



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Thursday, June 4th

- 6:00–8:00 PM: Event Registration, Cocktails & Small Bites
Featuring Opening Remarks from Atlas Society CEO Jennifer Grossman

Friday, June 5th

- 8:00–9:00 AM: Breakfast
- 8:50 AM: Welcome & Introduction to the scholars – Abbie Perry & Jennifer Grossman
- 9:00–10:00 AM: Richard Salsman, Ph.D., Stephen Hicks, Ph.D., Rob Tracinski and Antonella Marty, moderated by Jennifer Grossman: *Quickfire counters: Smashing the myths of the collectivist*
 - *Atlas Society scholars take on the slogans and cultural myths that dominate today's political discourse. In this rapid-fire session, each scholar gets 60 to 90 seconds to counter the collectivist talking points that too often go unchallenged, such as "profit is exploitation," "healthcare is a human right," "capitalism is greedy," and beyond.*
- 10:00–10:15 AM: Break
- 10:15–11:00 AM: Kaizen Asiedu: *A Minority of One: The Cost and Reward of Thinking for Yourself*
 - *Every algorithm, every institution, every feed is engineered to influence you. Dissent no longer happens in a room—it happens in public, in real time, judged by millions of strangers. The cost of mental sovereignty has never been higher. Neither has the reward. Kaizen Asiedu explores what it takes to be a minority of one, and why it's the only position worth holding.*
- 11:00 AM–11:15 AM: Break
- 11:15 AM–12:00 PM: James Jameson fireside chat with Atlas Society CEO Jennifer Grossman: *Capitalist at Large: A Lifetime of Entrepreneurship on a Global Stage*

- *Meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev in the dying days of the Soviet empire, dodging tear gas in the streets of Santiago, Chile, as Pinochet's reign ends, dining with Fidel Castro into the morning's wee hours—Jameson has witnessed and helped shape history. He'll discuss "the art form of [his] life": "Going into politically risky countries without established credit markets and making new businesses work."*
- 12:00–1:00 PM: Lunch by the pool, featuring Mentorship Roundtables
- 1:00–1:45 PM: Speed Networking
 - 1:00 PM–1:45 PM: Donor session – A conversation with Stephen Hicks, Ph.D.
- 2:00 PM–2:45 PM: Breakout Sessions
 - Breakout session #1 – Rob Tracinski: ***Survival Through Thick and Thin***
 - *Ayn Rand's ethics are based on the needs of survival. But "mere" survival or bare subsistence may seem like too "thin" a basis for the full richness of human life. How do we arrive at a "thicker" idea of survival? How can the needs of survival give rise to spiritual and intellectual values?*
 - Breakout Session #2 – Henry Posner III: ***Atlas Shrugged—how fiction inspired reality on railways worldwide***
 - *Henry Posner III finished Atlas Shrugged by lantern light during a coal train derailment—and spent the next four decades testing its ideas on railways worldwide. His lecture seeks to uncover how Rand's vision holds up against the reality of regulation, deregulation, and why your European train vacation doesn't translate to the USA.*
 - Breakout Session #3 – Antonella Marty: ***Las ideas de Ayn Rand en acción***
 - *Esta actividad propone un formato combinado de conferencia y workshop orientado al análisis de la vigencia y aplicación de algunas ideas centrales de Ayn Rand en el diseño y evaluación de políticas públicas contemporáneas en América Latina. A partir de una introducción conceptual sobre temas como individualismo, libertad, incentivos, responsabilidad personal y límites de la intervención estatal, la propuesta incorporará además una instancia participativa de discusión aplicada sobre casos actuales vinculados a regulación, gasto público, educación, religión y desarrollo económico.*
- 2:45 PM–3:00 PM: Break
- 3:00 PM–3:45 PM: Breakouts
 - Breakout session #1 – Timothy Sandefur: ***Navigating by Fixed Stars: The Moral Trajectory of Star Trek***
 - *For 60 years, Star Trek has explored profound philosophical questions about humanity and nature. In his new book, You Don't Own Me, Timothy Sandefur discusses how the franchise's approach to these ideas has changed over the years, and in this book, he'll address the lessons the crew of the starship Enterprise has to teach us as we continue to explore*

- Breakout Session #2 – Patrick Reasonover & Jennifer Grossman: ***Will AI Revolutionize Art or Destroy It?***
 - *Patrick Reasonover, producer of all Atlas Society video content, on “What AI means for art?” “Will it hollow out authorship, displace working artists, and disrupt the originality—or will it unleash creativity? Plus: previews of our latest animated videos, and an update on the full-length feature film of Anthem.*
- 3:45 PM: Break for the day/ book signing with scholars
- 4:30 PM: Buses pick up students for excursions
 - Volleyball and water fun at Mission Beach (TAS provided shuttle departs at 4:30 PM)
 - Sunset Cliffs Golden Hour Photo Opportunity (TAS-provided shuttle departs at 4:30 PM)
- 5:45 PM: Buses take donors to Dinner Cruise
- 6:00 PM–9:00 PM: Donor Dinner Cruise with Heather Mac Donald, ***When Race Trumps Merit: How the Pursuit of Equity Sacrifices Excellence, Destroys Beauty and Threatens Lives.***
- 8:00 PM: Buses pick up students and return to the hotel
- 9:00 PM: Buses pick up donors from the cruise

