



49th Meeting

April 6-8, 2025

Westin Camino Real

Guatemala City, Guatemala

CALL FOR PAPERS AND SESSION PROPOSALS

The Association of Private Enterprise Education[®] (APEE) invites paper submissions and session proposals for its 49th Meeting, which will take place at the Westin Camino Real in Guatemala City, Guatemala on April 6-8, 2025 (Sunday through Tuesday).

The Association is composed of scholars pursuing research in economics and other academic disciplines, as well as policy analysts and professional educators. The APEE Meeting explores topics related to the private enterprise system with research presentations and panel discussions focused on fields including, but not limited to, applied microeconomics, Austrian economics, public choice, new institutional economics, and political economy, as well as economic education and instructional techniques. The submission fee for the Association's journal, *The Journal of Private Enterprise*, is waived for all members and for papers presented at the meeting.

APEE welcomes paper submissions and session proposals related to the theme of the 49th Meeting:

THE ECONOMIC HISTORY OF STATE AND MARKET INSTITUTIONS

“Once upon a time,” Deirdre McCloskey and Alberto Mingardi have reminded us, “in the list of supposed triumphs of active government, the United States built transcontinental railroads, the Grand Coulee Dam, interstate highways, and the space program.” Italian author Maria Mazzacuto celebrates *The Entrepreneurial State*. How well has public enterprise worked in practice, by comparison to private enterprise? Ronald Coase showed that a textbook example of “something which has to be provided by government rather than by private enterprise,” the lighthouse, had in fact been effectively provided privately, financed through user fees. Coase also studied public versus private radio. Other economists have empirically debunked similar examples of goods thought to be inherently public, including pollination services, television, and coinage. Many economists take it for granted that private market provision is inefficient for what are deemed ‘public goods.’ But public provision has its own inefficiencies. For goods thought to have public characteristics, how does public provision compare in practice to private provision? Toll roads are provided by private enterprise in some places, but only by government in others. Likewise harbors and airports, water and electricity, banking and pensions. Empirical evidence has something to tell us about the comparative benefits and costs of state and market institutions for delivering these goods. At the economy-wide level, how do economies with a greater measure of economic freedom perform by comparison with economies with a smaller measure? Developing countries especially need to know which path leads to greater prosperity, private or public enterprise. The 49th meeting of *The Association of Private Enterprise Education* gives us an opportunity to weigh private enterprise against public enterprise in the light of contemporary empirical evidence and economic history.

Paper submissions and session proposals on this theme can address:

- The contrast between public and private entrepreneurship.
- Case studies of the private provision of goods often thought to be public in nature.
- Public versus private infrastructure in water, electricity, roads, or other networks.
- Analysis of regulatory reforms that have enlarged or reduced the economic role of the state.
- Comparative performance of market-dominated and state-dominated economies, especially in the developing world.
- Ostromian analysis of how common-property resources have been managed well or poorly.
- Experimental studies on market incentives versus command mechanisms.
- How economic educators can best teach the contrast between state and market mechanisms.
- How our modern economic institutions arose.

Authors of paper proposals addressing the conference theme will be invited to submit their manuscripts for consideration of publication in a special issue or symposium of *The Journal of Private Enterprise* following the meeting. APEE also welcomes papers on any topic in the broad area of private enterprise.

Individuals wishing to submit a paper(s) or session proposal(s) should submit directly through the APEE Meeting Savvy submission portal at <https://www.apee.org/>. Questions about the program theme may be directed to APEE Vice President and 49th Meeting Program Chair, **Lawrence H. White (George Mason University)**, at apee2025@gmail.com. Questions about the submission process may be directed to the APEE Office of the Secretary/Treasurer at apee@ttu.edu or (806) 742-7138.

The deadline for abstract submissions and session proposals is Sunday, December 1, 2024.

To learn more about APEE, please visit <https://www.apee.org/>.