

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, 1990.

SCHOLARSHIP

***Books published or under contract:***

1. *Should Wealth Be Redistributed? A Debate* (with Steven McMullen) (Routledge, forthcoming in 2023).

2. *Seven Deadly Economic Sins: Obstacles to Prosperity and Happiness Every Citizen Should Know* (Cambridge University Press, 2021).
  - Reviewed in the *Wall Street Journal*, July 23, 2021.
3. *The Essential David Hume* (Fraser Institute, 2021).
4. *Honorable Business: A Framework for Business in a Just and Humane Society* (Oxford University Press, 2019).
  - Spanish edition, forthcoming in 2023.
5. *The Essential Adam Smith* (Fraser Institute, 2018).
  - Portuguese edition, 2020; Korean edition, 2021.
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.

***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).

***Books in progress:***

1. *Humane Economics: The Birth of Liberal Political Economy* (in manuscript).
2. *Human Dignity: Surprising Implications of Taking a Key Idea Seriously* (in manuscript).

***Peer-reviewed papers:***

1. "Adam Smith on Public Provision of Education." *Journal of the History of Economic Thought* (forthcoming).
2. "How Have Corporate Codes of Ethics Responded to an Era of Increased Scrutiny?" (with T. Loughran and B. McDonald). *Journal of Business Ethics* (forthcoming). SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3887743>.
3. "Democracy and People Over Profit," *Georgetown Journal of Law and Public Policy* 18 (2020): 871–87.
4. "The Levellers and the Origins of Modern Political Economy," *Social Philosophy and Policy* 37, 1 (Summer 2020): 170–89.

5. "Escaping the Social Pull: Nonconformists and Self-Censorship," *Society* (December 2019): 1–10.
6. "Opting Out: A Defense of Social Justice," *The Independent Review* 24, 1 (Summer 2019): 13–24.
  - Awarded the 2019 Independent Excellence Prize.
7. "Intellectual Diversity and Academic Professionalism," *Political Economy in the Carolinas* 1 (2018): 8–19.
8. "The Misuse of Egalitarianism in Society," *The Independent Review* 22, 1 (Summer 2017): 37–47.
9. "Adam Smith on Justice, Social Justice, and Ultimate Justice," *Social Philosophy and Policy* 34, 1 (Summer 2017): 123–43.
10. "The Inhuman Alienation of Capitalism," *Society* 49, 2 (2012): 139–43.
11. "Adam Smith and the Great Mind Fallacy," *Social Philosophy and Policy* 27, 1 (Winter 2010): 276–304.
12. "Kantian Individualism and Political Libertarianism," *The Independent Review* 13, 3 (Winter 2009): 389–409.
13. "Shaftesbury's Evolutionary Morality and Its Influence on Adam Smith," *Adam Smith Review* 4 (2008): 106–31.
14. "Private Judgment, Individual Liberty, and the Role of the State," *Journal of Social Philosophy* 33, 3 (Fall 2002): 491–511.
15. "Adam Smith's Marketplace of Morals," *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie* 84 (2002): 190–211.
16. "Adam Smith's First Market: The Development of Language," *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 19, 1 (January 2002): 65–86.
17. "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).
18. "Adam Smith on the Emergence of Morals," *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 8, 3 (October 2000): 545–51.
19. "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).
20. "The Recurring 'Adam Smith Problem,'" *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 17, 1 (January 2000): 51–74.

***Editor- or peer-reviewed chapters and invited papers:***

1. "The 'Poor Man's Son': Deception in Adam Smith's Case for Free Enterprise," in *Adam Smith and Modernity*, Alberto Burgio, ed. New York: Routledge (forthcoming in 2023).
2. "Adam Smith and Virtuous Business," in *Adam Smith after 300 Years*, Paul Sagar, ed. Cambridge University Press (forthcoming in 2023).

