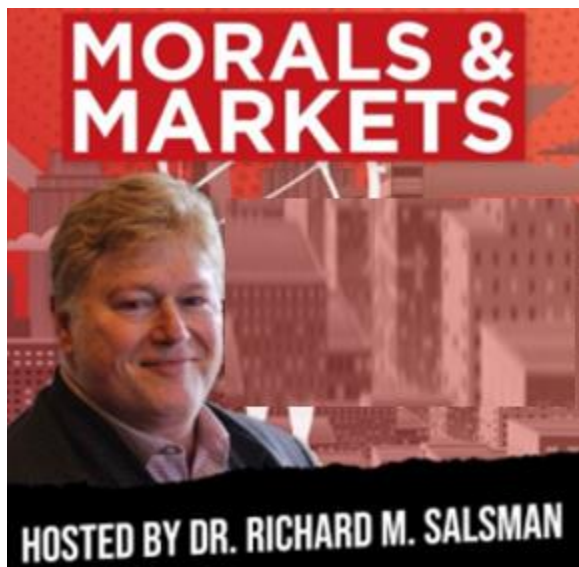


## “Should College Be Free & Student Debts Cancelled?”



“Morals and Markets” meets at 8PM Eastern  
on the *fourth Thursday of every month.*

Add to your calendar! Tell your friends!

### Course Information:

<https://www.atlassociety.org/events/should-college-be-free-and-student-debts-canceled>

### Upcoming Events:

<https://www.atlassociety.org/education/morals-and-markets>

**Next Session:** Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup> from 8-9:30 ET

### Meeting url:

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tj0scO2upjguE90U0m9R4\\_I\\_jH2-2XCGNUj6](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tj0scO2upjguE90U0m9R4_I_jH2-2XCGNUj6)

For decades U.S. public policy has subsidized college tuition and professors’ research while guaranteeing a burgeoning pile of student loans. Now politicians and pundits of every persuasion demand tuition price controls or free tuition plus “forgiveness” of student debt. Is there a link between the first set of policies (subsidies) and the second set? What are the moral, economic, and political arguments for and against making college “free” and canceling student debt? Is it possible both sets of policies are morally unjust, economically destructive, and politically coercive?

### Suggested Readings/Sources:

- Hess, A. J. “[What’s Still Up for Debate When It Comes to Student Debt Forgiveness,](#)” *CNBC* (2021.04.06).
- Holtermann, C. “[Should We Cancel Student Debt? Student Opinion,](#)” *NYT* (2021.03.18).
- Bokot-Lindell, S. “[Should Biden Cancel Student Debt?](#)” *NYT* (2021.03.11).
- Friedman, Z. “[5 Reasons To Cancel Student Loans,](#)” *Forbes* (2021.02.23).
- Riley, J. “[Think College Is Expensive? Wait Until It’s Free,](#)” *WSJ* (2019.01.15)
- Leaf, G. “[New Study Analyzes the High Cost of College](#)” (*JMC*, 2021.04.28)

**Host:** Dr. Richard M. Salsman is an [assistant professor of political economy at Duke University](#), founder and [president of InterMarket Forecasting, Inc.](#), a [senior fellow at the American Institute for Economic Research](#), and a [senior scholar at The Atlas Society](#). In the 1980s and 1990s he was a banker at the Bank of New York and Citibank and an economist at Wainwright Economics, Inc. Dr. Salsman has authored three books: *Breaking the Banks: Central Banking Problems and Free Banking Solutions* (1990), *Gold and Liberty* (1995), and *The Political Economy of Public Debt: Three Centuries of Theory and Evidence* (2017). His next book, *Where Have all the Capitalist Gone?*, will be published in 2021 by the American Institute for Economic Research. He is also author of a dozen chapters and scores of articles. His work has appeared in the *Georgetown Journal of Law and Public Policy*, *Reason Papers*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, *Forbes*, the *Economist*, the *Financial Post*, the *Intellectual Activist*, and *The Objective Standard*. Dr. Salsman earned his B.A. in economics from Bowdoin College (1981), his M.A. in economics from New York University (1988), and his Ph.D. in political economy from Duke University (2012). His personal website is <https://richardsalsman.com/>.

## “Should College Be Free & Student Debts Cancelled?”

THE ATLAS SOCIETY

# — Morals and Markets —

Exploring the intersections between ethics, politics, economics, and markets



Dr. Richard M. Salsman

## — Testimonials

"Morals & Markets provides students of all levels an opportunity to engage with some of the most interesting (and sometimes difficult!) issues in philosophy, politics, and economics. Professor Salsman's experience as an outstanding educator and commitment to presenting a holistic view of contemporary tensions between public policy and moral philosophy encourage vibrant debate and an unparalleled learning experience. I am enthusiastic about Dr. Salsman's future iterations of Morals & Markets with the support of The Atlas Society!"

- **Nikhil Sridhar**

"Dr. Salsman's lectures from Morals and Markets always leave me with a newfound framework to consider important ideas; they serve as some beacon of critical thinking in a world that needs it. The topics discussed are always fully engaging, both intellectually and practically and the discussion helps me orient my views of current political circumstances, historical trends, and political philosophy, more generally, in a rationally focused way. I hope Morals and Markets grows to become an institution – it certainly deserves to be one."

- **Clifford Gilman Jr.**

"Morals and Markets has been a spectacular learning experience for me. Professor Salsman's lectures and guided discussions have opened my eyes to alternative ways of viewing issues and generally strengthened my grasp of the intersections between philosophy, politics, and economics."

- **Gaurav Sharma**