

**Kyle Scott**

**(Un)Locke(ing) the Desire to Acquire: Using Girard to unravel Locke's Theory of Money**

Locke's influential account of how humans develop money and acquire property lacks an explanation of why individuals feel the need to increase their material possessions. Rene Girard's theory of mimetic desire can fill this void while providing insight into how violence can be temporarily redirected. Societies that lack introspection will be successful at limiting and redirecting violence temporarily by giving the members of that society something to satisfy their mimetic desire. Combining Locke with Girard will show us how money became so effective in capturing our attention and why material wealth is insufficient in creating lasting happiness and peace.