CALL FOR PAPERS
Acton Institute Second Annual Colloquium on Markets & Morality

THEME: From Christian Political Economy to Christian Socialism

OCTOBER 7, 2022
The Acton Institute, Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA

DESCRIPTION: Beginning with the publication of Malthus's Principle of Population in 1798, A. M. C. Waterman has identified “an ideological alliance of political economy and Christian theology,” lasting until 1833 in Britain, that he calls “Christian Political Economy,” including such figures as Malthus, Paley, Sumner, Copleston, Whately, and Chalmers. The following generation saw the rise of “Victorian Christian socialists,” to use Edward Norman’s phrase, in Maurice, Ludlow, Kingsley, and Ruskin, among others—some, such as Lechevalier, with roots reaching back to Saint-Simon. To what extent did theology and political economy truly separate after 1833? Was it more of a transformation than a break? And what about outside the British context in America, France, and beyond?

This conference is seeking proposals exploring the relationship between these two cohorts of Christian social activists—early nineteenth-century Christian political economists and Christian socialists—particularly the role of theology and religion in their economic and social thought, continuities and discontinuities between them, as well as studies of particular figures, movements, and periods within their lifetimes relevant to their work. Following the conference, presenters will also be invited to submit papers for a special issue of the Journal of Markets & Morality on the same theme.

This one-day event will feature two panels of four papers each, focusing on creative contributions to the history of economics on the intersection between Christian theology, classical political economy, and social activism in the early nineteenth century. The conference will conclude with a plenary lecture by Ross B. Emmett, Professor of Economic Thought and Director of the Center for the Study of Economic Liberty in the School of Civic and Economic Thought at Arizona State University.

The registration fee will be waived for presenters. PROPOSALS ARE DUE BY AUGUST 1, 2022

For further details or to submit a proposal, contact Dylan Pahman, executive editor, Journal of Markets & Morality, at dpahman@acton.org.

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