



The Honors College

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Liberal Education and Citizenship in a Free Society
Philosophically Informed Approaches to Teaching Ethics and Leadership

February 23-25, 2023

Conference Program

The conference is sponsored by a generous grant from the Elizabeth D. Rockwell Center on Ethics and Leadership at the Hobby School of Public Affairs.



Elizabeth D. Rockwell
Center on Ethics and Leadership

Hobby School of Public Affairs

The conference will be accessible virtually on Zoom.

Join the conference here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82397133159?pwd=OHZuZ0lCT0g1cWU0VctMZ3Zua2VlQT09>

Zoom Meeting

ID: 823 9713 3159

Passcode: 754106



Thursday, February 23

Liberal Education and Civic Responsibility

9-9:30 a.m.	Honors College Welcome / Conference Introductions	Honors Commons
	Interim Dean Stuart Long and Associate Dean Jonathan Williamson	
9:30-10:30 a.m.	Panel Session 1	
	<i>Title:</i> The Value and Virtues of Liberal Education <i>Chair:</i> Jesse Rainbow (University of Houston)	
	<i>Presenters:</i> William DeMars "J. R. R. Tolkien and Liberal Education" Sarah Beth Kitch "From Impatience to Compassion: Educating from Restlessness to Responsibility" Anna Marisa Schoen "Christine de Pizan and Teaching Resilience" Constantine Vassiliou "The Garden of Citizenship: Liberal Arts as the Cultivation of Just Sentiments"	
10:30-11:50 a.m.	Panel Session 2	
	<i>Title:</i> Liberal Education in the Academy and Beyond <i>Chair:</i> Justin Dyer (Civitas Institute, University of Texas, Austin)	
	<i>Presenters:</i> Jeremy Fortier "How Pragmatic Should Liberal Education Be?" Dustin Gish "Educating to Freedom: Cicero, Petrarch, and the Origin of the Humanities" Greg McBrayer "The Problem of Civic and Liberal Education and the Current Situation" Tulin Tosun "Inspire and Engage Them All: STEM Students Reading the Classics"	
12-1 p.m.	Lunch	



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Thursday, February 23
Liberal Education and Civic Responsibility

1-2:20 p.m.

Panel Session 3

Title: Liberal Education in Constitutional and Professional Studies

Chair: James Ceaser (University of Virginia)

Presenters:

Jeremy Bailey “The Advantages and Disadvantages of Constitutional Studies for Great Books”
Justin Dyer “Liberal Education and Civic Education”
Steven Frankel “The Role of Liberal Education in Professional Studies”
George Thomas “Constitutional Law as Civic Education”

2:30-3:50 p.m.

Roundtable Discussion on Liberal Education and Business

Focus: Studying Transformative Texts to Prepare Future Leaders in Civics and Commerce

Chair: Dustin Gish (University of Houston)

Discussants:

Emily Browning Director of Transport and Storage, Chenière Energy
John Haynes Senior VP and Chief Commercial Officer, Boardwalk Pipelines
Donald Drakeman Distinguished Research Professor, University of Notre Dame
Christopher Olson Director, Mayor’s Office of Trade and International Affairs, City of Houston

4:30-5:30 p.m.

Keynote Address

“The Beautiful, The Professional, and The Political”

Dr. James Ceaser – Harry F. Byrd Professor of Politics at the University of Virginia

6-8 p.m.

Conference Dinner — Bistro Menil

Friday, February 24

Liberal Education and Professional Ethics

9:30-10:30 a.m.

Panel Session 4

Title: Liberal Education and Challenges related to Modern Technology

Chair: Alin Fumurescu (University of Houston)

Presenters:

George Harne “What has Athens to do with Silicon Valley? Liberal Education and Technology in Modernity”

Steven Pittz “Skepticism and Detachment as virtues of the Educated Liberal”

Ann Ward “Nature, Technology, and Education: Heidegger’s Concept of Enframing”

10:30-11:50 a.m.

