



Freedom Week 2015



This year marked our second Freedom Week, and we couldn't be happier with the results. For five days 46 students from across Canada and around the world gathered at McGill University. Participants came from 28 universities in 8 provinces and 4 countries. Seeing the impact of Freedom Week on those who attended confirmed my opinion that a week-long seminar can provide students with a life-changing experience.

For our seminar faculty, we invited a multi-disciplinary group of professors from universities in Canada and the U.S. (described in more detail later in this report). We feel that our strong faculty line-up was a significant reason that so many university professors and administrators were willing to recommend our seminar to their students.

The number (over 200!) and variety of applications we received allowed us to be very selective in the students we accepted. It also meant that some students arrived with a high-level of prior knowledge, while others were completely new to the ideas of classical liberalism. This mix of students - roughly half of the group did not identify as either classical liberals or libertarians on their application - means that we were not simply "singing to the choir".

We had a number of graduate students apply to this year's seminar, from both the Master's and Ph.D. level. Despite some initial concerns about the wide disparity of knowledge and experience among participants, we do not believe this diminished the experience for any of the students. (One participant, having just completed his first year of studies, told me he was learning as much from the graduate student he was rooming with as from the speakers!)

We also feel that the move to Montreal was beneficial for the overall seminar experience. Many students used the afternoon breaks and half-day off to explore local attractions, enhancing the friendship and networking aspects of this event. (Any concerns we had about the distractions of Montreal were unfounded, as students took my request to be on time for all sessions, including the morning ones, to heart.)

We also devoted time to improving our impact measurements for this year's seminar. As you will read in the following pages, we have substantial data to support our belief that Freedom Week had a real impact on those who attended. If hope you'll find the information, both quantitative and qualitative, contained in this report as encouraging as I do. If you have any questions or comments, I'd love to hear from you.

Matt Bufton

Executive Director

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“My Freedom Week experience was very illuminating. It made me realize how thought-provoking classical liberalism is and allowed me to consider areas of politics, philosophy, and economics that I had not given much thought to.”

- Mobolanle Oduntan,
University of Saskatchewan

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“After attending similar events across North America over the past few years I believe that Freedom Week was particularly effective at delivering a thorough overview of classical liberalism that is valuable to both introductory and advanced students.”

- Liz Jaluague,

Simon Fraser University

Freedom Week by the Numbers

	2014	2015	Change
Applied	58	218	+376%
Accepted	28	46	+64%

Participants who had not previously
attended a free-market event:

52%

Participants who did not self-identify as
classical liberals or libertarians prior to
Freedom Week:

57%

Measuring Our Impact on Students



I had fun at Freedom Week.

4.8

I am more interested in classical liberal ideas after attending Freedom Week.

4.4

Freedom Week changed the way I see the world.

4.6

What I learned at Freedom Week will impact my research interests.

4.1

I am interested in other opportunities related to the ideas and themes discussed at Freedom Week.

4.7

“Between the variety of topics covered during the lectures and the contributions of the attendees I consistently find ILS seminars to be both more stimulating and more informative than any class I’ve taken at my university. I would recommend Freedom Week to anyone with an interest in political issues.”

- Omar Benmegdoul,
University of Ottawa



Can Sharia law coexist
with

Freedom Week Faculty



Steven Horwitz is Charles A. Dana Professor of Economics and department chair at St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY, an Affiliated Senior Scholar at the Mercatus Center and a Senior Fellow of the Fraser Institute. He completed his MA and PhD in economics at George Mason University and his A.B. in economics and philosophy from The University of Michigan. He has written extensively on Austrian economics, Hayekian political economy, monetary theory and history, and macroeconomics. Horwitz is also a frequent guest on TV and radio programs, and has a series of popular YouTube videos for the Learn Liberty series from the Institute for Humane Studies. He blogs at Coordination Problem and Bleeding Heart Libertarians current research is on the economics and social theory of the family, and he has a forthcoming book on the Hayek, the family, and classical liberalism.



