

ASH NAVABI

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EDUCATION

BA, International Economics and Finance, Ryerson University, 2015
Thesis: “Towards an Evenly Rotating Economy: A Dynamic Austrian Equilibrium Framework.”

EXPERIENCE

Sessional Lecturer, *University of Guelph*. Guelph, ON. 2020—Present.

Designed and teach a double-credit, one-semester introductory course on environmental economics, law, and policy for environmental science majors. Incorporating original in-class experiments and demonstrations. Oversee a team of 3 teaching assistants, coordinating labs and assessments.

Senior Economist, *Housing Matters*. Toronto, ON. 2018—Present.

Completed 60-page report on the economics of housing policy in Toronto; published op-eds with CBC & Financial Post; numerous blog posts; guest on multiple podcasts and AM radio; authored a conspectus; authored a business plan; building Board of Directors.

Independent economics consultant. Toronto, ON. 2017—Present.

Wrote blockchain policy reports for the Blockchain Technology Coalition of Canada; conducted market research studies for retail and financial services startups; wrote an ebook on behavioural economics.

Graduate Student, *George Mason University*. Fairfax, VA. 2015—2017.

Completed MA- and PhD-level coursework in economics, including micro, macro, econometrics, game theory, and mechanism design. Presented original research on the economics of intellectual property policy, population density, business cycle theory, and more at academic conferences in the US and Canada.

Editor and blogger, *Ludwig von Mises Institute of Canada*. 2011—2015.

Responsible for finding, soliciting, and editing daily economic articles; promoted monthly meetups; blogged about contemporary economic issues; presented at Meetups, podcasts, and international TV on intellectual property, 3D printing, economic methodology.

PUBLICATIONS

Navabi, Ash. “[The Economics and Politics of Zoning](#).” November 4, 2019. *Mises Wire*.

Navabi, Ash. “[Rethinking the Yellowbelt: A Proposal to Increase Toronto’s Housing Availability and Affordability](#).” 2019. *Housing Matters*.

Navabi, Ash. “[Toronto city councillors want to make housing even less affordable. Ontario’s stopping them](#).” June 12, 2019. *Financial Post*.

Navabi, Ash. “[Why low-income earners should actually welcome Ontario's reversal on rent control](#).” October 2018. *CBC Opinion*.

PRESENTATIONS AT ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

The International Conference on Prices and Markets, Toronto, Ontario.
November 2018.
“Optimal Tyranny.”

87th Annual Meetings of the Southern Economics Association, Tampa, Florida.
November 2017.
Organized panel: “Intellectual Property: Economic, Historic, and Legal Perspectives.”
“What Intellectual Property Is.”
“Markets Without Intellectual Property.”

The International Conference on Prices and Markets, Toronto, Ontario.
November 2017.
“A Monopsony is Necessarily a Monopoly.”

Western Economic Association International Conference, San Diego, California.
June 2017.
“An ‘Existence Proof’ of Public Goods.”

IHS Publishing Workshop, New Orleans, Louisiana.
March 2017.
“A Monopsony is Necessarily a Monopoly.”

Public Choice Society Meetings, New Orleans, Louisiana.
March 2017.
“Optimal Tyranny.”

The International Conference on Prices and Markets, Toronto, Ontario.
November 2016.
“Designing a Market for Secrets.”

IHS Graduate Student Publishing Workshop, Towson, Maryland.
May 2016.
“Towards an Austrian Theory of the Great Recession.” (With Garrett Malcolm Peterson)
“Designing a Market for Secrets.”

Annual Meetings of the Association of Private Enterprise Education, Las Vegas, Nevada.
April 2016.
“Towards an Austrian Theory of the Great Recession.” (With Garrett Malcolm Peterson)
“Designing a Market for Secrets.”
“Free Trade in Things, But Not Ideas: The Rise of Intellectual Property Protectionism in Free Trade Agreements.” (With Nathan Goodman)

GUEST LECTURES TO STUDENTS & OTHER INVITED LECTURES

Paper Launch. *Housing Matters*. Toronto, Ontario.
September 2019.
“Rethinking the Yellowbelt: A proposal to increase Toronto’s housing availability and affordability.”

Special Presentation on Land-Use Planning in Toronto. *University of Liverpool*. Toronto, Ontario.
April 2019.
“The Economics of Land-Use Planning.”

Governance Futurism. *RadicalxChange* and *Palladium Magazine*. Toronto, Ontario.
July, 2019.

“The Future of Toronto Housing.”

Interact Club. *White Oaks Secondary School*. Oakville, Ontario.
March 2019.

“An Introduction to Economics.”

Rothbard University. *Ludwig von Mises Institute of Canada*. Toronto, Ontario.
August 2017.

