

January Newsletter from the



Latest news

Director General, John Blundell appeared in the Scotsman discussing the topic of how **[Financial Rules are Chaining Firms Down](#)**

Michael Brown, a visiting fellow at the IEA appeared on *BBC Radio 4's In Business* programme this month, to discuss the IEA publication 'The Representation of Business in English Literature'. Brown is a Theatre Director and Producer who produced the US documentary series Profiles in Liberty.

Philip Booth, Editorial Director of the IEA, wrote for The Catholic Times on the topic of Immigration.

John Blundell's latest collection of papers *Waging the War of Ideas* was discussed this month in The Wall Street Journal Europe, the link to this story can be found at **[WSJ.com - Commentary: Europe Needs a New 'War of Ideas'](#)***

Events

For general information on events please contact Alison Singer at iea@iea.org.uk or 020 77998916. All events are at 2 Lord North Street, SW1, entrance on Great Peter Street. (unless otherwise specified).

Click on the title for more information and how to sign up.

[Morning Seminar: Tax Harmonisation versus Tax Competition](#)

A morning seminar with guest speaker, Dr Daniel J Mitchell, Heritage Foundation, Washington DC.

Date: **3 February**, Time 10.30am – 11.30am

Public Service Broadcasting and the Future of the BBC

With the review of the BBC's charter pending it is time to think again about the future of "public service" broadcasting in the UK. In a competitive market for broadcasting, is intervention needed to encourage particular types of programming? If it is necessary, should such programming be concentrated in one institution, the BBC? Should the whole structure of the BBC and its funding be radically changed? Prof Sir Alan Peacock will look at these and other issues connected with the charter review, in a lecture supported by OFCOM.

Speaker: Professor Sir Alan Peacock, The David Hume Institute,
Chairman: Professor the Lord Currie of Marylebone, Chairman of OFCOM
Date: **28 January**
Time: 18.30

Hayek's Challenge: An Intellectual Biography of F.A. Hayek

Speaker: Professor Bruce J Caldwell, Joe Rosenthal Excellence Professor of Economics, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, USA.

Professor Caldwell will discuss his recently published book, Hayek's Challenge: An Intellectual Biography of F.A. Hayek (University of Chicago Press). Hayek, who taught at the LSE from 1931 through 1949, was a leading figure within the Austrian school of economics. His insights into social phenomena spanned many disciplines. In his day he was a controversial figure, arguing and debating with many leading economists, from John Maynard Keynes to Piero Sraffa, from Paul Samuelson to Milton Friedman. Though his ideas were often unappreciated or dismissed, Hayek is now increasingly recognised as a central figure in twentieth century social science. In Hayek's Challenge, Caldwell places the thinker's life in historical context and explains the nature and importance of his many contributions.

iea/Cass Business School Financial Regulation Seminar Series

iea/Cass Business School Financial Regulation Seminar Series 2004 starts on Wednesday 18th February for four weeks. Details of how to sign up will be posted on the iea and Cass Business School websites very soon. Until then all enquiries should be directed to Philip Booth on 020 7799 8919 or pbooth@iea.org.uk

Outside Events

Bjorn Lomborg at The Adam Smith Institute

In his book 'The Skeptical Environmentalist', Bjørn Lomborg challenges widely held beliefs that the global environment is progressively getting worse. Using statistical information from internationally recognized research institutes, Lomborg systematically examines a range of major environmental issues and

documents that the global environment has actually improved. He supports his argument with over 2900 footnotes, allowing discerning readers to check his sources.

And now he's coming to London to deliver an important Adam Smith Lecture on environmental policy, here in Westminster. Contact steve@adamsmith.org for information and invitations or click on the link [Bjorn Lomborg](#)

Publications

A full list of publications in print and forthcoming publications are included in the IEA catalogue for 2003/2004 - please click on the link to request your free copy or [please feel free to download a copy and print it off.](#)

The cheapest and most effective way of receiving IEA publications is to subscribe. For a single annual payment (currently £40.00 in the UK), you will receive every IEA book and significant other benefits. Full details can be found at [Subscribe](#)

Books and Monographs



[Waging the War of Ideas](#)

A fully revised new edition, *Waging the War of Ideas* looks at the development of free-market ideas and the IEA in the post-war period. The book contains sixteen lectures, articles and papers that have been written by John Blundell. They show how, against all the odds, the IEA managed to change the intellectual climate of opinion in the UK to create a climate favourable to the development of pro-free market policies.



Corporate Governance: Accountability in the Marketplace

Elaine Sternberg lucidly sets out the purposes of corporate governance and shows that, despite any inadequacies, the Anglo-American system of corporate governance is far more effective than alternatives. "Stakeholder" proposals lack any intellectual justification and may well prove to be seriously detrimental to proper corporate accountability. Sternberg suggests meaningful reforms to Anglo-American systems of corporate governance to enable them to work as well in practice as they are supposed to in theory.

Land Use Planning System: Evaluating Options for Reform –John Corkindale (February)

The land-use planning system in the UK does not have coherent economic justification. Reforms currently passing through parliament will not improve matters. Corkindale's monograph shows how economic principles can be used to radically reform the planning system in a way that will ensure that economically desirable development takes place and valuable environmentally amenities are maintained. Most importantly, Corkindale's proposals would remove the politics from planning.

Economy and Virtue – edited by Dennis O’Keeffe (March)

It is often suggested that socialism is more "moral" than capitalism, even if it is less effective in practice in creating wealth. Thus successive generations become attracted to "softer" forms of socialism that, it is believed, might be able to preserve the market economy and give it a "softer" edge. *Economy and Virtue* debunks these myths. In a series of essays by eminent economists and philosophers, *Economy and Virtue* shows that capitalism, in fact, has a strong moral justification and that socialism runs against the grain of human nature in the way it centralises power and de-humanises individuals. Both the heart and the head should lead one in the direction of the free market economy.

For press enquiries please contact Melissa Davis at mdavis@iea.org.uk

New Staff

Dr John Meadowcroft joined the IEA as a Research Fellow in January 2004. John will be assisting Professor Philip Booth with the production of the IEA's journal, *Economic Affairs*, as well as undertaking more general research and writing duties. John has research interests in regional and local government, and in the morality of the market economy. John has previously lectured in politics at Queen Mary, University of London and at New York University in London.

Industry Conferences

The IEA runs regular conferences on developments in industries affected by regulation or other policy developments. The series includes conferences on the banking and insurance industries, postal services, the airline industry and the energy industry. For more information please visit [Marketforce Communications](#).

Free bursary places are available for students and academics for whom these conferences provide a useful update on industry practice.

Web publications

The IEA produces two series of web publications, Current Controversies and Discussion Papers. Recently published papers include proposals for the UK pensions system; a comparison of the French and UK health systems, studies on planning, development and green belt issues; developments in corporate governance; and an essay on the philosophy of regulation. All web papers are available from [Here](#).

The latest paper to appear on the site has been written by Ian Senior - in a new research paper he estimates that critics' reviews benefited West End theatre by £19m in 2003 but that the impact of *The Evening Standard* was negative by nearly £2m.

Shadow Monetary Policy Committee

The IEA has a Shadow Monetary Policy Committee that monitors decisions taken by the Bank of England. The minutes of the most recent quarterly meeting can be found [Here](#)

The SMPC has met recently and the minutes of the meeting will be available to read on the IEA website very shortly. Following the last meeting one member of the SMPC, Tim Congdon, appeared on CNBC discussing the interest rate change.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive the ia newsletter please send their e-mail address to Melissa Davis at iea@iea.org.uk

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