

# Invisible Hand Seminar

Led and organized by Daniel Klein (dklein@gmu.edu)

This seminar serves the Adam Smith program community, and gives a forum for graduate students to develop and present their work. Contact me to receive the paper.

*It is OK to attend without having read the paper.*

We go to dinner afterward.

Select Saturdays 4:00 - 5:45, Mason Hall D180

FALL 2017:

Funding provided in part by the **John Templeton Foundation** through a grant from the **Institute for Humane Studies**.

Saturday September 16:

EVENT COSPONSOR: [Templeton/IHS](#)

[Richard Boyd](#), Georgetown University:

**“[Reappraising the Scottish Moralists and Civil Society](#),”** chapter 3 of his book [Uncivil Society: The Perils of Pluralism and the Making of Modern Liberalism](#) (Lexington Books, 2004).

Saturday September 30:

EVENT COSPONSOR: [Templeton/IHS](#)

[Erik Matson](#), George Mason University:

**“Hume’s Way of Reasonableness in Epistemology and in Political Economy”**

Saturday October 14:

EVENT COSPONSOR: [Templeton/IHS](#)

[Alberto Mingardi](#), Istituto Bruno Leoni:

**“Thomas Hodgskin and the Industrial Revolution”**

Saturday November 11:

EVENT COSPONSOR: [Templeton/IHS](#)

[James Otteson](#), Wake Forest University:

**“Adam Smith’s Libertarian Paternalism”**

Saturday December 2:

EVENT COSPONSOR: [Templeton/IHS](#)

[Ryan Hanley](#), Marquette University:

**[Love’s Enlightenment: Rethinking Charity in Modernity](#)** – Chapter 4: Smith on Sympathy.

Past programs:

SPRING 2017

Saturday February 11:

Daniel Klein, GMU:

**“Liberalism 1.0”** – Klein will redo [a January 2017 lecture](#). The PPT file is [here](#).

With comments by **Mark Koyama**, GMU.

Saturday February 25:

EVENT COSPONSOR: [Templeton/IHS](#)

[Jerry Z. Muller](#), Catholic University of America

“Hayek’s Critique of Scientism and the Contemporary Misuse of Performance Measures,” a draft chapter of his PUP book in progress: *Metric Fixation: Our Age of Excessive, Misleading and Counterproductive Measurement*.

Saturday April 1: EVENT COSPONSOR: [Assoc. for Study of Free Institutions](#)  
[Donald Livingston](#), Emory University (emeritus):  
**“Hume on Republicanism, Size and Scale, the Perfect Commonwealth, and American Secession”**

Saturday April 15: EVENT COSPONSOR: [Templeton/IHS](#)  
[Andrew Sabl](#), Yale University:  
**“Hume’s Politics: Coordination and Crisis in the History of England”**

Saturday April 29: EVENT COSPONSOR: [Templeton/IHS](#)  
[Toni Vogel Carey](#), Ronin Institute:  
**“Adam Smith, Evolution, and the Invisible Hand”**

Fall 2016

Saturday September 17: EVENT COSPONSOR: [IHS/John Templeton Foundation](#)  
[James Stacey Taylor](#), The College of New Jersey:  
**“Informed Consent and Compensated Donation for Plasma”**  
Advance reading: [Here](#)

Saturday September 24: EVENT COSPONSOR: [IHS/John Templeton Foundation](#)  
[Nicolas Capaldi](#), Loyola University New Orleans:  
**“Liberty and Equality in Political Economy”** ([link](#)), coauthored by Gordon Lloyd  
Advance readings: 1. [Chapter summaries](#) 2. [Chapter 12](#)

Saturday October 15: EVENT COSPONSOR: [IHS/John Templeton Foundation](#)  
[Larry Arnhart](#), Northern Illinois University:  
**“The Evolutionary Science of Smithian and Hayekian Liberalism”**

Saturday October 29:  
Erik Matson, GMU Econ PhD student:  
**“Hume and Smith on Utility, Agreeableness, Propriety, and Moral Approval”**, coauthored with Colin Doran and Daniel B. Klein

Saturday November 12: EVENT COSPONSOR: [TBA](#)  
Richard Fink, Northstar Guidance, LLC:  
**“Advancing the American Dream: A Hayekian Approach”**

Spring 2016  
(This term we read Locke in the reading group.)

Saturday February 6:  
Daniel Klein, George Mason University:  
**“Adam Smith’s Non-foundationalism”**

Saturday Feb 20:

[Anthony Randazzo](#), NYU and Reason Foundation:

**“Are Economists Influenced by Their Moral Worldviews? Evidence from the Moral Foundations of Economists Questionnaire”** ([link](#)), coauthored by Jonathan Haidt

Saturday March 26:

[David Azerrad](#), Heritage Foundation:

**“What Was Locke Up to? John Locke and the Origins of Modernity”**

([suggested advance reading](#))

EVENT COSPONSOR: IHS/John Templeton Foundation

Saturday April 9:

Scott Drylie, GMU PhD student:

**“Delicate Influence, Not State Provision: Historical Foundations to Re-interpret Adam Smith’s Position on Education”**

Saturday April 23:

[Michael P. Zuckert](#), University of Notre Dame:

**“Launching Liberalism: Philosophic Anthropology and the Leviathan State”** ([link, doc](#))

EVENT COSPONSOR: IHS/John Templeton Foundation

Fall 2015

This term we made a theme of esotericism.

Saturday Sept 19: [Harrison Searles](#), GMU PhD student:

**“Hume and Smith, Discreet Proto-Darwinists?”**

Saturday Oct 3: [Jason Briggeman](#), GMU PhD, Central Texas College:

**“Searching for Justification of the Policy of Pre-Market Approval of Pharmaceuticals”**

([link](#); [MR post](#))

Saturday Oct 17: [Thomas W. Merrill](#), American University:

***Hume and the Politics of Enlightenment*** ([link](#) to book)

Saturday Nov 7: [Nelson Lund](#), George Mason University School of Law:

**“Montesquieu, Judicial Degeneracy, and the U.S. Supreme Court”** ([link](#))

Saturday December 5: [Pavel Kuchar](#), University of Guanajuato, Mexico, presenting his paper coauthored with Luis Sanchez-Mier:

**“Classical Liberalism in Mexican Economic Thought”**

Spring 2015

Saturday Jan 31: Dan Klein, "Ten Thousand Commandments: Adam Smith's *Moral Sentiments* as a Critique of Interventionism"

Saturday Feb 7: Colin Doran, GMU Econ PhD student, "Adam Smith's Misrepresentation of David Hume: An Unsolved Mystery"

Saturday March 21: Gabriel Roth, retired from the World Bank, "[Moving the Road Sector into](#)

## [the Market Economy](#)"

Saturday April 4: [Paul D. Mueller](#), as of Aug 2015 Assistant Professor at [The King's College in Manhattan](#), "Who Best Represents Impartiality? The Higher We Go, The More Partial Our Judgments"

Saturday April 18: Daniel Klein, Daniel Houser, and Gonzalo Schwarz (GMU alum and now at the Atlas Network), presenting their 2015 *Rationality and Society* paper also authored by Xiaofei Pan, "[A Demand for Encompassment: A Hayekian Experimental Narrative about Political Psychology](#)"

Also recommend as background for this seminar: (1) [H. Allen Orr's review of recent David Sloan Wilson book](#); (2) [Video Hayek interview](#) from 43:00-52:00.

## FALL 2014

Saturday September 13: **Daniel Klein**, GMU Econ, will discuss the website he authored, and co-created with Ryan Daza, [Lost Language, Lost Liberalism](#).

Saturday October 4: **Mark Koyama**, GMU Econ, will present his paper with Meng (Melanie) Xue, "The Literary Inquisition: The Persecution of Intellectuals and Human Capital Accumulation in Imperial China."

Saturday October 18: **Jordan Weed**, GMU Econ undergrad: "Island Nations and Success: A Review of Scholarly Literature."

Saturday November 8: **John Robinson**, GMU Econ PhD student, will present his dissertation in progress, on the theory of property in the Scottish Enlightenment. A main theme is the clear centrality of the exclusion view of property, as opposed to the bundle-of-rights view.

