



ST. LAWRENCE  
UNIVERSITY



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### COMMERCE AND BENEFICENCE: ADAM SMITH'S UNFINISHED PROJECT

Monday, April 22

7:30 p.m.

Hepburn Auditorium

Each individual in modern society “stands at all times in need of the cooperation and assistance of great multitudes,” Adam Smith observes. On standard interpretations of Smith’s *Wealth of Nations*, the principal engine of voluntary assistance and cooperation beyond the family is market competition, i.e., commerce. An examination of all of Smith’s work (including *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*) supports a broader view of social cooperation, rooted in the human propensities to trade and to empathize, and coordinated through diverse alloys of commercial and non-commercial exchange.

*Sponsored by the Department of Economics as part of its Visiting Speaker Series in Political Economy*