

JAMES R. OTTESON

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2020–present: John T. Ryan Jr. Professor of Business Ethics, University of Notre Dame
- 2016–’20: Professor of Economics, Wake Forest University
- 2015–’20: Thomas W. Smith Presidential Chair in Business Ethics, Wake Forest University
- 2013–’16: Teaching Professor of Political Economy, School of Business, Wake Forest University
- 2012–’13: Adjunct Professor of Economics, New York University
- 2008–’09: Visiting Professor of Government, Georgetown University
- 2007–’13: Joint Professor of Philosophy and Economics, Yeshiva University
- 2007: Professor of Philosophy, University of Alabama
- 2003–’04: Sabbatical leave from the University of Alabama, during which time I was:
- (1) Fellow, Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, August 2003–January 2004
 - (2) Elphinstone Visiting Research Fellow, Centre for the Study of Scottish Philosophy, University of Aberdeen, Scotland, February–June 2004
 - (3) Visiting Fellow, Social Philosophy and Policy Center, Bowling Green State University, Ohio, June–August 2004
- 2002–’07: Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Alabama
- 1997–2002: Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Alabama

EDUCATION

- PhD: University of Chicago, philosophy, 1997.
- MA: University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, philosophy, 1992.
- BA: University of Notre Dame, Program of Liberal Studies, *magna cum laude*, 1990.

SCHOLARSHIP

Books published or under contract:

1. *The Ethics of Wealth Redistribution* (with Steven McMullen; Routledge, forthcoming in 2022).
2. *Seven Deadly Economic Sins: Obstacles to Prosperity and Happiness Every Citizen Should Know* (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming in 2021).
3. *The Essential David Hume* (Fraser Institute, forthcoming in 2021).
4. *Honorable Business: A Framework for Business in a Just and Humane Society* (Oxford University Press, 2019).
5. *The Essential Adam Smith* (Fraser Institute, 2018).
6. *The End of Socialism* (Cambridge University Press, 2014).
7. *Adam Smith* (Bloomsbury, 2013).
8. *Actual Ethics* (Cambridge University Press, 2006).
 - Winner of the 2007 Templeton Enterprise Award.
9. *Adam Smith's Marketplace of Life* (Cambridge University Press, 2002).
 - Named an "Outstanding Academic Title 2003" by the American Library Association.

Books in progress:

1. *The Limits of Private Enterprise* (in manuscript).
2. *Megavirtue: An Ethics for Our Coming Age of Superabundance* (in manuscript).
3. *Humane Markets: The Classical Tradition of Political Economy* (in manuscript).

Edited collections:

1. *What Adam Smith Knew: Moral Lessons on Capitalism from Its Greatest Champions and Fiercest Opponents* (editor; forward by Allen H. Meltzer) (Encounter Books, 2014).
2. *Adam Smith Society Reader* (editor) (The Adam Smith Society, 2013).
3. *Adam Smith: Selected Philosophical Writings* (editor) (Imprint Academic, 2004).
4. *The Levellers: Overton, Walwyn, and Lilburne*, 5 vols. (editor and translator) (Continuum, 2003).

Peer-reviewed papers and chapters:

1. "Adam Smith and Honorable Business," in *Adam Smith after 300 Years*, Paul Sagar, ed. Cambridge University Press (forthcoming in 2022).
2. "Democracy and People Over Profit," *Georgetown Journal of Law and Public Policy* (forthcoming in 2021).
3. "The Levellers and the Origins of Modern Political Economy," *Social Philosophy and Policy* 37, 1 (Summer 2020): 170–89.

4. "Escaping the Social Pull: Nonconformists and Self-Censorship," *Society* (December 2019): 1–10.
5. "Opting Out: A Defense of Social Justice," *The Independent Review* 24, 1 (Summer 2019): 13–24.
 - Awarded the 2019 Independent Excellence Prize.
6. "Humane Markets: The Classical Tradition of Political Economy," in *The Oxford Handbook of Economics and Ethics*, ed. Mark D. White (Oxford University Press, 2019): 295–315.
7. "Intellectual Diversity and Academic Professionalism," *Political Economy in the Carolinas* 1 (2018): 8–19.
8. "Adam Smith's Libertarian Paternalism," in the *Oxford Handbook of Freedom*, eds. David Schmidtz and Carmen Pavel (Oxford University Press, 2018): 239–54.
9. "The Misuse of Egalitarianism in Society," *The Independent Review* 22, 1 (Summer 2017): 37–47.
10. "Adam Smith on Justice, Social Justice, and Ultimate Justice," *Social Philosophy and Policy* 34, 1 (Summer 2017): 123–43.
11. "Adam Smith on Virtue, Prosperity, and Justice," in *Economics and Virtue*, eds. Mark D. White and Jennifer A. Baker (Oxford University Press, 2016): 72–93.
12. "Adam Smith and the Right," in *Adam Smith: His Life, Thought, and Legacy*, ed. Ryan Patrick Hanley (Princeton University Press, 2016): 494–511.
13. "Adam Smith," in the *Oxford Handbook of the History of Ethics*, ed. Roger Crisp (Oxford University Press, 2013): 421–42.
14. "The Inhuman Alienation of Capitalism," *Society* 49, 2 (2012): 139–43.
15. "How High Does the Impartial Spectator Go?" in *Adam Smith as Theologian*, ed. Paul Oslington (Routledge, 2011): 92–7.
16. "The Scottish Enlightenment and the Tragedy of Human Happiness," in *On Happiness*, ed. Kelly James Clark (Beijing, China: The World Knowledge Press, 2010).
17. "Adam Smith and the Great Mind Fallacy," *Social Philosophy and Policy* 27, 1 (Winter 2010): 276–304.
18. "Kantian Individualism and Political Libertarianism," *The Independent Review* 13, 3 (Winter 2009): 389–409.
19. "Shaftesbury's Evolutionary Morality and Its Influence on Adam Smith," *Adam Smith Review* 4 (2008): 106–31.
20. "Unintended-Order Explanations in Adam Smith and the Scottish Enlightenment," in *Liberalism, Conservatism, and Hayek's Idea of Spontaneous Order*, eds. Louis Hunt and Peter McNamara (Palgrave Macmillan, 2007): 21–41.
21. "Adam Smith y la Libertad," featured article in a special volume of the South American journal of political science *Estudios Públicos* 104 (Primavera, 2006): 51–87 (trans. Leonidas Montes).

22. “Markets, Markets Everywhere: A Response to Critics of *Adam Smith’s Marketplace of Life*,” *Adam Smith Review* 2 (2006): 215–22.
23. “Adam Smith und die Objektivität moralischer Urteile: Ein Mittelweg,” in *Adam Smith als Moralphilosoph*, eds. and trans. Christel Fricke and Hans-Peter Schuett (DeGruyter, 2005): 15–32.
24. “Private Judgment, Individual Liberty, and the Role of the State,” *Journal of Social Philosophy* 33, 3 (Fall 2002): 491–511.
25. “Adam Smith’s Marketplace of Morals,” *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie* 84 (2002): 190–211.
26. “Adam Smith’s First Market: The Development of Language,” *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 19, 1 (January 2002): 65–86.
27. “Adam Smith’s Other Great Book: *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*,” in *Uniting the Liberal Arts: Core and Context*, eds. Bainard Cowen and J. Scott Lee (University Press of America, 2002): 149–56.
28. “Limits on Our Obligation to Give,” *Public Affairs Quarterly* 14, 3 (July 2000): 183–203.
 - Reprinted in *Justice: An Anthology*, ed. Louis Pojman (Prentice-Hall, 2004).
29. “Adam Smith on the Emergence of Morals,” *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 8, 3 (October 2000): 545–51.
30. “Religious Freedom and Public Schooling,” *The Independent Review* 4, 4 (Spring 2000): 601–13.
 - Reprinted in *The Challenge of Liberty: Classical Liberalism Today*, eds. Robert Higgs and Carl P. Close (Independent Institute, 2006).
31. “The Recurring ‘Adam Smith Problem,’” *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 17, 1 (January 2000): 51–74.

Papers in progress or under review:

1. “Adam Smith on Public Provision of Education” (under review).
2. “Freedom in Business: Elizabeth Anderson, Adam Smith, and the Effects of Dominance in Business” (under review).
3. “The Poor Man’s Son: The Role of Deception in Adam Smith’s Case for Free Enterprise” (under review).

Book reviews:

1. Colin Mayer’s *Prosperity: Better Business Makes the Greater Good*, in *The Journal of Markets and Morality* (forthcoming).
2. Jesse Norman’s *Adam Smith: Father of Economics*, in *Cosmos + Taxis* 8, 1 (2020): 16–18.
3. Dennis C. Rasmussen’s *The Infidel and the Professor: David Hume, Adam Smith, and the Friendship that Shaped Modern Thought*, in *History of Political Economy* 51, 4 (August 2019): 795–8.

4. Nathan B. Oman's *The Dignity of Commerce: Markets and the Moral Foundations of Contract Law* and Robert S. Taylor's *Exit Left: Markets and Mobility in Republican Thought*, in *The Review of Politics* 80, 3 (Summer 2018): 533–38.
5. Charles Griswold's *Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Adam Smith: A Philosophical Encounter*, in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (March 8, 2018).
6. David Rose's *The Moral Foundation of Economic Behavior*, in *The Independent Review* 17, 2 (Fall 2012): 297–300.
7. Alexander Broadie's *History of Scottish Philosophy*, in *Journal of Scottish Philosophy* 9, 2 (September 2011): 244–9.
8. Nicholas Phillipson's *Adam Smith: An Enlightened Life*, in *Conversations on Philanthropy* (2011).
9. G. A. Cohen's *Why Not Socialism?* in *The Independent Review* 15, 3 (Winter 2011): 466–70.
10. Garrett Cullity's *The Moral Demands of Affluence*, in *Journal of Value Inquiry* 45, 1 (2011): 91–6.
11. Craig Smith's *Adam Smith's Political Philosophy*, in *The Adam Smith Review* 4 (2008).
12. D. D. Raphael's *The Impartial Spectator*, in *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 46, 2 (April 2008): 325–7.
13. Deirdre N. McCloskey's *The Bourgeois Virtues*, in *Azure* 31 (Winter 5768 / 2008): 120–4.
14. Samuel Fleischacker's *On Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations": A Philosophical Companion*, in *Mind* 116 (January 2007): 161–5; and in *The Independent Review* 10, 3 (Winter 2006): 431–4.
15. Leonidas Montes's *Adam Smith in Context: A Critical Reassessment of Some Central Components of His Thought*, in *Journal of Scottish Philosophy* 3, 1 (Spring 2005): 98–102.
16. Rebecca M. Blank and William McGurn's *Is the Market Moral? A Dialogue on Religion, Economics, and Justice*, in *The Freeman: Ideas on Liberty* (January/February 2005): 42–3.
17. Gordon Graham's *The Case Against the Democratic State*, in *The Independent Review* 9, 1 (Summer 2004).
18. Emma Rothschild's *Economic Sentiments*, in *The Freeman: Ideas on Liberty* 53, 2 (February 2003): 58–60.
19. Jacques Barzun's *From Dawn to Decadence: 500 Years of Western Cultural Life: 1500 to the Present*, in *Continuity: A Journal of History* 25 (Fall 2001): 131–36.
20. John Danford's *Roots of Freedom: A Primer on Modern Liberty*, in *Continuity: A Journal of History* 25 (Fall 2001): 123–27.
21. Chris M. Sciabarra's *Total Freedom: Toward a Dialectical Libertarianism*, in *Ideas on Liberty* 51, 10 (October 2001): 57–58.
22. J. C. Lester's *Escape from Leviathan: Liberty, Welfare, and Anarchy Reconciled*, in *The Independent Review* 6, 1 (Summer 2001): 129–32.
23. Samuel Fleischacker's *Third Concept of Liberty: Judgment and Freedom in Kant and Adam Smith*, in *The Review of Metaphysics* 54, 2 (December 2000): 426–28.
24. Charles Griswold's *Adam Smith and the Virtues of Enlightenment*, in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 61, 3 (November 2000): 714–18.

Selected other scholarship, writing, and commentary:

1. “Honoring the Moral Purpose of Business,” invited contribution to “The Miseducation of American Business: A Symposium.” *Law and Liberty*, May 25, 2020.
2. “Coronavirus Crisis Creates Opportunity—And Reveals This about Ourselves and Others,” Fox News Opinion, April 2, 2020.
3. Interviewed expert in *Awakening: The Tension between Innovation and Regulation*, a feature-length documentary produced by Just Add Firewater, LLC, Los Angeles, California, forthcoming in 2019.
4. Interviewed expert in *Ancient Greek Philosophy*, a multi-part documentary produced by Green Olive Films, Athens, Greece, 2019.
5. “Selfishness, Self-interest, and Self-sacrifice,” *Edbooks Economics*, 2018.
6. “Why are you going into business school anyway?” *Business Insider*, June 15, 2016.
7. Interviewed expert in *The Real Adam Smith*, a two-hour documentary published by Free to Choose Media and aired on PBS stations throughout America in May of 2016.
8. A bimonthly columnist for the *Triad Business Journal*, July 2014–July 2015 (six total columns).
9. “Reflections on G. A. Cohen’s *Why Not Socialism?*” in *Creating Wealth: Ethical and Economic Perspectives*, 2nd ed., eds. David Schmidtz and John Thrasher (Cognella Press, 2013).
10. “Response to Den Uyl’s ‘Das Shaftesbury Problem,’” invited contribution in *The Adam Smith Review* 6 (2010): 244–7.
11. “On Steven Grosby’s ‘Philanthropy and Human Action,’” invited contribution to *Conversations on Philanthropy* 7 (2009): 21–6.
12. Guest Editor, special volume of the *Journal of Scottish Philosophy*, on “Scottish Philosophy and the Social Sciences.” The volume appeared in the spring of 2009.
13. “John Lilburne,” invited entry in *Biographical Dictionary of British Economists*, ed. Donald Rutherford (Thoemmes, 2004).
14. “Adam Smith,” invited entry in *Europe 1450–1789: Encyclopedia of the Early Modern World*, 6 vols. (Scribner’s, 2004).
15. American Editor and contributor, *Critical Biography of Adam Smith*, eds. Keith Tribe and Hiroshi Mizuta (Pickering and Chatto, 2003).

Selected invited talks and lectures (since 2015):

1. “Honorable Business,” University of Louisville, February 2020.
2. “The Essential Adam Smith,” Fraser Institute, Vancouver, British Columbia, February 2020.
3. “Honorable Business,” Fuqua School of Business at Duke University, December 2019.
4. “Adam Smith and Honorable Business,” the Liberal Institute, Calgary, October 2019.
5. “Can Business Be Honorable?” Hope College, October 2019.
6. “Teaching Adam Smith,” Hillsdale College, October 2019.

7. "Honorable Business," Mendoza School of Business at Notre Dame, September 2019.
8. "Justice vs. Social Justice," the Heritage Foundation, Washington, DC, May 2019.
9. "Adam Smith on Justice and Social Justice," the Rembert Lecture, McDaniel College, Maryland, April 2019.
10. "What Is Honorable Business?" University of New Haven, March 2019.
11. "Honorable Business," Bethel College, March 2019.
12. "Capitalism vs. Socialism," Anderson University, March 2019.
13. "Can Business Be Honorable?" TEDx lecture, Wake Forest University, February 2019.
14. "Adam Smith and the Birth of Political Economy," Boise State University, February 2019.
15. "What Is Honorable Business?" McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University, February 2019.
16. "What Is Honorable Business?" Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, November 2018.
17. "Adam Smith on Justice and Social Justice," Hammond Institute, Lindenwood University, October 2018.
18. "Markets, Justice, and Social Justice," Southern Methodist University, September 2018.
19. "Some Challenges to Measuring Subjective Well-Being and Happiness," University of Utah, August 2018.
20. "Economics and the Human Good," Tikvah Institute, Yale University, June 2018.
21. "Adam Smith on Justice and Social Justice," American Institute for Economic Research, Great Barrington, Massachusetts, April 2018.
22. "Is Socialism the Answer?" Tulane University, April 2018.
23. "The Bright Side of the Scottish Enlightenment," Ball State University, April 2018.
24. "The Use and Abuse of Business Ethics," Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society annual meeting, New Orleans, March 2018.
25. "Eudaimonia and Business," Rawabi Development Group, Rawabi, Palestine, March 2018.
26. "Intellectual Diversity and Academic Professionalism," University of North Carolina Board of Governors, January 2018.
27. "Adam Smith's Libertarian Paternalism," plenary lecture at annual International Adam Smith Society conference, Viña del Mar, Chile, January 2018.
28. "Freedom vs. Equality in Adam Smith," Centro de Estudios Publicos, Santiago, Chile, January 2018.
29. "Is Capitalism Moral?" University of Notre Dame, November 2017.
30. "Who Cares About Adam Smith?" Wesleyan University, November 2017.
31. "Adam Smith's Libertarian Paternalism," keynote lecture at Zhejiang University conference on Adam Smith, Hangzhou, China, October 2017.
32. "Adam Smith on Justice and Social Justice," Berry College, Rome, Georgia, February 2017.

33. "The Moral Purpose of Business," Faulkner University, Montgomery, Alabama, January 2017.
34. "Why Business? A Model for Understanding the Moral Purpose of Business," Bradenton Area Economic Development Corporation, November 2016.
35. "Socrates and the Unending Trials of Impiety," the Mont Pelerin Society, Miami, Florida, September 2016.
36. "Address to the Franklin Academy Graduating Class of 2016," Wake Forest, North Carolina, June 2016.
37. "The Moral Purpose of Business," Gulf Coast CEO Forum, Sarasota, Florida, January 2016.
38. "The End of Socialism," The Hayek Lecture, Duke University, December 2015.
39. "The End of Socialism," Creighton University, November 2015.
40. "The End of Socialism," the Ohio State University, November 2015.
41. "Adam Smith, Moral Philosopher" and "The Enduring Allure of Karl Marx," Bethel College, November 2015.
42. "Inequality and Social Justice in Adam Smith," Wingate University, October 2015.
43. "The End of Socialism," the University of North Dakota, October 2015.
44. "Justice and Social Justice in the Enlightenment World of Adam Smith," Mississippi State University, September 2015.
45. "The Western Tradition of Liberalism" and "Capitalism and Its Discontents," Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Thailand, May 2015.
46. "Socialist Equality vs. Capitalist Equality" and "The Philosophical Foundations of Well-Being," the Association of Private Enterprise Education, April 2015.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

1. President, Association of Private Enterprise Education, 2020–'21.
2. Visiting Scholar, Feulner Institute, Heritage Foundation, 2020.
3. Senior Scholar, Fraser Institute, Vancouver, Canada, 2018–present.
4. Board Member, Ethics and Economics Education of New England, 2015–present.
5. Associate Editor, *The Independent Review*, 2013–present.
6. Outside Evaluator, Humanities and Justice Major, John Jay College, CUNY, May 2013.
7. Research Professor (non-residential), Center for the Philosophy of Freedom, and concurrent Research Professor in the Department of Philosophy, University of Arizona, 2012–'15.
8. Senior Scholar, The Fund for American Studies, Washington, DC, 2009–present.
9. Reviewer of Grant Proposals, Teaching Development Fellowships, National Endowment for the Humanities, United States Department of Education, December 2008.
10. Reviewer of Grant Proposals, Teaching and Learning Resources and Curriculum Development, National Endowment for the Humanities, United States Department of Education, December 2006.

