



**FREE MARKET
INSTITUTE**

TEXAS TECH
Research & Innovation

McLane Teammates Reading Program

Freedom and Human Flourishing: Poverty, Prosperity, and Quality of Life around the World

Participants examine the role of personal freedom, markets, and culture in promoting human flourishing. Key questions include:

- How do scholars measure and compare poverty and prosperity?
- How do scholars evaluate different perspectives on changes in quality of life worldwide?
- What is the role of markets and governments more generally in combating poverty and promoting prosperity?
- How has inequality changed on a global scale over time?
- What is the relationship between freedom and happiness?

Reading Schedule

Session 1 – Economic Development

- McCloskey, Deirdre N. (2016) “The World is Pretty Rich, but Once Was Poor.” In *Bourgeois Equality: How Ideas, Not Capital or Institutions, Enriched the World*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. 5-13.
- ——— (2016) “For Malthusian and Other Reasons, Very Poor.” 14-20.
- ——— (2016) “Then Many of Us Shot Up the Blade of a Hockey Stick.” 21-29.
- ——— (2016) “As Your Own Life Shows.” 30-36.
- ——— (2016) “The Poor Were Made Much Better Off.” 37-44.
- Acemoglu, Daron and James A. Robinson. (2012) “So Close and Yet So Different.” In *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*. New York, NY: Crown Business. 7-44.

Session 2 – Proximate Causes

- McCloskey, Deirdre N. (2016) “The Divergence was Not Caused by Imperialism.” In *Bourgeois Equality: How Ideas, Not Capital or Institutions, Enriched the World*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. 85-92.
- ——— (2016) “Poverty Cannot Be Overcome from the Left by Overthrowing ‘Capitalism’.” 93-100.
- ——— (2016) “‘Accumulate, Accumulate’ is Not What Happened in History.” 101-110.
- Easterly, William. (2014) “Technology: How to Succeed Without Knowing How.” In *The Tyranny of Experts: Economists, Dictators, and the Forgotten Rights of the Poor*. Philadelphia, PA: Basic Books. 275-306.



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Session 2 – Proximate Causes (Continued)

- Acemoglu, Daron and James A. Robinson. (2012) “Theories That Don’t Work.” In *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*. New York, NY: Crown Business. 45-69.
- Sachs, Jeffrey D., Andrew D. Mellinger, and John L. Gallup. (2001) “The Geography of Poverty and Wealth.” *Scientific American*, Vol. 284, Issue 3, 70-75.

Session 3 – Institutions

- Easterly, William. (2014) “Markets: The Association of Problem-Solvers.” In *The Tyranny of Experts: Economists, Dictators, and the Forgotten Rights of the Poor*. Philadelphia, PA: Basic Books. 239-274.
- Acemoglu, Daron and James A. Robinson. (2012) “The Making of Prosperity and Poverty.” In *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*. New York, NY: Crown Business. 70-95.
- McCloskey, Deirdre N. (2016) “But Neither Can Poverty be Overcome from the Right by Implanting ‘Institutions’.” In *Bourgeois Equality: How Ideas, Not Capital or Institutions, Enriched the World*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. 111-116.
- ——— (2016) “And the Oomph of Institutional Change is Far Too Small.” 129-138.

Session 4 – Ideas

- McCloskey, Deirdre N. (2016) “Because Ethics Matters, and Changes, More.” In *Bourgeois Equality: How Ideas, Not Capital or Institutions, Enriched the World*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. 117-128.
- ——— (2016) “Sweet Talk Rules the Economy.” 489-498.
- ——— (2016) “And Its Rhetoric Can Change Quickly.” 499-504.
- ——— (2016) “It was Not a Deep Cultural Change.” 505-510.
- ——— (2016) “Yes, It was *Ideas*, Not Interests or Institutions, that Changed, Suddenly, in Northwestern Europe.” 511-519.
- ——— (2016) “Elsewhere Ideas about the Bourgeoisie Did Not Change.” 520-525.
- ——— (2016) “A Change in Rhetoric Made Modernity, and Can Spread It.” 640-650.
- Easterly, William. (2014) “Values: The Long Struggle for Individual Rights.” In *The Tyranny of Experts: Economists, Dictators, and the Forgotten Rights of the Poor*. Philadelphia, PA: Basic Books. 129-154.



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Session 5 – State-Led Development

- Sachs, Jeffrey D. (2005) “Making the Investments Needed to End Poverty.” In *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time*. New York, NY: The Penguin Press. 244-266.
- Easterly, William. (2014) “How Much Do Nations Matter?” In *The Tyranny of Experts: Economists, Dictators, and the Forgotten Rights of the Poor*. Philadelphia, PA: Basic Books. 215-236.
- ——— (2014) “Leaders: How We are Seduced by Benevolent Autocrats.” 307-338.
- McCloskey, Deirdre N. (2016) “Most Governmental Institutions Make Us Poorer.” In *Bourgeois Equality: How Ideas, Not Capital or Institutions, Enriched the World*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. 139-146.

