



*The Scotland Colloquium:  
Judge Douglas H. Ginsburg Judicial Colloquium Series  
Studying the Lessons of the Wealth of Nations  
on its 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*  
**Judicial Education Program  
Law & Economics Center  
Antonin Scalia Law School  
George Mason University**  
Wednesday, June 24 - Tuesday, June 30, 2026

## Agenda

### Wednesday, June 24

5:00 – 6:30 pm      **Registration and Opening Reception**

### Thursday, June 25

7:00 – 7:50 am      **Breakfast**

8:00 – 9:15 am      **Session 1: The Role and Fate of Commercial Law During the 1707 Union as a Precursor to Smith**

**Robert Taylor**, Reader in Public Law, Strathclyde Law School, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

**Reading Assignment:**

ROBERT BRETT TAYLOR, *Chapter 3: Public and Private Commercial Law Distinguished: The Impact of the 1707 Union on the Commercial Law of Scotland*, in *THE DEV. OF COMMERCIAL LAW IN SCOTLAND, VOLUME 1* 90-119 (Alisdair D.J. MacPherson, Jonathan Hardman & Adelyn L.M. Wilson ed., 2026).

**Recommended Reading Assignment:**

ROBERT BRETT TAYLOR, *Chapter 6: A British Common Law? Public Law after the 1707 Union between England and Scotland*, in *LAW AND CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE* 98-121 (David Capper, Conor McCormick & Norma Dawson ed., 2025).

9:15 – 9:30 am      **Break**

9:30 – 10:45 am      **Session 2: Adam Smith in the Context of the Development of Legal Education in Scotland as a Mixed Jurisdiction**

**Adelyn Wilson**, Head of Strathclyde Law School and Professor of Law, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

**Reading Assignments:**

ANDREW R.C. SIMPSON & ADELYN L.M. WILSON, *Chapter 17: The Court of Session and Aberdeen*, in *SCOTTISH LEGAL HISTORY, VOLUME ONE: 1000-1707* 336-39 (2017).

Adelyn L M Wilson, *Legal Practice and Legal Institutions in Seventeenth-Century Aberdeen, as Witnessed in the Lives of Thomas Nicolson of Cockburnspath and his Associates*, 9 J. IRISH & SCOT. STUD. 108 (2018).

JOHN W. CAIRNS, *Chapter 3: The Influence of Smith's Jurisprudence on Legal Education in Scotland*, ADAM SMITH REVIEWED (1992), reprinted in 2 ENLIGHTENMENT, LEGAL EDUC., & CRITIQUE: SELECTED ESSAYS ON HIST. SCOTS L., 1–6 (2015).

**10:45 – 11:00 am**      **Break**

**11:00 am – 12:15 pm**      **Session 3: Adam Smith's Hopes for a Liberal America**

**Daniel B. Klein**, Professor of Economics and JIN Chair, Mercatus Center, George Mason University

**Reading Assignment:**

Michaela Loughran & Daniel B. Klein, *Adam Smith's Hopes for a Liberal America*, 45 ECON. AFFS. 203 (2025).

**12:15 pm**      **Adjourn for Day: Afternoon Study Session**

**Friday, June 26**

**7:00 – 8:30 am**      **Breakfast**

**8:45 – 10:00 am**      **Bus to Glasgow**

**10:00 – 11:30 am**      **Session 4: Adam Smith and the Idea of Improvement**

**Craig Smith**, Professor of the History of Political Thought, University of Glasgow

**Reading Assignments:**

DAVID HUME, *Pt. I, Essay XIV: Of the Rise and Progress of the Arts and Sciences*, in ESSAYS MORAL, POLITICAL, LITERACY 111-38, (Liberty Fund ed., 1987) (1889).

DAVID HUME, *Pt. II, Essay II: Of Refinement in the Arts*, in ESSAYS MORAL, POLITICAL, LITERACY 269-81 (Liberty Fund ed., 1987) (1889).

ADAM SMITH, *Vol. I: Bk. I, Ch. 1-4*, in AN INQUIRY INTO THE NATURE AND CAUSES OF THE WEALTH OF NATIONS 36-53 (Cannan ed., 1904) (1776).

**Supplemental Reading Assignment:**

Craig Smith, *Adam Smith and Improvement*, 2 ESTUDIOS PÚBLICOS 45 (2024).