“Austrian Economics vs. Mainstream Economics.”

Introduction to Austrian Economics. *George Mason University*. Fairfax, Virginia.
April 2017.

“The Economics of Intellectual Property”

SEMINARS INVITED AS A DISCUSSANT

Freedom North. *Institute for Liberal Studies*. October 2019.
Ottawa, Ontario.

Elinor and Vincent Ostrom on Choice, Rules, and Collective Action. *Institute for Liberal Studies*. March 2018.
Ottawa, Ontario.

Rothbard Graduate Seminar. *Ludwig von Mises Institute*. June 2017.
Auburn, Alabama.

John Stuart Mill’s “On Liberty.” *Liberty Fund/Students for Liberty*. April 2017.
Toronto, Ontario.

Civil Society, Mutual Aid, and the Welfare State. *Institute for Liberal Studies*. January 2017.
Ottawa, Ontario.

Higher Education and Liberty. *Institute for Humane Studies*. September 2016.
Arlington, Virginia.

Origins, Tensions, & Impacts of Classical and Modern Liberalism, *Institute of Humane Studies*. July 2016.
Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

Rothbard Graduate Seminar. *Ludwig von Mises Institute*. June 2016.
Auburn, Alabama.

Liberty and Paternalism. *Institute for Liberal Studies*. March 2016.
Ottawa, Ontario.

Liberty & Scholarship: Critiques and Challenges. *Institute for Humane Studies*.
June 2015.
Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

Economics from Smith to Friedman. *Institute for Humane Studies/Liberty Fund*.
November 2014.

Arlington, Virginia.

Property Rights & Freedom. *Institute for Humane Studies*.
June 2014.

Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Revolutionaries, Reformers, and Radicals: Liberty Emerges. *Institute for Humane Studies*.
June 2013.

Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

The Five Problems of Public Choice. *Institute for Liberal Studies*.
October 2012.

Montreal, Quebec.

The Challenges and Future of Liberty. *Institute for Humane Studies*.
June 2013.

Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

Advanced Austrian Economics. *Institute for Liberal Studies*.
November 2011.

Montreal, Quebec.

Mises University. *Ludwig von Mises Institute*.
July 2010.

Auburn, Alabama.

WORKING PAPERS (FULL PAPERS AT TINYURL.COM/ASHONSSRN)

Designing a Market for Secrets

I present a market design mechanism for trade secrets. In a world without IP, where ideas can be freely disseminated and utilized, both firms and inventors have reasons to worry when it comes to transacting with each other. Both firms and inventors have reason to distrust each other: firms have to be sure they're the only ones that the Inventor has sold the idea to, and that the idea they've bought is a good one; while inventors have to make sure that they will be paid for supplying a profitable idea.

An 'Existence Proof' of Public Goods

It is often asserted that public goods either do not 'exist', or that goods exist on some kind of vague spectrum between "pure public" and "purely private" goods. This is because of a conceptual muddling between public goods and private goods. I present a new conceptual framework for distinguishing between public goods and private goods, preserving the original definitions but clarifying why a public good is fundamentally different than a private good. Namely, I introduce the concept of a mass function, and import the Law of Conservation of Mass from physics, to demonstrate that a public good must have zero mass. In other words, public goods are immaterial. Thus, not only do pure public goods 'exist' (in the sense that they are a distinct concept with a real-world analog), but are fairly easy to identify. I then discuss why, under this new understanding, the standard treatments of public goods are misguided--specifically, how public goods can be and often are provided without government intervention.

A Monopsony is Necessarily a Monopoly

I provide a simple proof that a monopsony must necessarily be a monopoly. This is in contrast to authors who have previously asserted that either no relation exists between monopsony and monopoly, or who have relied upon additional assumptions to make an inference about the monopolistic nature of a monopsony.

Optimal Tyranny

I propose a model where, all else equal, a tyrannical regime is limited by the population density of the area under tyrannical rule. Both when the population density is near zero and when it is very large, the costs of enforcing tyranny approach infinity--thereby tyranny is effectively zero. At low densities, it is easier for the disaffected populace to ignore or evade the tyrant. At high population densities, the disaffected can form a mutinous coalition and overthrow the tyrant. The optimal level tyranny, therefore, is maximized somewhere between very low and very high population densities. I test this theory using population density data on OECD countries and the Economic Freedom of the World index.

Fighting Amongst Strangers

I examine the problem of whether to fight at full strength against a person you don't know much about. I model this behaviour using a game, and extend its analysis to real life conflict. This paper is motivated by frustrating experiences of trying to understand the motivations of the characters of a children's TV show about intergalactic space warriors.