

# GMU Econ Adam Smith Reading Group

Led and organized by Daniel Klein

## *Time/room changes!*

Time and room are *irregular*:

1st meeting:	Wed Oct 7, 2009	Enterprise 278	2:00-4:00 PM.
2nd meeting:	Wed Nov 4, 2009	Enterprise 318	12:15-2:00 PM
3rd meeting:	Wed Dec 2, 2009	Enterprise 77	2:00-4:00 PM.

We'll start with TMS and see how that goes. If it goes well, maybe we'll go on to WN, LJ, EPS, and LRBL.

## **Reading plan**

Adam Smith's *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*. I think that TMS offers a sort of ethical umbrella for Smith's whole body of work.

Everyone will be expected to work from the Raphael-Macfie Glasgow edition, first printed by Oxford UP and now available in [cheap reprint](#) from Liberty Fund. **Attendees are required to have their copy of this edition with them at the session.**

Explanation of page/paragraph reference:

The paragraphs are numbered, so I refer to both pages and paragraphs:

326-327.16 means pages 326-327 paragraph 16. After the "decimal point" comes paragraph number(s).

1<sup>st</sup> Meeting: Wed. Oct 7, 2009, Enterprise 278, 2:00-4:00 PM:

### **Unlocking Some of the Mystery of TMS: Key Passages with Key Ideas**

1. The four sources of moral approval: 326-327.16

Adam Smith criticizes Francis Hutcheson's doctrine of a moral sense. Smith writes that in his own system the four sources of moral approval leave no place for a further moral sense. When Smith speaks of "the foregoing system," he refers to his own system.

2. An indication that WN is an annex of TMS: 340-42.36-37:

3. The justices paragraph – Or, Adam Smith's libertarian distributive justice: 269-270.9-11 (Don't neglect Smith's footnote!)

4. Two Kinds of Rules: "precise and accurate" and "loose, vague, and indeterminate" 175-176.11; 327.1-2.

5. "Of Justice and Beneficence": 78-91

2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting: Wed. Nov. 4, 2009, Enterprise 318, 12:15-2:00,:

Part I and II: 9-108

3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting: Wed. Dec. 2, 2009, Enterprise 77, 2:00-4:00:

Part III: 109-178

4<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Some time in January 2010, venue TBA

Parts IV and V: 179-211

5<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Some time in February 2010, venue TBA

Part VI: 212-264

6<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Some time in March 2010, venue TBA

Part VII: 265-342