In this session we examine whether cryptocurrencies are genuine or instead fraudulent as monies, what role they’ve played in the economy so far, and how they might influence the future. What explains their attraction? What are their main risks, and might they spread as a contagion, globally? Do cryptocurrencies differ materially (Bitcoin, Ethereum, Solana, USD Coin) and if so, why might it matter? El Salvador has designated Bitcoin as legal tender, while other states (China) are hostile to cryptocurrencies. Are they an alternative to government fiat monies or instead a possible model for well-run public digital currencies?

Suggested Readings/Sources:

- Hanke, S. “Could a Collapse of Cryptocurrencies Force a Reform of the Global Monetary System?” *Cato Institute*, 2021.08.07
- Boyapati, V. “The Bullish Case for Bitcoin” (*Medium*, 2018.03.02)

"The Economics & Politics of Cryptocurrency"

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!"
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"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