics, as developed within the school founded by Epicurus. It has some remarkable features: not just atoms, but tiny, non-detachable parts of atoms; a granular or quantized theory of time; odd orders of magnitude including infinitesimals and quasi-infinities. How does this theory stand up as a science, in modern terms? Is it in some sense a precursor of modern physics? Or does it perhaps offer an alternative to Newtonian mechanics, a kind of anticipation of post-modern physics? In the course of the lecture, parallels will be drawn with early modern literature and art and their relation to modernism and post-modernism.

About David Konstan

David Konstan is Professor of Classics at New York University and Professor Emeritus of Classics and Comparative Literature at Brown University. Among his books are *Roman Comedy* (1983); *Sexual Symmetry: Love in the Ancient Novel and Related Genres* (1994); *Greek Comedy and Ideology* (1995); *Friendship in the Classical World* (1997); *Pity Transformed* (2001); *The Emotions of the Ancient Greeks: Studies in Aristotle and Classical Literature* (2006); "A Life Worthy of the Gods": *The Materialist Psychology of Epicurus* (2008); and *Before Forgiveness: The Origins of a Moral Idea* (2010). He is currently working on studies of beauty and remorse. He is a past president of the American Philological Association, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and Honorary Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

Professor Konstan is a 2013 UWA Institute of Advanced Studies Professor-at-Large.

Event Details

Date: Wednesday 7 August 2013
Time: 6 to 7pm
Venue: Austin Lecture Theatre,
Arts Building, UWA
Parking: P3 off Hackett entrance 1
Cost: Free, but RSVP essential.
Book online at
[ias.uwa.edu.au/lectures/
konstan](http://ias.uwa.edu.au/lectures/konstan)

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