



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY ANNOUNCES
2008-2009 TATE-WILLSON LECTURES**

The 2008-2009 Tate-Willson Lectures at Southern Methodist University will be given by Dr. David N. Hempton, the Alonzo L. McDonald Family Professor of Evangelical Theological Studies at Harvard Divinity School. The overall theme of Professor Hempton's lectures is "Evangelical Enchantment and Disenchantment."

The individual lectures are scheduled as follows:

Monday, October 6, 7:00 p.m.: "Culture Wars: George Eliot and Fundamentalism"

Tuesday, October 7, 11:30 a.m.: "Artists in Revolt: Vincent van Gogh and James Baldwin"

Both lectures will be given in room 120 at Highland Park United Methodist Church.

Professor Hempton is a social historian of religion with particular expertise in populist traditions of evangelicalism in Europe and North America. A graduate of Queen's University, Belfast (BA) and the University of St. Andrews (PhD), he is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. He taught at Queen's University and at Boston University before joining the Harvard faculty in 2007. He is the author of many articles and books, including *Methodism and Politics in British Society, 1750-1850* (Stanford, 1984), winner of the Whitfield prize of the Royal Historical Society; *Evangelical Protestantism in Ulster Society, 1740-1890* (Routledge, 1992); *Religion and Political Culture in Britain and Ireland* (Cambridge, 1996); *The Religion of the People* (Routledge, 1996); and *Methodism: Empire of the Spirit* (Yale, 2005), winner of the Jesse Lee Prize. He has research and teaching interests in religion and political culture, identity and ethnic conflict, the interdisciplinary study of lived religion, comparative secularization in Europe and North America, the history and theology of Evangelical Protestantism, and the rise of the holiness traditions. He is currently working on a book on a global history of Christianity in the early modern period.

The Tate-Willson Lectures were established in 1967 through a gift by Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Willson, Sr., and are named in honor of Willis M. Tate, SMU's fifth president. They are presented under the auspices of the Graduate Program in Religious Studies at Southern Methodist University. The lectures are free and the public is invited.

Perkins School of Theology, founded in 1911, is one of five official University-related schools of theology of The United Methodist Church. Degree programs include the Master of Divinity, Master of Sacred Music, Master of Theological Studies, Master of Church Ministries, and Doctor of Ministry, as well as the Ph.D., in cooperation with SMU's Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences.