

Steven E. Landsburg

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Books:

[Understanding Time and Space](#), World Scientific, 2025.
[Price Theory and Applications](#) 10th edition 2023 (first edition 1989)
[The People Paradox](#), Institute for Economic Affairs, 2023.
[The Essential Milton Friedman](#), Fraser Institute Press, 2020.
Forbes Review
[Can You Outsmart an Economist?](#), Houghton Mifflin (2018)
[The Armchair Economist](#), Simon and Schuster 1993. (Revised and updated May, 2012.)
WSJ review
Fortune review
Journal of Finance review
[The Big Questions](#), Simon and Schuster, 2010.
Reviews
[Creative Capitalism: A Conversation with Bill Gates](#), contributor, Simon and Schuster, 2009.
[More Sex is Safer Sex](#), Simon and Schuster, 2008.
Financial Times review
[A Mathematical Introduction to General Relativity and Cosmology](#), preliminary version on web.
[Fair Play](#), Simon and Schuster, 1997.
Washington Post review
[Macroeconomics](#), with Lauren J. Feinstone, McGraw-Hill, 1996.

Books in Process:

Problems in Price Theory
[Introduction to Economics](#), in process (20 chapters currently available).
[Topics in Microeconomics](#), in process (roughly 10 chapters currently available).
Truth, Provability, and the Fabric of the Universe ([35 page summary](#) currently available.)

Recurring Columns:

[The Big Questions](#), daily blog, 2009 - present with 300,000 to 500,000 monthly page views
[Smiths Magazine](#), monthly columns beginning March, 2019
[Everyday Economics](#), monthly columns in Slate, 1996 - 2007.
[Rational Explanations](#), monthly columns in Forbes, 1994-1996.

Op-Eds (partial list):

[What Aspiring Economists Aren't Being Taught](#), Wall Street Journal, August 2, 2024.
[Want a Coup? Abolish the Electoral College](#), Wall Street Journal, November 12, 2020
[The Cynicism of Joe Biden's Minimum-Wage Politics](#), Wall Street Journal, October 5, 2020.
[The Science of Risk](#), Tablet Magazine, June 2020.
[The Political Economy of Recycling](#), Cato Unbound, June 11, 2013.
[Care About the Future? Then Lower Capital Gains Taxes](#), Time, July 16, 2012.
[A Short Econ Quiz for the Super Committee](#), Wall Street Journal, November 15, 2011.
[How the Death Tax Hurts the Poor](#), Wall Street Journal, October 29, 2011.
[Why the Bush Years Weren't So Bad](#), The Atlantic, January 2009.
[Betting on John McCain](#), The Atlantic, September 2008.
[Why the Stimulus Shouldn't Stimulate You](#), Washington Post, January 27, 2008.
[What to Expect When You're Free Trading](#), New York Times, January 16, 2008.
[A Brief History of Economic Time](#), Wall Street Journal, June 9, 2007.
[Why Europeans Work Less Than Americans](#), Forbes, May 23, 2006.
[Xenophobia and Politics](#), Forbes, March 28, 2005.
—Followup interview on Fox News
[Candidate Defies Gravity](#), Wall Street Journal, February 25, 2003.
[Mindless: How Hollywood Treats Ideas](#), Wall Street Journal, February 22, 2002.
[Highway Robbery](#), Wall Street Journal, February 11, 2002.
[Fowl Visas](#), Wall Street Journal, December 27, 2001.
[The Imperialism of Compassion](#), Wall Street Journal, July 23, 2001.
[Who Cares if the Playing Field is Level?](#), Wall Street Journal, June 13, 2001
[You Too Could Face 95% Taxation](#), Wall Street Journal, March 5, 2001.
[Criticisms of Big Oil Don't Add Up](#), Wall Street Journal, June 28, 2000
[At \\$10 a Fan, That's \\$17 Million](#), New York Times, January 22, 2000.
[A Million for Your Thoughts? Incentives in the Jury Box](#), Washington Post, February 25, 1996.

Book Reviews (partial list):

[The Power to Say No](#) (review of “The Gridlock Economy”), Wall Street Journal, August 6, 2008.
[A Lot More than a Penny Earned](#) (review of “What Happened to Thrift?”), Wall Street Journal, June 5, 2008.
[The Lessons of Popcorn](#) (review of “The Undercover Economist”), Wall Street Journal, November 16, 2005.
[When Numbers Solve a Mystery](#) (review of “Freakonomics”), Wall Street Journal, April 13, 2005.
[Follow the Madding Crowd](#) (review of “Butterfly Economics”), Wall Street Journal, January 10, 2000.
[Everything's Coming Up Roses, Isn't It?](#) (joint review of “Myths of Rich and Poor” and “Luxury Fever”), Independent Review, Fall, 1999.