Saturday November 22: **Daniel Klein**, GMU Econ, "[Three Frank Questions to Discipline Your Theorizing](#)," a chapter in *Theorizing in the Social Sciences: The Context of Discovery* (Stanford University Press, 2014), edited by Richard Swedberg.

## PAST PROGRAMS

### SPRING 2014

Saturday February 1: [Erik Angner](#), GMU Philosophy:  
"Information, Coordination, and Market Intervention in F.A. Hayek"

Saturday February 22: [Eric Hammer](#), GMU Econ doctoral student:  
"Adam Smith, Moral Sentiments, and the Welfare State."

Saturday March 22: [Jonathon Diesel](#), GMU Econ doctoral student:  
"Adam Smith's Inferior-Superior Relationships and the Competition of Ideas"

Saturday April 5: Daniel Klein, GMU:  
"[Ought as an Is: On the Positive-Normative Distinction](#)"

With commentary by Solomon Stein, whose [critical commentary](#) on Klein's book prompted Klein's paper.

Saturday April 26: Raymond Niles, GMU Econ doctoral student:

“The Heroic Theory of the Business Cycle: Joseph Schumpeter and the Austrian Theory of the Business Cycle”

FALL 2013

Saturday, Sept 14, 2013: An internal colloquium of the 895 Readings course:

- Harrison Searles discussed Brandon Lucas's dissertation chapter on the Hayekian Narrative.
- Austin Middleton discussed Lucas's chapter on pursuing honest income as distributive justice.
- Dan Klein discussed Mark Bonica's dissertation on reputation in Adam Smith.

Saturday, October 5, 2013:

- Will Fleming will present on a paper joint with Dan Klein, “The Origins of the Use of ‘Liberal’ in a Political Sense of the Term: Adam Smith and William Robertson”
- Paul Mueller, “Adam Smith's Views on Consumption and Happiness”

Saturday, October 12, 2013:

David Levy, presenting joint work with Sandra Peart, “F.A. Hayek and the ‘Individualists’”

Saturday, October 19, 2013: An internal colloquium of the 895 Readings course:  
We will treat the dissertations by Michael Clark and Christopher Martin.

Saturday, November 9, 2013:

- Stephen Kunath, "Adam Smith and the Natural Rights Republic: Contrasting Enlightenment Views on the Political Order"
- Austin Middleton, “A Taxonomy of Justice, based on Adam Smith”

Saturday, November 23, 2013:

- Harrison Searles, “Adam Smith and Friedrich Hayek on Humankind from Small Band to Commercial Society”
- Stephen Kunath, “An Unnaturally Short Introduction to the Natural Law, Ethics, and Virtues as Taught by Thomas Aquinas”

PAST PROGRAMS

Spring 2013

Saturday February 9:

[Dr. Mark Bonica](#) (GMU alum), Baylor University:

“Towards Natural Liberty: Smith's Hopeful Efforts towards a Highly Libertarian Jurisprudence”

Saturday March 23:

[Paul Mueller](#), GMU econ doctoral student:

“Adam Smith's Warnings against the Governmentalization of Social Affairs: A Close Look at *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*”

Saturday April 13:

**Daniel Klein**, GMU:

“Some Distinctions for Analyzing Liberal Discourse”

Saturday April 27:

**Garett Jones**, GMU econ:

“How Human Capital, including IQ, Shapes National Institutions”

Fall 2012

Saturday October 6:

Christopher Martin, GMU alum and winner of the 2012 GMU Econ’s Snavelly Prize, now Fellow at the Jepson School of Leadership Studies, University of Richmond:

“Equity Besides: Adam Smith and the Status of Laborers”

Saturday October 20:

Austin Middleton, GMU PhD student working on Adam Smith and justice:

“Adam Smith on Justice: Treatments by Smith Scholars”

Saturday December 1:

David Lipka, Prague University of Economics:

"Max U: Prudence-only, or Not Even Prudence?"

Saturday February 18:

**Nathanael Snow**, GMU PhD student: “[Abolition of Slavery in Great Britain: Abolishing Transitional Gains Traps](#)”

In attendance: Dan Klein, Steve Kunath, Nathan Snow, Austin Middleton, Pavel Kuchar, Jeff Horn.

