



**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 – Progress and Poverty

- Rosling, Hans, Anna R. Rönnlund, and Ola Rosling. (2018). “Introduction.” In *Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World--and Why Things Are Better Than You Think*. UK: Flatiron Books. 1-18.
- ——— (2018). “The Gap Instinct.” 19-46.
- ——— (2018). “The Negativity Instinct.” 47-74.

Session 2 – Context Matters

- Rosling, Hans, Anna R. Rönnlund, and Ola Rosling. (2018). “The Straight Line Instinct.” In *Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World--and Why Things Are Better Than You Think*. UK: Flatiron Books. 75-100.
- ——— (2018). “The Fear Instinct.” 101-123.
- ——— (2018). “The Size Instinct.” 124-143.

Session 3 – The Great Fact

- Carden, A and Deirdre N. McCloskey. (2020). “Part I: Poverty Is on the Run.” In *Leave Me Alone and I'll Make You Rich*. Chicago, Illinois: University of Chicago Press. 3-79.

Session 4 – Scarcity and Wealth

- Otteson, James. (2021). “Wealth Is Positive-Sum.” In *Seven Deadly Economic Sins: Obstacles to Prosperity and Happiness Every Citizen Should Know*. UK: Cambridge University Press. 14-62.
- ——— (2021). “Good Is Not Good Enough.” 63-97.



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Session 5 – Commerce and Community

- Otteson, James. (2021). “There Is No Great Mind.” In *Seven Deadly Economic Sins: Obstacles to Prosperity and Happiness Every Citizen Should Know*. UK: Cambridge University Press. 98-120.
- ——— (2021). “Economics and/or Morality.” 146-186.

Session 6 – Liberty and Progress

- Acemoglu, Daron and James Robinson. (2020). “Preface.” In *The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty*. UK: Penguin Publishing Group. xiii-xix.
- ——— (2020). “How Does History End.” 1-32.
- ——— (2020). “The Red Queen.” 33-73.

Session 7 – Leviathan

- Acemoglu, Daron and James Robinson. (2020). “Will to Power.” In *The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty*. UK: Penguin Publishing Group. 74-96
- ——— (2020). “Economics Outside the Corridor.” 97-125.
- ——— (2020). “Allegory of Good Government.” 126-151.

Session 8 – The Rise of the West

- Acemoglu, Daron and James Robinson. (2020). “The European Scissors.” In *The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty*. UK: Penguin Publishing Group. 152-200.
- ——— (2020). “What’s the Matter with Ferguson?” 304-337.

Session 9 – Seven Deadly Economic Sins

- Otteson, James. (2021). “Equality of What?” In *Seven Deadly Economic Sins: Obstacles to Prosperity and Happiness Every Citizen Should Know*. UK: Cambridge University Press. 187-207.
- ——— (2021). “Markets Are Not Perfect.” 208-241.



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Session 10 – The Bourgeois Deal

- Carden, A and Deirdre N. McCloskey. (2020). “Part II: Enrichment Didn’t Come for the Reasons You Imagine.” In *Leave Me Alone and I’ll Make You Rich*. Chicago, Illinois: University of Chicago Press. 83-132.
- ——— (2020). “Part III: It Came Because Ideas, Ethics, Rhetoric, and Ideology Changed.” 135-167.

Session 11 – Conclusion

- Carden, A and Deirdre N. McCloskey. (2020). “Part IV: The Causes of the Causes Were Not Racial or Ancient.” In *Leave Me Alone and I’ll Make You Rich*. Chicago, Illinois: University of Chicago Press. 171-189.
- Otteson, James. (2021). “Conclusion: The World and I.” In *Seven Deadly Economic Sins: Obstacles to Prosperity and Happiness Every Citizen Should Know*. UK: Cambridge University Press. 242-269.
- ——— (2021). “Postscript.” 270-272.
- Rosling, Hans, Anna R. Rönnlund, and Ola Rosling. (2018). “The Blame Instinct.” In *Factfulness: Ten Reasons We’re Wrong About the World--and Why Things Are Better Than You Think*. UK: Flatiron Books. 204-222.