



SALVATORI CENTER  
FOR THE STUDY OF INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM  
CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE



**Judd Owen**

**Associate Professor of Political Science, Emory University**

*Tocqueville on American Religion and the Weaknesses of Democracy*

FRIDAY, October 11, 2013

12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

Kravis Center, Third Floor, Board Room 367

Claremont McKenna College

**Lunch will be provided.**

**Seating is limited.**

**Please RSVP to [ehuerta@cmc.edu](mailto:ehuerta@cmc.edu) by Wednesday, October 9.**

Tocqueville claims that every society benefits when its members are religious. Democracy is particularly in need of religion, because democracy tends to make people excessively individualistic, preoccupied with material goods, and neglectful of what lies outside and above their private concerns. Democracy in America is famous for its depiction of the power of religion in America. But to what extent does American religion serve the beneficial function Tocqueville seeks? The talk aims to untangle Tocqueville's complex answer to that question.

Judd Owen is an Associate Professor of Political Science and the author of *Religion and the Demise of Liberal Rationalism: The Foundational Crisis of the Separation of Church and State* (Chicago 2001). His research interests include the Enlightenment and liberal political thought, religion and politics. He is currently a Senior Fellow with the Center for the Study of Law and Religion and the Emory School of Law, as well as the Faculty Fellow with the National Endowment for the Humanities. Professor Owen's present projects include a book entitled *The Democratic Soul: Religious Transformation and Civic Life in Tocqueville and the Enlightenment*.