Saturday March 24:

**Pavel Kuchar**, Fulbright Scholar from Prague visiting GMU:

“Surrogate Motherhood Contracts in the United States: The Moral and Economic Effects of Legal Enforcement”

In attendance: Dan Klein, Steve Kunath, Austin Middleton, Pavel Kuchar, Tony Quain, Mary Clare Peate.

Saturday April 28:

**Anthony Quain**, GMU doctoral student:

“Positional Externalities as an Argument for Tax Progressivity: A Critical Analysis”

Saturday May 5:

**Daniel Klein**, **Austin Middleton**, GMU PhD student:

“Adam Smith and Four Justices: Commutative, Distributive, Esteem, and Platonic”

Klein will present a classification; Middleton will present results of a comprehensive content analysis

Fall 2011

Saturday September 17:

**Brandon Holmes**, GMU MA student in Philosophy:

“Adam Smith on Education: A Critique of Andrew Skinner and Others”

In attendance: Zachary Bartsch, Darwyn Deyo, Blake Johnson, Dan Klein, Pavel Kuchar, Steve Kunath, Paul Mueller, Kevin Rollins.

Saturday October 1:

**David Hedengren**, GMU PhD student:

“Self-Selection in Life Insurance: Propitious or Adverse?”

In attendance: William Bruntrager, Dave Hedengren, Dan Klein, Steve Kunath, Ryan Moseley, Thomas Strattman.

Saturday October 15:

**Christopher Martin**, GMU doctoral student and John Marshall Visiting Research Fellow, University of Virginia:

“The Fortunes of Sympathy in Economics”

In attendance: Dan Klein, Pavel Kuchar, Steve Kunath, Chris Martin, Paul Mueller, Tony Quain, Kevin Rollins.

Saturday November 12:

**John Robinson**, GMU PhD student, and Daniel Klein: “[Property: A Bundle of Rights](#)” Along with thoughts on [Richard Epstein’s](#) and [others’](#) defense of “bundle”

In attendance: Luke Faraone, Dan Klein, Pavel Kuchar, Steve Kunath, Tony Quain, John Robinson, Kevin Rollins, Jennifer Storm, Vlad Tarko.

Saturday December 3:

**Stephen Kunath**, GMU PhD student: The Thomistic-Aristotelean conception of the common good in light of Alasdair MacIntyre.

Spring 2011

Saturday Feb 12, 2011:

**Christopher Martin**, GMU doctoral student and Institute for Humane Studies:

“Adam Smith’s Libertarian Justice for the Poor”

In attendance: Mark Bonica (by wire), Chris Flemming, Mike Foley, Dan Klein, Steve Kunath, Chris Martin, Tony Quain, John Robinson.

Saturday Feb 26, 2011:

**Michael Clark**, PhD GMU and University of Baltimore:

“The Virtuous Discourse of Adam Smith: The Political Economist’s Measured Words on Public Policy”

In attendance: Mike Foley, Dan Klein, Steve Kunath, Mike Clark.

Saturday March 26, 2011:

**Mark Bonica**, GMU doctoral student and US Army:

“Adam Smith on Reputation: Is It Covered by Commutative Justice? Did He Favor Defamation Laws?”

In attendance: Mike Foley, Dan Klein, Steve Kunath, Mark Bonica, Tony Quain, Don Boudreaux, Chris Martin, Alberto Battini.

Saturday April 16, 2011:

**Brandon Lucas**, PhD GMU, and US Air Force:

“Seeking Honest Profit as Smithian Distributive Justice”

In attendance: Dan Klein, Steve Kunath, John Robinson, Michael Clark, Brandon Lucas.

Saturday April 30, 2011:

**Jason Briggeman**, GMU doctoral student:

“Leading Health Economists Respond to a Questionnaire on Market Failure and the FDA: An Analysis and Assessment”

In attendance: Dan Klein, Steve Kunath, John Robinson, Mike Foley, Kevin Rollins, Tony Quain, Jason Briggeman, Chris Martin.