

IS TOLERANCE A VIRTUE?

A LECTURE
PRESENTED BY
JED ATKINS '04



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29TH, 2019

7:00 P.M

The Shannon Room, Hubbard Hall

People disagree about the value of tolerance in today's deeply polarized political climate. Some regard tolerance as an essential virtue for facilitating peaceful coexistence in a liberal democracy. Others hesitate: Doesn't tolerating what we believe to be unjust allow injustice to continue and even make us complicit in the resulting harm?

Professor Atkins' talk contributes to this contemporary debate by turning to the thought of the earliest defenders of the virtue of tolerance—North African Christians living within the Roman Empire. Considering these accounts enables us to approach the modern debate from a fresh vantage-point, one that challenges common assumptions about tolerance in our own society.

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Jed Atkins '04

Jed Atkins graduated from Bowdoin College in 2004 and received his Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge in 2009. He is currently the E. Blake Byrne Associate Professor of Classical Studies at Duke University. His research focuses on Greek, Roman, and early Christian moral and political thought. Professor Atkins has written several works, including two books on Roman Political Philosophy, *Cicero on Politics and the Limits of Reason* and *Roman Political Thought*.