Panel Session 5

Title: Liberal Education and University STEM Programs

Chair: Len Trombetta (University of Houston)

Presenters:

Paul Diduch “Liberal Education for Engineering Students: Problems and Pathways to Success”

Dustin Schroeder “Engaging STEM Students, Faculty, and Content: Citizenship in the 21st Century”

Rachel Frankel “Mathematics in the Realm of the Liberal Arts”

Marsha Kowal / “Educating Honors Engineers”

Alexandra Landon

12-1 p.m.

Lunch

1-2 p.m.

Grand Challenges Forum Lecture

CEMO Hall

“The Kids are not All Right, but They Could Be: Gen Z and the Professions”

Dr. Melinda Zook – Director, Cornerstone Integrated Liberal Arts Program, and

Germaine Seelye Oesterle Professor of History, Purdue University



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Friday, February 24

Liberal Education and Professional Ethics

2-3 p.m.

Roundtable Discussion of Liberal Education and Innovation

Focus: From Breakthrough to Blockbuster: The Business of Biotechnology

Chair: Constantine Vassiliou (University of Houston)

Discussants:

Donald Drakeman Distinguished Research Professor, University of Notre Dame
Kishore Gawande Chair and Professor, McCombs Business School, University of Texas
Matheus Nechar Mergers & Acquisition, Growth and Corporate Strategy, Paylocity
Antonio Sosa Associate Director, Civitas Institute, University of Texas, Austin

3-4 p.m.

Roundtable Discussion of Liberal Education and Professions

Focus: Liberal Education as Foundation and Touchstone for Professional Careers

Chair: Terry Hallmark (University of Houston)

Discussants:

David Cooper Managing Director of Security, Accenture
Lindsey Horne Director, Advisory Board, Omni Flow Computers
John L. King Americas Vice Chair – Assurance, Ernst & Young Global Limited
Alison Leland Director, Honors 3+3 Law Program, University of Houston

6-8 p.m.

Conference Banquet and Keynote Address

“The Restless Soul and the Liberal Arts”

Dr. Benjamin Storey – Senior Fellow, Social, Cultural, and Constitutional Studies
Division, at the American Enterprise Institute, and Research
Professor at Furman University

Saturday, February 25

Liberal Education and Academic Freedom

9:30-10:30 a.m. **Panel Session 6**

Title: Liberal Arts Education, Then and Now

Chair: Jeffrey Church (University of Houston)

Presenters:

Carli Conklin “Law and the Liberal Arts: William Blackstone’s Philosophy of Law”

Daniela Garofalo “Humanities and the Sublime: Celebrating the Useless”

William Selinger “Richard McKeon on the Past and Future of the Liberal Arts”

10:30-11:50 a.m. **Panel Session 7**

Title: Liberal Education and Freedom of Speech

Chair: Dr. Jeremy Bailey (University of Oklahoma)

Presenters:

David Anderson “What is Free Speech For? John Milton’s *Areopagitica*”

Rodolfo Hernandez “The Education of the Girard College Orphans”

Lee Ward “Academic Freedom and the Public Good: Past and Future”

12-1 p.m. **Lunch**

1-2 p.m. **Keynote Address**

“Current Challenges to Academic Freedom”

Dr. Keith Whittington – William N. Cromwell Professor of Politics, Princeton University,
and Chair of the Academic Committee of the Academic
Freedom Alliance

2-3 p.m. **Roundtable Discussion of Academic Freedom on Campus**

Title: Is Academic Freedom in Peril on College and University Campuses Today?