Session 6 – Foreign Aid

- Easterly, William. (2014) “Two Nobel Laureates and the Debate They Never Had.” In *The Tyranny of Experts: Economists, Dictators, and the Forgotten Rights of the Poor*. Philadelphia, PA: Basic Books. 17-42.
- ——— (2014) “Institutions: We Oppress Them If We Can.” 155-174.
- Sachs, Jeffrey D. and Ayittey, George B.N. (2012) “Poverty: Can Foreign Aid Reduce Poverty?” In Peter M. Haas and John A. Hird, Eds. *Controversies in Globalization: Contending Approaches to International Relations*. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press. 71-102.

Session 7 – Inequality

- Stiglitz, Joseph E. (2015) “Inequality and Economic Growth.” *The Political Quarterly*, Vol. 86, Issue S1. 134-155.
- McCloskey, Deirdre N. (2016) “Inequality is Not the Problem.” In *Bourgeois Equality: How Ideas, Not Capital or Institutions, Enriched the World*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. 45-52.
- ——— (2016) “What Matters Ethically is Not Equality of Outcome, but the Condition of the Working Class.” 631-639.
- Lindsey, Brink and Steven M. Teles. (2017) “Rigged.” In *The Captured Economy: How the Powerful Enrich Themselves, Slow Down Growth, and Increase Inequality*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. 1-14.
- ——— (2017) “The Rents are Too Damn High.” 15-3



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Session 8 – Happiness

- Easterlin, Richard A. (1995) “Will Raising the Incomes of All Increase the Happiness of All?” *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, Vol. 27, No. 1. 35-47.
- Sacks, Daniel W., Betsey Stevenson, and Justin Wolfers. (2012) “The New Stylized Facts about Income and Subjective Well-Being.” *Emotion*, Vol. 12, No. 6. 1181-1187.
- Kahneman, Daniel and Angus Deaton. (2010) “High Income Improves Life Evaluation but Not Emotional Well-Being.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, Vol. 107, No. 38. 16489-16493.
- Adhia, Nimish. (2017) “Happiness Economics and Its Discontents,” *The Journal of Private Enterprise*, Vol. 32, No. 1. 77-88.
- Dunn, Elizabeth W., Daniel T. Gilbert, and Timothy D. Wilson. (2011) “If Money Doesn’t Make You Happy, Then You Probably Aren’t Spending It Right.” *Journal of Consumer Psychology*, Vol. 21, Issue 2. 115-125.
- Frey, Bruno S. and Alois Stutzer. (2009) “Should National Happiness Be Maximized?” In Amitava K. Dutt and Benjamin Radcliff, Eds., *Happiness, Economics, and Politics: Towards a Multi-Disciplinary Approach*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing. 301-323.

Session 9 – Stagnation

- Ford, Martin. (2015) “Is This Time Different?” In *The Rise of the Robots: Technology and the Threat of a Jobless Future*. New York, NY: Basic Books. 29-62.
- Lindsey, Brink and Steven M. Teles. (2017) “The Politics of Regressive Stagnation.” In *The Captured Economy: How the Powerful Enrich Themselves, Slow Down Growth, and Increase Inequality*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. 127-152.
- McCloskey, Deirdre N. (2016) “Despite Doubts from the Left.” In *Bourgeois Equality: How Ideas, Not Capital or Institutions, Enriched the World*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. 53-60.
- ——— (2016) “Or from the Right and the Middle.” 61-72.
- McCloskey, Deirdre N. (2018) “Youth Unemployment Worldwide: The Canary in the Coal Mine of Excessive Regulation.” Comments Prepared for the Allied Social Sciences Association Annual Meeting, January 6. 1-4.



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Session 10 – April 17, 2018 – Automation

- Hazlitt, Henry. (1946) “The Broken Window.” In *Economics in One Lesson*. Irvington-on-Hudson, NY: The Foundation for Economic Education, Inc. 11-12.
- ——— (1946) “The Curse of Machinery.” 36-49.
- Ford, Martin. (2015) “White-Collar Jobs at Risk.” In *The Rise of the Robots: Technology and the Threat of a Jobless Future*. New York, NY: Basic Books. 83-128.
- Autor, David H. (2015) “Why Are There Still SO Many Jobs? The History and Future of Workplace Automation.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 29, No. 3. 3-30.