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# THREE REVOLUTIONS IN THE HISTORY OF HAPPINESS

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## Public Lecture by Darrin M. McMahon

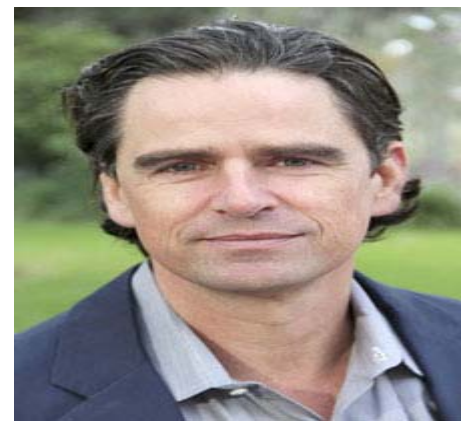
Time: September 10<sup>th</sup>, 14.15-15.30

Venue: Building 1252, Room 310  
(Jeppe Vontilius, søauditorierne)



How have human beings conceived happiness and its pursuit, and how has that changed over time? This presentation will consider these questions in light of three major transformations in the human experience and understanding of happiness in world history. Beginning in the Paleolithic period and continuing to the present, the presentation will end by considering what the history of happiness might have to tell us about happiness in the future.

[Questions concerning the lecture can be directed at Christian Olaf Christiansen  
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**Darrin M. McMahon** is the Mary Brinsmead Wheelock Professor of History at Dartmouth College, and formerly the Ben Weider Professor and Distinguished Research Professor at Florida State University, where he taught from 2004-2014. Educated at the University of California, Berkeley and Yale, where he received his PhD in 1998, McMahon is the author of *Enemies of the Enlightenment: The French Counter-Enlightenment and the Making of Modernity* (Oxford University Press, 2001); *Happiness: A History* (Atlantic Monthly Press, 2006), which has been translated into twelve languages, and was awarded Best Books of the Year honors for 2006 by the *New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, the *Library Journal*, and *Slate Magazine*, and *Divine Fury: A History of Genius*, published with Basic Books. He is also the editor, with Ryan Hanley, of *The Enlightenment: Critical Concepts in Historical Studies*, 5 vols. (Routledge, 2009), with Samuel Moyn, of *Rethinking Modern European Intellectual History* (Oxford University Press, 2014), and with Joyce Chaplin, of *Genealogies of Genius* (Palgrave, 2015). McMahon has taught as a guest professor at Columbia University, New York University, Yale University, the University of Rouen, the École Normale Supérieure, the École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, and the University of Potsdam. His writings have appeared in such publications as the *New York Times*, *The New York Times Book Review*, the *Washington Post*, the *Boston Globe*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Slate*, *The New Republic*, *The Literary Review*, and the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. A recipient of major fellowships from the Mellon Foundation, the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung and the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, McMahon is currently co-editor at the journal *Modern Intellectual History* and is currently at work on a history of the idea of equality, and is writing about lighting and illumination in the age of Enlightenment.