**11:45 am – 1:45 pm**      **Legal History of Glasgow Walking Tour**

**Jonathan Brown**, Lecturer in Law, Strathclyde Law School, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

**Roddy Cairns**, Teaching Fellow in Law, Strathclyde Law School, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

**Malcolm Combe**, Reader in Law, Strathclyde Law School, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

**Barry Rodger**, Professor of Law, Strathclyde Law School, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

**Robert Taylor**, Reader in Public Law, Strathclyde Law School, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

**Adelyn Wilson**, Head of Strathclyde Law School and Professor of Law, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

**1:45 – 6:00 pm**      **Afternoon Break in Glasgow**

**6:00 – 7:00 pm**      **Return Bus to Edinburgh**

## Saturday, June 27

- 7:00 – 7:50 am**      **Breakfast**
- 8:00 – 9:15 am**      **Session 5: Commutative, Distributive, and Estimative Justice in Adam Smith | Klein**
- Reading Assignment:**  
DANIEL B. KLEIN, *Commutative, Distributive, and Estimative Justice*, in CENTRAL NOTIONS OF SMITHIAN LIBERALISM 17-42 (2023).
- 9:15 – 9:30 am**      **Break**
- 9:30 – 10:45 am**      **Session 6: Smith on Philosophy and Religion | Smith**
- Reading Assignments:**  
ADAM SMITH, *The Principles Which Lead and Direct Philosophical Enquiries; As Illustrated by the History of Astronomy, Section I-III*, in THEORY OF MORAL SENTIMENTS AND ESSAYS ON PHILOSOPHICAL SUBJECTS 326-42 (6th ed., 1869) (1759).  
  
ADAM SMITH, *Part II, § II Chapter III: Of the sense of Justice of Remorse and of the consciousness of Merit in*, THEORY OF MORAL SENTIMENTS AND ESSAYS ON PHILOSOPHICAL SUBJECTS 76-9 (6th ed., 1869) (1759).  
  
Craig Smith, *Adam Smith on Philosophy and Religion*, 3 RUCH FILOZOFICZNY 23 (2018).
- 10:45 – 11:00 am**      **Break**
- 11:00 am – 12:15 pm**      **Session 7: Smith on Justice and the Invisible Hand | Smith**
- Reading Assignments:**  
ADAM SMITH, *Part II § II: Of Justice and Beneficence in*, THEORY OF MORAL SENTIMENTS AND ESSAYS ON PHILOSOPHICAL SUBJECTS 63-5 (Black & Hutton ed. Liberty Fund) (1869).  
  
ADAM SMITH, *Vol I: Bk. III, Ch. II: Of the Rise and Progress of Cities and Town, After the Fall of the Roman Empire in*, AN INQUIRY INTO THE NATURE AND CAUSES OF THE WEALTH OF NATIONS, 371-81 (Cannan ed.) (1776).  
  
ADAM SMITH, *Vol I: Bk. IV, Ch. II: Of Restraints Upon the Importance from Foreign Countries of Such Goods as can be Produced at Home in*, AN INQUIRY INTO THE NATURE AND CAUSES OF THE WEALTH OF NATIONS, 418-37 (Cannan ed.) (1776).
- 12:15 pm**      **Adjourn for Day: Afternoon Study Session**

## Sunday, June 28

- 7:00 – 8:30 am**      **Breakfast**
- 8:30 am – 4:30 pm**      **Morning Break**
- 4:30 – 6:15 pm**      **Fireside Chat: America 250: The Role of the Declaration of Independence in Judicial Interpretation**
- David J. Porter**, Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- Discussants:**  
**Douglas H. Ginsburg**, Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit; Professor of Law, George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School

**Don R. Willett**, Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

**Moderator: Donald J. Kochan**, Professor of Law and Executive Director, Law & Economics Center, George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School

**Reading Assignment:**

Akhil Reed Amar & Samarth Desai, *The Annotated Declaration of Independence*, NAT'L CONST. CTR.

## Monday, June 29

7:00 – 7:50 am

**Breakfast**

8:00 – 9:15 am

**Session 8: John Adams, Adam Smith, and the Political Problem of Wealth**

**Brianne Wolf**, Associate Professor of Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy and Director of the Political Economy Minor, James Madison College at Michigan State University

**Reading Assignments:**

ADAM SMITH, *THE THEORY OF MORAL SENTIMENTS AND ON THE ORIGINS OF LANGUAGES* (Stewart ed.) (1759).