11. University of Alabama representative to the Cuban Government and the Universidad de la Habana, discussing collaborative research opportunities on “Philosophy, Economics, and Ethics,” Havana, Cuba, April 2006.
12. Leadership Board Faculty Fellow, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Alabama, 2005–’08.
13. Board of Editors, *Adam Smith Review*, 2005–’08.
14. Research Associate, Center for the Study of Scottish Philosophy, Princeton Theological Seminary, August 2004–’14.
15. Consulting Editor, *Journal of Scottish Philosophy*, 2003–’10.
16. Board of Editorial Consultants, *History of Philosophy Quarterly*, 2002–’05.
17. Manuscript, proposal, and/or grant reviewer for: *Southern Journal of Economics*, *Academy of Management Review*, *Journal of Business Ethics*, *Business Ethics Quarterly*, *Journal of the History of Ideas*, *Journal of Entrepreneurship and Public Policy*, *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, *Synthese*, *The Adam Smith Review*, *Journal of the History of Economic Thought*, *History of Philosophy Quarterly*, *Review of Politics*, *Political Theory*, *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, *The Independent Review*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Journal of Scottish Philosophy*, *Journal of Markets and Morality*, *Social Philosophy and Policy*, *European Journal of Philosophy*, Cambridge University Press, the Earhart Foundation, McGraw-Hill, Oxford University Press, Routledge, and the Templeton Foundation.

SELECTED AWARDS, PRIZES, AND GRANTS

1. Named “Favorite Business Professor of the Class of 2020” by *Poets & Quants*.
2. The 2019 Distinguished Scholar Award from the Association of Private Enterprise Education.
3. The 2019 Independent Excellence Prize from the Independent Institute for my paper, “Opting Out: A Defense of Social Justice.”
4. The 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award from the Institute for Humane Studies.
5. The 2017 “Ideas Worth Teaching” national award from the Aspen Institute for my course “Why Business?”
6. The Spirit Award, School of Business, Wake Forest University, 2017.
7. The T. B. Rose Fellowship in Business for Teaching Excellence and Innovation, School of Business, Wake Forest University, 2017.
8. Templeton Culture of Enterprise Award, October 2007. Awarded first place for my book *Actual Ethics*.
9. Fund for the Study of Spontaneous Order prize, Atlas Foundation, October 2005.
10. University of Alabama College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Board Research Grant, 2005–’08.
11. National Endowment for the Humanities Research Grant to work on *The Levellers*, 2003.
12. Outstanding Faculty Award from The Other Club, University of Alabama, 2002.

SELECTED UNIVERSITY SERVICE

1. Rex and Alice A. Martin Faculty Director, Notre Dame/Deloitte Center for Ethical Leadership, 2021–present.
2. Founding Executive Director, Eudaimonia Institute, Wake Forest University, 2016–’20.
3. Executive Director, BB&T Center for the Study of Capitalism, Wake Forest University School of Business, 2013–’18.
4. Chair, Department of Philosophy, Yeshiva University, 2009–’13.
5. Director, Honors Program, Yeshiva College, Yeshiva University, 2007–’08.
6. Chair, Department of Philosophy, University of Alabama 2005–’07.
7. Academic Elite Scholarship Committee, University of Alabama, 2005–’06.
8. Tier 1 Scholarship Committee, University of Alabama, 2004–’05.
9. Faculty Senator and Chair of Academic Affairs Committee, University of Alabama, 2000–’04.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

1. American Academy of Management
2. American Association of University Professors
3. American Economic Association
4. American Marketing Association
5. American Philosophical Association
6. American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies
7. Association of Private Enterprise Education
8. Eighteenth-Century Scottish Studies Society
9. Hume Society
10. International Adam Smith Society
11. International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies
12. Mont Pelerin Society