



Center for the History of Women Philosophers and Scientists  
Paderborn University, Germany

## *Virtue Ethics* in Anne-Thérèse de Marguenat de Courcelles, Marquise de Lambert (1647–1733)

John J. Conley  
Loyola University of Maryland

In her essays Lambert develops a gendered theory of virtue. Since men are called to the political and military arena, men should cultivate the virtue of glory. Since women are called primarily to the domestic sphere, women should cultivate the virtue of humility. Madame de Lambert insists, however, that women also must cultivate the intellectual virtues. She laments the neglect of women's education. Her own ambitious educational program for her daughter indicates the intellectual depth women should pursue. Women should study Latin, classical history, French, literature (especially Corneille), and Stoic ethics (especially Cicero). Cartesian philosophical formation will aid women to think logically, clearly, and with precision. Both men and women should cultivate the Cartesian virtue of reliance upon one's reason (rather than custom or authority) and the Stoic virtue of self-possession in the midst of reversals of fortune.

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