Chair: Keith Whittington (Princeton University)

Presenters:

Jeremy Bailey Sanders Chair in Law & Liberty / Director of IACH, University of Oklahoma

Jonathan Marks Chair and Professor of Politics, Ursinus College

David Rainbow Instructional Associate Professor, Honors College, University of Houston

3-4 p.m. **Concluding Reflections and Conversation**



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Conference Partners

The Honors College, University of Houston

The Elizabeth D. Rockwell Center on Ethics and Leadership
at the Hobby School of Public Affairs, University of Houston

Political Science Department, University of Houston

The Tocqueville Forum, University of Houston

The Henry Salvatori Center, Claremont McKenna College

Civitas Institute, University of Texas at Austin

Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, University of Missouri

Cornerstone Integrated Liberal Arts, Purdue University

Institute for the American Constitutional Heritage, University of Oklahoma

Jack Miller Center for Teaching America's Founding Principles and History



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Tocqueville Forum on American
Ideas and Institutions

University of Houston - Political Science



The University of Texas at Austin
Civitas Institute



Conference Institutions

Ashland University
Baylor University
Claremont McKenna College
Duke University
Furman University
Princeton University
Purdue University
Stanford University
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado – Boulder
University of Houston
University of Missouri
University of Notre Dame
University of Oklahoma
University of Saint Thomas – Houston
University of Texas – Austin
University of Virginia
Ursinus College
Wofford College
Xavier University

Conference Participants

Keynote Speakers

James Ceaser
Benjamin Storey
Keith Whittington
Melinda Zook

University of Virginia
American Enterprise Institute and Furman University
Princeton University
Director, Cornerstone Program, Purdue University

Partner Institutions

Jeff Church
Alin Fumurescu
Dustin Gish
Terry Hallmark
Rita Koganzon
Marsha Kowal
Alexandra Landon
Alison Leland
David Rainbow
Jesse Rainbow
Len Trombetta
Constantine Vassiliou

Political Science, University of Houston
Political Science, University of Houston
Honors College, University of Houston
Honors College, University of Houston
Political Science, University of Houston
Engineering, University of Houston
Engineering, University of Houston
Honors College, University of Houston
Honors College, University of Houston
Honors College, University of Houston
Engineering, University of Houston
Honors College, University of Houston

George Thomas
Jeremy Fortier

George Thomas
Jeremy Fortier

Justin Dyer
Kishore Gawande
Sarah Beth Kitch
Antonio Sosa

Director, Civitas Institute, University of Texas, Austin
Business, University of Texas, Austin
Associate Director, Civitas Institute, University of Texas, Austin
Associate Director, Civitas Institute, University of Texas, Austin

Jeremy Bailey
David Anderson
Daniela Garofalo
William Selinger
Scott Johnson

IACH, University of Oklahoma
Letters, University of Oklahoma
Letters, University of Oklahoma
IACH, University of Oklahoma
Classics, University of Oklahoma

Carli Conklin
Rodolfo Hernandez

Associate Director, Kinder Institute, University of Missouri
Kinder Institute, University of Missouri

Melinda Zook
Tulin Tosun

Director, Cornerstone Program, Purdue University
Cornerstone Program, Purdue University

Conference Participants

Panelists

William DeMars	Government Department, Wofford College
Paul Diduch	Herbst Humanities Program, University of Colorado, Boulder
Donald Drakeman	Distinguished Research Professor, University of Notre Dame
Steven Frankel	Philosophy, Xavier University
Rachel Frankel	Mathematics, University of Cincinnati
George Harne	Executive Dean, St. Thomas University, Houston
Jonathan Marks	Politics and International Relations, Ursinus College
Greg McBrayer	Director, Core Curriculum, Ashland University
Dustin Schroeder	Geophysics, School of Sustainability, Stanford University
Anna Marisa Schoen	Postdoctoral Fellow, Political Science, Duke University
Ann Ward	Political Science Department, Baylor University
Lee Ward	Political Science Department, Baylor University
Emily Browning	Director of Transport and Storage, Chenière Energy
David Cooper	Managing Director of Security, Accenture
John Haynes	Senior VP and Chief Commercial Officer, Boardwalk Pipelines
Lindsey Horne	Director, Advisory Board, Omni Flow Computers
John King	Americas Vice Chair – Assurance, Ernst & Young Global Ltd.
Matheus Nechar	Mergers/Acquisition, Growth & Corporate Strategy, Paylocity
Christopher Olson	Director, Mayor's Office of Trade & International Affairs, Houston



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