



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
RESEARCH, INNOVATION & IMPACT

Center for the  
Philosophy of Freedom



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Political Economy  
& Moral Science



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University of San Diego®



# PPEL Summer School

June 5-8, 2023  
San Diego, CA



# Philosophy, Politics, Economics, and Law Undergraduate Summer School

Created, developed, and organized by Mary Rigdon and Saura Masconale, a collaboration with the Center for the Philosophy of Freedom and the Department of Political Economy and Moral Science (PEMS) at the University of Arizona, the University of San Diego's Center for Ethics, Economics, & Public Policy, and Chapman University's Smith Institute for Political Economy & Philosophy. The PPEL Undergraduate Summer School features a curriculum that focuses on the practical problems of organizing and running human society.

## Monday, June 5

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1:30-2:45	Welcome and Introduction to Big Question (BQ) Project
2:45-3:00	Break
3:00-4:15	<b>John Thrasher</b> Norms and Conventions
4:30-5:15	<b>Candace Smith</b> Etiquette
5:30-7:00	Welcome Dinner

## Tuesday, June 6

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9:00-10:15	Plenary Session <b>David Schmitz</b> - Philosophy Lost <b>Vernon Smith</b> - Adam Smith's Theory of Society
10:15-10:45	Coffee Break
10:45-12:00	<b>Suzi Dovi</b> Rethinking the Justice Argument
12:00-1:30	Lunch
1:30-2:45	<b>Justin Bruner</b> Evolution, Cooperation and In-group Bias
2:45-3:00	Break
3:00-4:15	<b>Mary Rigdon</b> Personal Exchange
4:30-5:15	Time for <b>BQ Project</b> Rigdon and Masconale



## Wednesday, June 7

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- 9:00-10:15 **Saura Masconale**  
Corporate Activism and Democracy
- 10:15-10:45 Coffee Break
- 10:45-12:00 **Kingsley Brandle**  
Q&A about graduate school applications and experience
- 12:00-1:30 Lunch
- 1:30-2:45 **Vlad Tarko**  
Capitalism and its Crisis of Legitimacy
- 2:45-3:00 Break
- 3:00-4:15 Time for **BQ Project**  
Bruner, Thrasher and Schmidtz

## Thursday, June 8

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- 9:00-10:15 **Matt Zwolinski**  
Panel Discussion: Universal Basic Income
- 10:15-10:45 Coffee Break
- 10:45-12:00 **Simone Sepe**  
Generalized Freedom of Contract
- 12:00-1:30 Lunch
- 1:30-2:45 **Students**  
BQ Project Presentations
- 2:45-3:00 Break
- 3:00-4:15 **Students**  
BQ Project Presentations



# Meet the Professors



**Justin Bruner** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Economy and Moral Science at the University of Arizona. He was previously an Assistant Professor in the Department of Theoretical Philosophy at the University of Groningen, and before that was a Lecturer in the School of Politics and International Relations at the Australian National University. Bruner writes about social and political philosophy as well as the philosophy of science.



**Suzanne Dovi** is a Professor of the School of Government and Public Policy at the University of Arizona. Her research interests include democratic theory, representation (especially the representation of historically disadvantaged groups), feminist theory and human rights. She is most interested in exploring how democratic citizens should evaluate those who hold and exercise power over vulnerable and marginalized groups. Dovi earned her Ph.D. from Princeton University but she also has a MA from Georgetown University and a M. Litt. from Trinity College, Dublin. Her work has appeared in *American Political Science Review*, *Journal of Politics*, *Political Theory*, *Gender & Politics*, *Contemporary Political Theory*, *Constellations*, and *Polity*. Her book, *The Good Representative*, was published by Blackwell in 2008 and was the subject of a special issue in *PS: Political Science & Politics*. She is currently working on another book project about how representation can have undemocratic and inequalitarian effects. This book is entitled *Toxic Representation*.



