COLLOQUIUM SERIES

"18th Century Anti-Mathematicism"

Eric Schliesser
University of Amsterdam

In this presentation, I identify and articulate three different kinds of critical attitudes toward the epistemic status and application of mathematics that were developed in the eighteenth century. Somewhat surprisingly, I suggest that all three of these can be found in the works of Spinoza and, paradoxically, were further developed in light of Spinoza's own reliance on a geometric mode of presentation. In addition to the writings of Spinoza, I pay particular attention to works by Mandeville, Berkeley, Hume, and Buffon.

Monday, March 27th, 2017

Room: 2017 Dunton Tower (FASS Lounge)
Time: 11:30 am

All are welcome!