



**FREE MARKET
INSTITUTE**

TEXAS TECH
Research & Innovation

McLane Teammates Reading Program

Exploring Inequality

Participants examine debates about inequality, which is frequently said to be a growing problem that needs to be addressed. Key questions include:

- What do people mean by the term inequality?
- How do you measure inequality?
- Does the measure of inequality change substantially over time?
- What can (and should) public policy do to address issues with inequality?
- What other solutions are there to confront the problem of inequality?

Reading Schedule

Session 1 – Equality of What?

- Sen, Amartya. (1980). “Equality of What?” In *McMurrin S. Tanner Lectures on Human Values*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. 197-220.
- Dworkin, Ronald. (1981). “What is Equality? Part 2 Equality of Resources.” *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, 10 (4), 283-345. Accessed at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2265047?origin=JSTOR-pdf>.
- McCloskey, Deirdre N. (2019). “Modern Liberals Recommend Both Golden Rules, That Is, Adam Smith’s Equality of Opportunity.” In *Why Liberalism Works: How True Liberal Values Produce a Freer, More Equal, Prosperous World for All*. London, UK: Yale University Press. 3-7.
- Okun, Arthur M. (1975). “Rights and Dollars.” In *Equality and Efficiency: The Big Tradeoff*. Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution. 1-16.

Session 2 – Desert and Luck

- Anderson, Elizabeth. (1999). “What Is the Point of Equality?” *Ethics*, 109 (2), 287-337. Accessed at <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/233897>.
- Schmitz, David. (2006). “Desert.” In *Elements of Justice*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. 31-33.
- ——— (2006). “What Did I Do to Deserve This?” 34-39.
- ——— (2006). “Deserving a Chance.” 40-49.
- ——— (2006). “Debts to Society and Double Counting.” 90-93.



FREE MARKET
INSTITUTE

TEXAS TECH
Research & Innovation

McLane Teammates Reading Program

Exploring Inequality

Session 3 – Equal Shares

- Ackerman, Bruce. (2009). “Comment on Fried on Getting What We Don’t Deserve.” *Social Philosophy & Policy*, 1 (1), 60-70. Accessed at <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0265052500003332>.
- Schmidtz, David. (2006). “Part 4: Equal Respect and Equal Shares.” In *Elements of Justice*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. 107-160.
- Starmans, Christina, Mark Sheskin, and Paul Bloom. (2017). “Why People Prefer Unequal Societies.” *Nature Human Behavior*, 1 (82), 1-7. Accessed at <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-017-0082>.

Session 4 – Prosperity

- Milanovic, Branko. (2010). “Essay I: Unequal People.” In *The Haves and the Have Nots*. New York, NY: Basic Books. 3-33.
- Cowen, Tyler. (2018). “Chapter Two: Wealth Makes the World Go Round.” In *Stubborn Attachments: A Vision for a Society of Free, Prosperous, and Responsible Individuals*. United States: Stripe Press. 27-50.
- ——— (2018). “Chapter Three: Overcoming Disagreement.” 51-62.
- McCloskey, Deirdre N. (2019). “Liberty and Dignity Explain the Modern World.” In *Why Liberalism Works: How True Liberal Values Produce a Freer, More Equal, Prosperous World for All*. London, UK: Yale University Press. 103-106.
- ——— (2019). “Commercially Tested Betterment Saves the Poor.” 113-118.

Session 5 – Current Trends I

- Milanovic, Branko. (2010). “Essay II: Unequal Nations.” In *The Haves and the Have Nots*. New York, NY: Basic Books. 111-128.
- ——— (2010). “Essay III: Unequal World.” 175-193.
- McCloskey, Deirdre N. (2019). “China Shows What Economic Liberalism Can Do.” In *Why Liberalism Works: How True Liberal Values Produce a Freer, More Equal, Prosperous World for All*. London, UK: Yale University Press. 107-112.
- Roser, Max and Esteban Ortiz-Ospina. (2013). “Income Inequality.” *Our World in Data*. Available at <https://ourworldindata.org/income-inequality>.
- Meyer, Bruce and James Sullivan. (2018). “Consumption and Income Inequality in the US Since the 1960’s.” VOX, CEPR Policy Portal. January 15. Accessed at <https://voxeu.org/article/consumption-and-income-inequality-us-1960s>.



FREE MARKET
INSTITUTE

TEXAS TECH
Research & Innovation

McLane Teammates Reading Program

Exploring Inequality

Session 6 – Current Trends II

- Piketty, Thomas, Emmanuel Saez, and Gabriel Zucman. (2019). “Simplified Distributional National Accounts.” *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, 109, 289-295. Accessed at <https://doi.org/10.1257/pandp.20191035>.
- Auten, Gerald and David Splinter. (2019). “Top 1 Percent Income Shares: Comparing Estimates Using Tax Data.” *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, 109, 307-311. Accessed at <https://doi.org/10.1257/pandp.20191035>.
- Kharas, Homi and Kristofer Hamel. (2018). “A Global Tipping Point: Half the World is Now Middle Class or Wealthier.” *Brookings Institution, Future Development*. September 27. Accessed at <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2018/09/27/a-global-tipping-point-half-the-world-is-now-middle-class-or-wealthier/>.
- DeVore, Chuck. (2015). “Piketty Vs. Rognlie: Land Use Restrictions Inflate Housing Values, Drive Wealth Concentration.” *Forbes*. July 22. Accessed at <https://www.forbes.com/sites/chuckdevore/2015/07/22/piketty-vs-rognlie-land-use-restrictions-inflate-housing-values-drive-wealth-concentration/#5b7662b34698>.