**Saura Masconale** is Associate Director at the University of Arizona Center for the Philosophy of Freedom and Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Economy & Moral Science. At the Freedom Center, she is also in charge of the Master of Legal Studies, Law & Economics concentration, which the Center cosponsors with the James E. Rogers College of Law. Saura was also competitively selected for the University of Arizona Academic Leadership Institute in 2021-22.

Her research encompasses the broad domain of “law and political economy,” which studies how the intersection of legal entitlements, politics, and economic forces affect society, both as a positive and normative matter. In particular, her scholarship to date has focused on exploring the implications of this intersection in the public corporation context. Saura’s articles have appeared in the *Northwestern Law Review*, the *Texas Law Review*, the *Washington University Law Review*, the *Journal of Corporate Law*, and *Social Philosophy and Policy*, among other outlets. Her most recent work examines the evolution of the corporation from a mere economic agent to a new political actor and explores the democratic and political implications of this transformation.

Saura holds a doctoral degree in law and economics from LUISS Guido Carli University (Rome) and a J.D. from University of Bologna. Prior to joining the Freedom Center, she taught at the University of Chicago Law School and the University of Notre Dame Law School. Before entering into academia, she practiced law at Clifford Chance LLC, an international law firm headquartered in London.



**Mary L. Rigdon** is the Director of the University of Arizona Center for the Philosophy of Freedom. She joined the organization as Associate Director in 2021. Mary is also an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Economy and Moral Science in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. Mary was competitively selected for the University of Arizona's Academic Leadership Institute in 2022-23.

Mary received her Ph.D. in Economics and Mechanism Design from the University of Arizona in 2001. From 2012-2013, she served as a program director at the National Science Foundation in the Decision, Risk, and Management Sciences program. She is currently an affiliate in the Interdisciplinary Center for Economic Science at George Mason University, an affiliate in the Center for Population-Level Bioethics at Rutgers, and a research associate in the Center for Economic Behavior, Institutions & Design at Rutgers. Before joining the Freedom Center, Mary was a faculty member, serving as the Undergraduate and Graduate Director, in the Center for Cognitive Science at Rutgers University (RuCCS).

Mary's research includes projects funded by the National Science Foundation, the International Foundation for Research in Experimental Economics, and the Institute for Research on Women and Gender at the University of Michigan. Her recent research on gender differences in competitiveness and the gender wage gap has been published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and Evolution and Human Behavior. Her research has also been published in the Economic Journal, Experimental Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Review of Behavioral Economics, and Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B. Mary has been interviewed by the Arizona Daily Star, Australian Broadcasting Network, Rosemary Counter for the Financial Times, KOLD News 13, KVOA News 4, KPNX 12 News, Arizona Public Media, KJZZ, and The Daily Beast



**David Schmitz** is the Presidential Chair in Moral Science at West Virginia University's Chambers College of Business. David founded the University of Arizona's Center for Philosophy of Freedom in 2010 and served as Director until 2023. He remains Editor-in-Chief of the journal Social Philosophy & Policy. While at the University of Arizona, Dave was Kendrick Professor of Philosophy and Eller Chair of Service-Dominant Logic. He designed, ushered through to approval, then served as the founding Head of the Department of Political Economy & Moral Science. He still works on the nature of humanly rational choice in the real world (humanly rational strategies, humanly rational ends, realistically rational altruism) and on the contingent but robust connections between real rationality and real morality. He still thinks about wrong turns in our history that led to, for example, theorists being unable to see the extraordinary things that ordinary people do to deserve their good fortune. And he still ponders the meaning of life. At last count, his work had been reprinted 109 times in 16 languages.



**Simone M. Sepe** is the Chester H. Smith Professor, and Professor of Law and Finance in the James E. Rogers College of Law at the University of Arizona. Sepe's areas of expertise include business organizations, corporate finance, contract theory, law and economics, law and philosophy, and empirical methods. His main scholarship focuses on theoretical and empirical problems related to corporate governance, although he has recently expanded his research interest to contract law, the theory of institutions, and political philosophy. He holds doctoral degrees in both law and economics. Professor Sepe practiced banking and finance law at Clifford Chance, an international law firm based in London, and worked as an investment banker at Fortress Investment Group in London and New York.