Saturday, June 6th

- 8:30 AM–9:15 AM: Breakfast
- 9:15 AM: Jay Lapeyre: ***Happy Birthday, Liberty: the Greatest Sentence Ever Written—An On-Ramp to Objectivism***
 - *On the eve of America’s 250th birthday, Atlas Society board chairman Jay Lapeyre unpacks what he considers the greatest sentence ever written—tracing how a single declaration of individual rights laid the philosophical groundwork for Objectivism.*
- 9:45 AM–10:30 AM: Richard Salsman, Ph.D.: ***The Validity and Morality of “America First”***
 - *The ethics of egoism, applied to national affairs, justifies prioritizing one’s nation—but what does that mean in practice? Salsman disentangles the legitimate case for national self-interest from the nationalism, protectionism, and populism often bundled with it, and examines why America’s current policies reflect a troubling hybrid of both.*
- 10:30 AM–10:45 AM: Break
- 10:45 AM–11:30 AM:
 - Breakout #1 – Topher Field: ***Good People Break Bad Laws: Civil Disobedience in The Modern Age***
 - *Drawing from his own experience as a “wanted man” during Melbourne’s Covid-19 lockdowns, Topher Field surveys the history of civil*

disobedience—from ancient Greece to the U.S. Civil Rights Movement—and makes the case that the willingness to say “enough” remains the only real check on government power.

- Breakout #2 – Stephen Hicks, Ph.D.: ***Primitivism and Polarization—and the Power of Philosophy***
 - *Deeply divided groups seem to dominate public discussion and generate a rhetorical race to the bottom. What is the evidence for increased polarization? What are the competing explanations for it? And is polarization only a story of decline—or also a symptom of healthy progress?*
- 11:30 AM–11:45 AM: Break
- 11:45 AM- 12:30 PM:
 - Breakout #1 – Michael Shermer: ***Truth: What it is, How to Find it, Why it Still Matters***
 - *In this talk, based on his latest book, Skeptic magazine publisher Dr. Michael Shermer will defend the philosophy of universal realism, moral realism, and the commitment to objective moral values as discovered by reason and science.*
 - Breakout #2 – Richard Salsman, Ph.D. & Matthew Zwolinski, Ph.D.: ***Debate Universal Basic Income***
 - *Atlas Society Scholar Richard Salsman, Ph.D., debates Libertarian philosopher and University of San Diego professor Matthew Zwolinski, Ph.D., on the merits of Universal Basic Income—examining the economic, moral, and practical arguments for and against one of the most contested policy ideas of our time.*
 - Donor Session: Rob Tracinski
- 12:30 PM–1:30 PM: Lunch featuring Mentorship Roundtables
- 1:30 PM–2:15 PM: Gad Saad: ***Suicidal Empathy and Parasitic Mind***
 - *Evolutionary behavioral scientist and bestselling author of The Parasitic Mind: How Infectious Ideas Are Killing Common Sense, Gad Saad draws from his latest book, Suicidal Empathy: Dying to Be Kind, to examine what happens when a culture elevates victimhood over truth and compassion over common sense — and why the West may be paying a civilizational price for it.*
- 2:15 PM–2:30 PM: Break
- 2:30 PM–3:15 PM: Stephen Hicks, Ph.D. : ***“Fascist!” and “Nazi!”—Hyperbole vs. History***
 - *We use language to understand the world and communicate with others. Or do we? What of those who use it sloppily or merely expressively—or even as a weapon to undermine cognition and communication? In this talk, Stephen Hicks will discuss competing rhetorical strategies at work in political labeling.*
- 3:15 PM–5:30 PM: Break before Dinner
- 5:30 PM–6:30 PM: Reception

- 6:30 PM–8:30 PM: Formal Dinner featuring Keynote, Gregg Hurwitz
 - *New York Times #1 bestselling author of 27 thrillers, including the Orphan X series, Gregg Hurwitz turns his focus from fiction to reality in this fireside chat with Atlas Society CEO Jennifer Grossman—examining the rise of political violence, radicalization, and what he calls the “horseshoe of nihilism,” and why so many people have lost their grip on meaning in a culture engineered to pull them apart.*
- 8:30 PM–11:00 PM: Afterparty w/Karaoke