Conference announcement: *Nature and Necessity in the Seventeenth Century*,
University of Toronto, May 8th and 9th, 2004.

Our concept of nature undergoes a radical transformation in the seventeenth century when the old Aristotelian philosophy of nature is displaced by the new mechanical philosophy. This transformation has wide ranging consequences. Among these, perhaps none are more important than its effect on modal notions (i.e., notions of possibility, necessity, and impossibility). The purpose of this conference is to explore the interaction of the new philosophy of the seventeenth century and modal notions, with particular attention to issues of necessary connections in nature, freedom and determinism, natural teleology, and laws of nature. Speakers will be: John Carriero (UCLA), Michael Della Rocca (Yale), Karen Detlefsen (Penn), Susan James (London), Alison Laywine (McGill), Christia Mercer (Columbia), Calvin Normore (UCLA), Lisa Shapiro (Simon Fraser), and Catherine Wilson (UBC). For further information, contact Martin Lin (martin.lin@utoronto.ca).