**Candace Smith** is an etiquette educator and coach. Smith received a Bachelor of Arts in English, Speech Communication, and History and a Master of Arts in Economics Education. After her husband was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2002 she was immersed in formal social gatherings and travel that sparked her desire to know appropriate social graces that would put her at ease in social situations. She attended etiquette and protocol certification classes, and these kicked off a deep immersion into the study of the importance of etiquette and its practical application to many of the problems of life. Smith started *Etiquette for the Business of Life* in 2012 to engage individuals and groups in hands-on learning to gain practical skills in etiquette and protocol and communication for all aspects of "the business of life."



**Vernon Smith** is the George L. Argyros Endowed Chair in Finance and Economics and Professor of Economics and Law, Chapman University. Smith was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences in 2002 for his groundbreaking work in experimental economics. Smith has authored or co-authored more than 375 articles and books on capital theory, finance, natural resource economics and experimental economics. He serves or has served on the board of editors of the *American Economic Review*, *The Cato Journal*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, the *Journal of Risk and Uncertainty*, *Science*, *Economic Theory*, *Economic Design*, *Games and Economic Behavior*, and the *Journal of Economic Methodology*. He is past president of the Public Choice Society, the Economic Science Association, the Western Economic Association and the Association for Private Enterprise Education. Previous faculty appointments include the University of Arizona, Purdue University, Brown University, the University of Massachusetts, and George Mason University, where he was a Professor of Economics and Law prior to joining the faculty at Chapman University. Dr. Smith has been a Ford Foundation Fellow, Fellow of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences and a Sherman Fairchild Distinguished Scholar at the California Institute of Technology.



**Vlad Tarko** is Associate Professor & Department Head of the Department of Political Economy & Moral Science at the University of Arizona. Tarko's main research interests are public choice, institutional economics, and varieties of capitalism. His papers, books and conference presentations currently fall mainly in two larger research projects: (1) The political economy and institutional theory of polycentric governance. (2) The performance of alternative capitalist systems and the problem of economic disequilibrium. In the first category, Tarko is the co-author of one of the most widely cited papers on the history and definition of "polycentricity", and he has several other papers that apply the concept to specific topics: democracy as co-production of rules, the institutions of the scientific community, ecological resilience, the resilience of the banking sector, the stability of the financial system, and federalism under highly imperfect Tiebout competition. In the second category, Tarko has authored and co-authored several papers and a book on applying the rent-seeking model to understand different types of capitalism, methodology papers on how to use statistical methods to build taxonomies of economic systems and evaluate the consequences of constitutions, and theory papers on entrepreneurship, economic disequilibrium, the capacity for collective learning under alternative institutions, and the role of ideas in driving institutional changes.



**John Thrasher** is an Associate Professor in the Philosophy Department as well as the Smith Institute for Political Economy and Philosophy at Chapman University in Orange County, California. He is also an Adjunct Senior Research Fellow at Monash University. From 2014-2018, Thrasher was a Lecturer (Assistant Professor with tenure) in Philosophy at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. He is also the Director of the Law & Liberal Arts Minor at Chapman University. Thrasher specializes in political philosophy, normative ethics, and decision/game theory and its applications to ethics and political philosophy. His research focuses on the relation of individual practical rationality to social rules as well as the way those rules are organized into systems of norms and institutions. He is especially interested in how recent work in moral psychology and experimental economics can inform our understanding of how to improve our institutions of self-governance.



**Matt Zwolinski** is a Professor of Philosophy at the University of San Diego, founder and director of USD's Center for Ethics, Economics, and Public Policy, and director of USD's undergraduate program in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. He writes about the basic income guarantee, exploitation, and the history of libertarian ideas. Zwolinski's research interests are generally in the intersection of ethics, law, and economics, with two specific areas of focus. The first involves the proper understanding and normative status of liberty and political libertarianism. Lately, he has been especially interested in libertarian approaches to defending a Basic Income Guarantee. The second area of interest has to do with the nature and moral significance of exploitation for individual ethics and political institutions.