Session 7 – Poverty

- Frankfurt, Harry G. (2015). “Economic Equality as a Moral Ideal.” In *On Inequality*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. 1-62.
- ——— (2015). “Equality and Respect.” 63-89
- Singer, Peter. (2016). “Famine, Affluence, and Morality.” *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, 1 (3), 229-243. Accessed at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2265052?origin=JSTOR-pdf>.
- McCloskey, Deirdre N. (2019). “Poverty Out of Tyranny, Not ‘Capitalist’ Inequality, Is the Real Problem.” In *Why Liberalism Works: How True Liberal Values Produce a Freer, More Equal, Prosperous World for All*. London, UK: Yale University Press. 87-92.
- ——— (2019). “Producing and Consuming a Lot Is Not by Itself Unethical.” 119-123.
- Schmidtz, David. (2006). “Part 5: Meditations on Need.” In *Elements of Justice*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. 161-182.



**FREE MARKET
INSTITUTE**

TEXAS TECH
Research & Innovation

McLane Teammates Reading Program

Exploring Inequality

Session 8 – Cowen on Inequality

- Cowen, Tyler. (2018). “Chapter Five: What about Redistribution?” In *Stubborn Attachments: A Vision for a Society of Free, Prosperous, and Responsible Individuals*. United States: Stripe Press. 79-100.
- Cowen, Tyler. (2019). “Are CEO’s Paid Too Much?” In *Big Business: A Love Letter to an American Anti-Hero*. New York, NY: St. Martin’s Press. 41-62.
- Cowen, Tyler. (2013). “The Big Earners and the Big Losers.” In *Average Is Over: Powering America Beyond the age of the Great Stagnation*. New York, NY: Dutton. 19-44.

Session 9 – Causes and Consequences I

- Stiglitz, Joseph E. (2013). “America’s 1 Percent Problem.” In *The Price of Inequality*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton and Company. 1-34.
- ——— (2013). “Rent Seeking and the Making of an Unequal Society.” 35-64.
- ——— (2013). “Markets and Inequality.” 65-103.

Session 10 – Causes and Consequences II

- McCloskey, Deirdre N. (2019). “Forced Equality of Outcome Is Unjust and Inhuman.” In *Why Liberalism Works: How True Liberal Values Produce a Freer, More Equal, Prosperous World for All*. London, UK: Yale University Press. 143-150.
- ——— (2019). “Piketty Deserves Some Praise.” 165-168.
- ——— (2019). “But Pessimism About Market Societies Is Not Scientifically Justified.” 169-176.
- ——— (2019). “The Rich Do Not in a Liberal Society Get Rich at the Expense of the Rest.” 177-184.
- ——— (2019). “Piketty’s Book Has Serious Technical Errors.” 185-191.
- ——— (2019). “The Ethical Accounting of Inequality Is Mistaken.” 192-196.
- ——— (2019). “Inequality Is Not Unethical If It Happens in a Free Society.” 197-203.



**FREE MARKET
INSTITUTE**

TEXAS TECH
Research & Innovation

McLane Teammates Reading Program

Exploring Inequality

Session 10 – Causes and Consequences II (Continued)

- Stiglitz, Joseph E. (2013). “Why It Matters.” In *The Price of Inequality*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton and Company. 104-147.
- Iacono, Roberto. (2018). “Book Review: The Great Leveler: Violence and the History of Inequality from the Stone Age to the Twenty-First Century by Walter Scheidel.” *LSE Review of Books*. February 23. Accessed at <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/lseviewofbooks/2018/02/23/book-review-the-great-leveler-violence-and-the-history-of-inequality-from-the-stone-age-to-the-twenty-first-century-by-walter-scheidel/>.

Session 11 – What to Do Part I

- Schmitz, David. (2006). “Part 6: The Right to Distribute.” In *Elements of Justice*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. 183-228.
- Stiglitz, Joseph E. (2013). “The Way Forward: Another World Is Possible.” In *The Price of Inequality*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton and Company. 332-364.
- Scherer, Ron. (1993). “Despite Tax-the-Rich Plans, Congress May Repeal Luxury Tax.” *The Christian Science Monitor*. January 25. Accessed at <https://www.csmonitor.com/1993/0125/25022.html>.

Session 12 – What to Do Part II

- Cowen, Tyler. (2018). “Chapter Six: Must Uncertainty Paralyze Us?” In *Stubborn Attachments: A Vision for a Society of Free, Prosperous, and Responsible Individuals*. United States: Stripe Press. 101-118.
- ——— (2018). “Conclusion.” 119-126.
- Brennan, Jason and Christopher Freiman. (2020). “If You’re an Egalitarian, You Shouldn’t Be So Rich.” *The Journal of Ethics*. Accessed at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10892-020-09342-2>.
- Van Parijs, Philippe. (1991). “Why Surfers Should be Fed: The Liberal Case for an Unconditional Basic Income.” *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, 20 (2), 101-131. Accessed at <http://www.jstor.com/stable/2265291>.