3. "Adam Smith on the Dangers of the Digital World," in *Technology Ethics: A Philosophical Introduction and Readings*, Gregory Robson and Jonathan Tsou, eds. Routledge (forthcoming in 2022).
4. "Introduction to Socialism and Capitalism." Introductory essay for *Realities of Socialism*, Steven Globberman, ed. Vancouver, BC: Fraser Institute, 2022.
5. "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.
6. "Adam Smith's Libertarian Paternalism," in the *Oxford Handbook of Freedom*, eds. David Schmidtz and Carmen Pavel (Oxford University Press, 2018): 239–54.
7. "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.
8. "Adam Smith and the Right," in *Adam Smith: His Life, Thought, and Legacy*, ed. Ryan Patrick Hanley (Princeton University Press, 2016): 494–511.
9. "Adam Smith," in the *Oxford Handbook of the History of Ethics*, ed. Roger Crisp (Oxford University Press, 2013): 421–42.
10. "How High Does the Impartial Spectator Go?" in *Adam Smith as Theologian*, ed. Paul Oslington (Routledge, 2011): 92–7.
11. "The Scottish Enlightenment and the Tragedy of Human Happiness," in *On Happiness*, ed. Kelly James Clark (Beijing, China: The World Knowledge Press, 2010).
12. "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.
13. "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).
14. "Markets, Markets Everywhere: A Response to Critics of Adam Smith's Marketplace of Life," *Adam Smith Review* 2 (2006): 215–22.
15. "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.
16. "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.

***Papers in progress or under review:***

1. "The Crisis of Business Ethics."
2. "Freedom in Business: Elizabeth Anderson, Adam Smith, and the Effects of Dominance in Business" (with G. Robson).

***Book reviews:***

1. Colin Mayer's *Prosperity: Better Business Makes the Greater Good*, in *The Journal of Markets and Morality*, 23, 1 (2020): 232–4.

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, 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 PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

1. Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Markets and Morality*, 2022–present.
2. Outside Reviewer, Ed Snider Center for Enterprise and Markets, Robert H. Smith School of Business, University of Maryland, 2021.

3. President, Association of Private Enterprise Education, 2020–'21.
4. Senior Scholar, Fraser Institute, Vancouver, Canada, 2018–present.
5. Board Member, Ethics and Economics Education of New England, 2015–present.
6. Associate Editor, *The Independent Review*, 2013–present.
7. Outside Evaluator, Humanities and Justice Major, John Jay College, CUNY, May 2013.
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, 2008.
10. Reviewer of Grant Proposals, Teaching and Learning Resources and Curriculum Development, National Endowment for the Humanities, United States Department of Education, 2006.
11. University of Alabama representative to the Cuban Government and the Universidad de la Habana, Havana, Cuba, April 2006.
12. Leadership Board Faculty Fellow, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Alabama, 2005–'08.
13. Research Associate, Center for the Study of Scottish Philosophy, Princeton Theological Seminary, August 2004–'14.
14. Consulting Editor, *Journal of Scottish Philosophy*, 2003–'10.
15. Board of Editorial Consultants, *History of Philosophy Quarterly*, 2002–'05.
16. 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. "Favorite Business Professor of the Class of 2020," *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. Academic Director, Business Ethics and Society Program, Mendoza College of Business, University of Notre Dame, 2022–present.
2. Faculty Director, Business Honors Program, Mendoza College of Business, University of Notre Dame, 2021–present.
3. Rex and Alice A. Martin Faculty Director, Notre Dame Deloitte Center for Ethical Leadership, 2021–present.
4. Chair, Catholicism and the Disciplines Committee, University of Notre Dame, 2021–present.
5. Founding Executive Director, Eudaimonia Institute, Wake Forest University, 2016–'20.

#### SELECTED PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

1. American Academy of Management
2. American Association of University Professors
3. American Economic Association
4. American Philosophical Association
5. American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies
6. Eighteenth-Century Scottish Studies Society
7. Hume Society
8. International Adam Smith Society
9. International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies
10. Society for Business Ethics