*Part I, § III, Chapter II: Of the origin of Ambition, and the distinction of Ranks*

*Part I, § III, Chapter III: Of the corruption of our moral sentiments, which is occasioned by this disposition to admire the rich and the great, and to despise or neglect persons of poor and mean condition*

*Part II, § II, Chapter II: Of the sense of Justice of Remorse and of the consciousness of Merit*

*Part IV, Chapter I ¶ 6-11: Of the Beauty which the Appearance of Utility bestows upon all the Productions of Art, and of the extensive Influence of this Species of Beauty*

ADAM SMITH, *AN INQUIRY INTO THE NATURE AND CAUSES OF THE WEALTH OF NATIONS*, (Cannan ed., 1904) (1776).

*Vol. I: Bk. I, Ch. VIII: Of the Wages of Labour ¶ 11-15, 36*

*Vol. II: Bk. V, Ch. I, Part II: Of the Expence of Justice ¶ 17-25*

*Vol. II: Bk. V, Ch. I, Art. I: And, First, of Those Which Are Necessary For Facilitating Commerce In General ¶ 1-14; 19*

*Vol. II: Bk. V, Ch. II, Art I: Taxation Upon the Rent of Houses ¶ 5-6; 16-20*

*Vol. II: Bk. V, Ch. II, Art IV: Taxation Upon Consumable Commodities ¶ 3*

JOHN ADAMS, *Part 5: Core Texts, in A DEFENCE OF THE CONSTITUTIONS OF GOVERNMENT* (1786, 1787).

John Adams, *Discourses on Davila* (1791).

Letter from John Adams to Thomas Jefferson (June 11, 1813)  
(on file with the National Archives).

Letter from John Adams to Thomas Jefferson (Sept. 2, 1813)  
(on file with The University of Chicago Press).

Letter from Thomas Jefferson and John Adams (Oct. 28, 1813)  
(on file with The University of Chicago Press).

<b>9:15 – 9:30 am</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>9:30 – 10:45 am</b>	<b>Session 9: “Liberal” as a Political Adjective (in English)   Klein</b>  <b>Reading Assignment:</b> Daniel B. Klein, “ <i>Liberal</i> ” as a Political Adjective (in English), 1769-1824, 143 J. CONTEXTUAL ECON. 239 (2023).
<b>10:45 – 11:00 am</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>11:00 am – 12:15 pm</b>	<b>Session 10: Adam Smith’s Political Economy as Moral Philosophy   Wolf</b>  <b>Reading Assignments:</b> ADAM SMITH, AN INQUIRY INTO THE NATURE AND CAUSES OF THE WEALTH OF NATIONS, (Cannan ed., 1904) (1776).  <i>Vol I: Introduction and Plan of the Work</i>  <i>Vol I: Book I, Chapter I-III</i>  <i>Vol I:Bk. IV, Ch. II: Of Restraints Upon the Importation from Foreign Countries of Such Goods as can be Produced at Home</i>  <i>Vol. II: Bk. IV, Ch. VII, Pt. III: Of The Advantages Which Europe Has Derived From The Discovery Of America, And From That Of A Passage To The East Indies By The Cape Of Good Hope ¶ 79-88</i>  <i>Vol. II Bk. V, Ch. I, Art. II: Of The Expence Of The Institutions For The Education Of Youth</i>  ADAM SMITH, THE THEORY OF MORAL SENTIMENTS AND ON THE ORIGINS OF LANGUAGES (Stewart ed.) (1759).  <i>Part I, § I, Chapter I: Of Sympathy</i>  <i>Part VII, § I: Of the Questions Which Ought to be Examined in a Theory of Moral Sentiments, ¶ 2</i>
<b>12:15 – 6:15 pm</b>	<b>Afternoon Break</b>
<b>6:15 – 6:30 pm</b>	<b>Bus to Dinner</b>
<b>6:30 – 10:00 pm</b>	<b>Closing Reception and Dinner</b>
 <b>Tuesday, June 30</b>	
<b>7:00 – 8:30 am</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>
<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Program Adjourns</b> Participants depart at their leisure