Fellowship project summary:
This project will explore the growth of science in the West and how it relates to a decline in the influence of religion. Specifically, it will investigate whether science has been a major cause of secularisation, and whether the pattern of scientific advance and corresponding religious decline observed in most Western countries is a universal one. This project aims to address a major unresolved issue concerning the relations between religion, science and modernisation. It also aims to shed light on a crucial issue for global security, namely, whether modernisation leads inexorably to secular, liberal democratic states, or whether new forms of technologically advanced, yet intrinsically religious states are possible.

About Professor Harrison
Professor Peter Harrison is director of the Centre for the History of European Discourses at the University of Queensland and his research areas include cultural and intellectual history.

For a number of years he was the Idreos Professor of Science and Religion at the University of Oxford, and Director of Oxford’s Ian Ramsey Centre where he continues to hold a Senior Research Fellowship. He has Masters degrees from Yale and Oxford, and a PhD from the University of Queensland. In 2013 the University of Oxford awarded him a Doctor of Letters in recognition of his contributions to intellectual history.

Professor Harrison has published extensively on the history of philosophy, science, and religion, and is author of five books and numerous papers. He was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities in 1998, and was the recipient of a Centenary Medal in 2003. In 2011 he delivered the prestigious Gifford Lectures at the University of Edinburgh. He is presently completing a project concerned with conceptions of progress in history and the historical sciences.

Find out more about Professor Harrison and his research by visiting The University of Queensland website.

For more information on the Australian Laureate Fellowships scheme, visit the ARC website.