

Call for Papers 2016

The Association of Private Enterprise Education Conference Las Vegas, Nevada April 3-5, 2016

Capitalism: Free-Market or Crony?

The Association of Private Enterprise Education (APEE) invites the submission of papers for its 41st International Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, April 3-5, 2016. The Association is composed of scholars from economics, philosophy, political science, and other disciplines, as well as policy analysts, business executives, and other educators. APEE's annual meeting explores topics related to private enterprise in an atmosphere that respects market approaches. Presentations reflect the latest research in fields such as regulation, public choice, microeconomics, and Austrian economics, as well as development of instructional techniques. The submission fee for the association's journal, *The Journal of Private Enterprise*, is waived for papers presented at the conference.

APEE invites papers on any topic; some sessions, however, will be devoted to this year's theme: *Capitalism: Free-Market or Crony?* In *The Wealth of Nations*, Adam Smith described the economy of his day as the "mercantile" system. It consisted of government privileges for favored sectors, and onerous burdens on others. One famous example was the bounties for the fishing industry, ostensibly to encourage fishing for the benefit of citizens. Instead the bounty was paid for the tonnage of the ships and not their catches. In Smith's words, "it has, I am afraid, been too common for vessels to fit out for the sole purpose of catching, not the fish, but the bounty." He contrasted the mercantile system with that of "the obvious and simple system of natural liberty," which was one of free competition. In that system, institutions and the rule of law incentivize producers to serve consumer interests.

In the 20th century, Ludwig von Mises updated the Smithian analysis to deal with the modern version of the mercantile system, which he called interventionism. Mises identified corruption as "the regular effect of interventionism." In today's vernacular, and especially since the early 21st century financial crisis, the system has been dubbed crony capitalism. Crony capitalism is frequently linked to corruption. Free-market capitalism may be an ideal, but crony capitalism is all too real around the globe.

The sessions and papers on this theme might address regulation and regulatory capture, taxation, labor markets, the financial system, and monetary policy. The theme is at the intersection of economics, politics, history, ethics and the law. Accordingly, the theme invites the interdisciplinary approach characterizing APEE conferences. Additionally, papers on any topic in the broad area of private enterprise are welcomed.

The deadline for paper submissions is December 1, 2015.

Those wishing to submit papers should submit the entire paper or a 600-word abstract.

Papers and Abstracts should be submitted online at: <http://www.apee.org/conference>

Participants who experience difficulty with the online submission process may contact probasco@utc.edu or (423) 425-4118 for assistance.

If you have questions about paper topics or session panels, please contact Gerald P. O'Driscoll Jr. at gpo@ix.netcom.com. To learn more about APEE, please contact: J. R. Clark, APEE Secretary/Treasurer, at probasco@utc.edu or visit APEE's website at <http://www.apee.org>.