

The Association of Private Enterprise Education® Conference
Las Vegas, Nevada
April 1-4, 2018

Constitutions of Liberty: How to Bring Leviathan to Heel?

The Association of Private Enterprise Education® (APEE) invites the submission of papers for its 43rd International Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, April 1-4, 2018. 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: *Constitutions of Liberty: How to Bring Leviathan to Heel?* Nearly sixty years ago, Friedrich Hayek conceived of a *Constitution of Liberty* as "a limitation of the means available to a temporary majority . . . by general principles laid down by another majority for a long period in advance." But as Hayek was surely aware, the latter majority is never present to enforce the former's adherence to such principles. As Douglass North and Barry Weingast have observed, "constitutional restrictions must be self-enforcing, they must serve to establish a credible commitment by the state to abide by them."

Under what conditions will liberty-preserving limitations on state agents be self-enforcing? When will a constitution bring Leviathan to heel? This question is important and relevant not only in regards to authoritarian states. Liberal democracies are often subject to "constitutional drift" whereby particular state agents encroach upon both individual liberties and the authority of other state agents. In the latter case, the system of checks and balances is placed in threat. In the U.S., for example, instances of constitutional drift include the executive's usurpation of authority to initiate war, the use of eminent domain to expropriate property for private use, and the increased use of executive orders as substitutes for (or the means to void) legislation.

Sessions and papers on this theme may address theory and evidence of constitutional self-enforcement, historical roots of robust constitutions, constitutional design, and constitutional political economy, philosophy, and law generally. 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, 2017.

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 Andrew T. Young at a.t.young@ttu.edu. 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>.