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Professor Michael Shermer is the Founding Publisher of *Skeptic* magazine (www.skeptic.com), the Executive Director of the Skeptics Society, a monthly columnist for *Scientific American*, the host of the Skeptics Distinguished Science Lecture Series at Caltech, and Adjunct Professor at Chapman University.

Dr. Shermer received his B.A. in psychology from Pepperdine University, M.A. in experimental psychology from California State University, Fullerton, and his Ph.D. in the history of science from Claremont Graduate University (1991). He teaches a transdisciplinary course for Ph.D. students at Claremont Graduate University entitled “Evolution, Economics, and the Brain,” and an honors course for undergraduates at Chapman University. He has been a college professor since 1979, also teaching psychology, evolution, and the history of science at Occidental College (1989-1998), California State University Los Angeles, and Glendale College. As a public intellectual he regularly contributes Opinion Editorials, book reviews, and essays to the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Science*, *Nature*, and other publications. He has appeared on such shows as *The Colbert Report*, *20/20*, *Dateline*, *Charlie Rose*, *Larry King Live*, *Tom Snyder*, *Donahue*, *Oprah*, *Lezza*, *Unsolved Mysteries* and other shows as a skeptic of weird and extraordinary claims, as well as interviews in countless science and history documentaries aired on PBS, A&E, Discovery, The History Channel, The Science Channel, and The Learning Channel. Dr. Shermer was the co-host and co-producer of the 13-hour Family Channel television series, *Exploring the Unknown*.

Dr. Shermer’s latest book is *The Moral Arc: How Science and Reason Lead Humanity Toward Truth, Justice, and Freedom*. His previous book is *The Believing Brain: From Ghosts and Gods to Politics and Conspiracies—How We Construct Beliefs and Reinforce Them as Truths*. His book, *The Mind of the Market*, is on evolutionary economics, behavioral economics, and neuroeconomics. He also authored *Why Darwin Matters: Evolution and the Case Against Intelligent Design*, and *Science Friction: Where the Known Meets the Unknown*, about how the mind works and how thinking goes wrong. His book *The Science of Good and Evil: Why People Cheat, Gossip, Share Care, and Follow the Golden Rule*, is on the evolutionary origins of morality and how to be good without God. He wrote a biography, *In Darwin’s Shadow*, about the life and science of the co-discoverer of natural selection, Alfred Russel Wallace. He also wrote *The Borderlands of Science*, about the fuzzy land between science and pseudoscience, and *Denying History*, on Holocaust denial and other forms of pseudohistory. His book *How We Believe: Science, Skepticism, and the Search for God*, presents his theory on the origins of religion and why people believe in God. Dr. Shermer’s most famous book is *Why People Believe Weird Things*, on pseudoscience, superstitions, and other confusions of our time.

According to the late Stephen Jay Gould (from his Foreword to *Why People Believe Weird Things*): “Michael Shermer, as head of one of America’s leading skeptic organizations, and as a powerful activist and essayist in the service of this operational form of reason, is an important figure in American public life.”

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