Peter Jaworski is Assistant Teaching Professor in the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. He is a Senior Fellow with the Canadian Constitution Foundation, and a Director of the Institute for Liberal Studies. He has a PhD in Philosophy from Bowling Green State University, Masters degrees from the University of Waterloo and London School of Economics, and his BA from Queen's University. Peter's academic work has been published or is forthcoming in several journals including *Ethics*, the *Canadian Journal of Law and Jurisprudence*, the *Journal of Business Ethics*, and *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*. He, along with his colleague Jason Brennan, are co-authors of the upcoming book "Markets without Limits: Commercial Interests and Moral Virtues."



Jacob Levy is Professor of Political Science and the Tomlinson Professor of Political Theory at McGill University. He received his Ph.D. in Political Science from Princeton University and also holds an LL.M. from the University of Chicago law school. Professor Levy's research interests include multiculturalism, nationalism, liberalism, pluralism, theories of justice, non-ideal theory, medieval and early modern thought, especially the French, Scottish, and American Enlightenments and the history of constitutionalist and liberal thought, rights of indigenous peoples, federalism, choice of law and conflicts of laws, freedom of association, religious freedom, contract, analytic jurisprudence, and legal pluralism. He is the author of "The Multiculturalism of Fear" and "Rationalism, Pluralism, and Freedom" – both from Oxford University Press.

Freedom Week Faculty



Michael Munger holds professorships in Economics, Political Science, and Public Policy at Duke University and is currently director of the interdisciplinary PPE Program. He earned his Ph.D. in Economics at Washington University in St. Louis in 1984. Following his graduate training, he worked as a staff economist at the Federal Trade Commission. He has won three University-wide teaching awards – including an NAACP “Image” Award for teaching about race. His research interests include the study of the morality of exchange and the working of legislative institutions in producing policy. His primary blog, Kids Prefer Cheese, is an irreverent look at policy, politics, and the foibles of pundits everywhere. Michael is a frequent guest on the popular podcast EconTalk and appears in Fear the Boom and the Bust and Fight of the Century – both of which have millions of views on YouTube.



Diana Thomas is an Associate Professor of Economics at the Heider College of Business at Creighton University, where she teaches public choice and microeconomics. She received her Ph.D. in economics from George Mason University in 2009. Her work includes applying public economics and historical research to the regulation of beer markets in late medieval Europe, exploring the unintended consequences of regulation, and the role political entrepreneurs play in changing the rules that govern society. She has published in a number of academic outlets including Public Choice, Kyklos, the Southern Economic Journal, and the Journal of Banking and Finance. Prior to beginning the Ph.D. program at GMU in 2005, Diana worked as a junior portfolio manager at Allianz Global Investors in Frankfurt, Germany. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking, bike riding and reading together with her husband Michael, who is also an economist.



Moin A. Yahya is an Associate Professor at the University of Alberta School of Law, where he has taught since 2003. His research interests include law and economics, with a particular focus on utilities and financial markets’ regulation. Before attending law school, Yahya was employed with Industry Canada’s Competition Bureau, where he worked on various merger and civil non-merger issues. He has also been a member of the Alberta Utilities Commission and the selection advisory board of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada. Yahya has an M.A. in Economics from the University of Alberta, a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Toronto, and a J.D. (Summa Cum Laude) from George Mason University School of Law, where he was a Robert A. Levy Fellow in Law and Liberty.

“Freedom Week allows classical liberals and those interested in classical liberalism a chance to engage with, and learn with, students and esteemed faculty. It was informative, thought-provoking, and fun!”

– Julian Lauffer,
Dalhousie University



Robert
Creamer
President Trump 2017

“This was my first time attending a seminar on [classical] liberal ideas, and I’d have to say that the conference had a huge impact on my political views. Although I am very new to these ideas, I found the content easy to follow, and the speakers interesting and extremely entertaining!”

– Daisy Li,

University of Western Ontario



Julien
Lauffer

David
Rybak