

---

**From:** jeffrey E. <jeevacation@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 10, 2015 7:02 PM  
**To:** Noam Chomsky  
**Cc:** Lawrence Krauss; ██████████  
**Subject:** Re: an article you may both hate. or like.

I think religion plays a major positive role in many lives= . i dont like fanaticism on either side. . sorry

On Thu, Sep 10, 2015=at 7:52 PM, Noam Chomsky <████████<mailto:████████>> wrote:

Thanks for sending. A wide area=of agreement, but not total.

On confronting dogma, I of course agr=e – though in my opinion the secular religions – nationali=t fanaticism, etc. – are much more dangerous. And if some fi=d rational discussion offensive – as, for example, mainstream academ=cs find dismantling myths of “American exceptionalism” or =E2 Israeli self-defense” or Obama’s mass murder campa=gan, etc., offensive – so be it.

But I don’t see why that shou=d extend to ridicule. That includes astrologists. Astronomers =an refute astrology, while recognizing that perfectly honest and deluded people may believe it and should be treated with respect, while th=ir beliefs are confronted with evidence. I also don’t see wh= we should ridicule religious dogma, just as I don’t think we shou=d ridicule the much more pernicious secular dogmas. Rather, we should respond to irrational belief with argument and evidence,=while recognizing that their advocates (like most of the intellectual worl= in the case of secular dogma) are people who we should be responding to b=t without ridiculing them. It may be hard sometimes. For example, when the icon and founding fathe= of sober non-sentimental Realism in International Affairs informs us that=the US, unlike other countries, has a “transcendental purpose, =80 and the fact that it constantly acts in contradiction to its purpose doesn’t matter because the facts are just “=buse of history” while real history is “the evidence of history as our minds reflect=it,” then it’s hard to avoid ridicule. But we should= There’s no point ridiculing virtually the entire IR profession and=the major journals, even though such extraordinary irrationality leads to =ajor human disasters.

On Davis, I frankly think that =99s a non-issue. If she decides she cannot do her job as the conditi=ns of employment require (including following the law), then she can quit and look for another job. As in any other such case.=/u>

Noam

From: Lawrence Krauss [mailto:████████]

Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2015 1:51 AM  
To: Noam Chomsky <[REDACTED]<mailto:[REDACTED]>>; jeffrey E. <jeevacation@gmail.com<mailto:jeevacati=n@gmail.com>>  
Subject: an article you may both hate. or like.

=A0 hope all is well.

Lawrence

<http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/all-scientists-should-be-militant-atheists>  
<<http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/all-scientists-should-be-militant-atheists>> =/u>

Lawrence M. Krauss  
Director, The Origins Project at ASU  
Co-Director, Cosmology Initiative

Foundation Professor  
School of Earth & Space Exploration and Physics Department

Arizona State University, P.O. Box 71404, Tempe, AZ 85287-1404

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

--

please vote

The information contained in this communication is confidential, may be attorney-client privileged, may constitute inside information, and is intended only for the use of the addressee. It is the property of JEE. Unauthorized use, disclosure or copying of this communication or any part thereof is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by return e-mail or by e-mail to [jeevacation@gmail.com](mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com) <<mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com>> , and destroy this communication and all copies thereof, including all attachments. copyright - all rights reserved