Dust-Ups:

(Dust-ups are multi-round exchanges of opinion posted over the course of several days on the website of the Los Angeles Times.)

[Dust-up with Doug Henwood](#) on election season economics, July 21-25, 2008.

[Dust-up with Jason Furman](#) on the stimulus package, January 28 - February 1, 2008.

Non-Academic Invited Talks (partial list):

- Beyond the Obvious: Economics in Everyday Life, Fraser Institute Public Policy Seminar, November 4, 2024.
- [How to Organize a Waiting Line](#), Gathering for Gardner, Atlanta, Georgia, February 2024. (Video of the actual talk is unavailable, so the link is to a recreation.)
- Politics, Philosophy and Economics, three weeks of lectures at the John Locke Institute, Oxford University, July 2023.
- [Beyond the Obvious](#), keynote speech at annual meeting of the Association of Private Enterprise Education, Las Vegas, Nevada, April 2022. (Video of the actual talk is unavailable, so the link is to a re-creation.)
- [Why Do People Stand Still on Escalators But Not on Stairs?](#), Gathering for Gardner, Atlanta, Georgia, April 2022.
- John Locke Institute at Oxford University, three weeks of lectures and seminars on economics, mathematics and philosophy, July 2021.
- [Address to winners of the Witwatersrand Math Competition](#), November 2020
- [Why Is There Something Instead of Nothing?](#), Philadelphia Association for Critical Thinking, September, 2020.
- [The Boundaries of Economics](#), Keynote Speech, Symposium on the Boundaries of Economics, Kennesaw State University, October 2019
- “More Sex is Safer Sex, and Other Surprises from Economic Theory”, Texas Tech University, March 2019.
- “What Do the Rich Owe to the Poor?”, [Adam Smith Week](#) presentation, Charleston, South Carolina, March 2019.
- “Thinking About Population”, [Adam Smith Week](#) presentation, Charleston, South Carolina, March 2019.
- [Truth, Provability, and the Fabric of the Universe](#), University of Wisconsin, March 2018.
- [Is the World Overpopulated, and How Would We Know?](#), Hayek Memorial Lecture, Institute for Economic Affairs, London, November 2017.
- [Commencement Speech](#), University of Rochester Economics Department, May 2017.
- [Does the World Have Too Many People?](#), Hillsdale college, April, 2017.
- Formal and informal talks at Villefranche 2016, a weeklong gathering of economists, mathematicians, physicists and the like, organized by Peter Thiel of Thiel Capital Management
- [The Greatest Story Ever Told](#), Hatton Sumners Distinguished Lecture, September 2013
- Economic Liberty Lecture at Future of Freedom Foundation, George Mason University, March 2013.
- “More Sex is Safer Sex”, Clemson University, March 2013
- “Communicating Economics”, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, October 2012.
- “Surprises from Economic Theory”, Economics Teaching Conference, Wilmington, NC, October 2012.
- “Growth and Redistribution”, Stevens Institute of Technology, September 2012
- [The Greatest Story Ever Told: The Power of Economic Growth](#), Cato Institute, August 2012.
- [How Markets Work](#), Cato Institute, August 2012.
- [The Goldilocks Principle](#), Cato Institute, August 2012.
- [The Power of Incentives](#), Cato Institute, August 2012.
- [The Sources of Economic Growth](#), Laboratory for Laser Energetics, March 9, 2012.
- “The Economy of Beauty”, Soho Rep Theater, New York City, February 23, 2012.
- [More Sex is Safer Sex and Other Surprises](#), Adam Smith Institute, London, UK, February 2012.
- [More Sex is Safer Sex and Other Surprises](#), [Warwick Economics Summit](#), February 2012.

- [How to Fix Everything: The Power of Economic Growth](#), to audience of business and political leaders in Kingston, Jamaica, November 18, 2011.
- [How the Estate Tax Hurts the Poor](#), to audience of congressional staffers, Rayburn House Office Building, October, 2011.
- [More Sex is Safer Sex and Other Surprises](#), Gosnell Lecture, Rochester Institute of Technology, October 3, 2011.
- “Surprising Your Students”, Economics Teaching Conference, Memphis, October 2010.
- “Risk and Redistribution”, Oliver Wyman Financial Services, September 2010.
- “More Sex is Safer Sex and Other Surprises”, FreedomFest, July 2010.
- [Religion on Trial](#), debate with Dinesh D’Souza, FreedomFest, July 2010.
- [How to Fix Everything: the Philosophy and Economics of Income Redistribution](#), Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, June 2010.
- “The Big Questions”, George Mason University, June 2010.
- [In Memory of Alan Stockman](#), April 2010.
- “How to Fix Everything: The Power of Incentives”, keynote speech, annual meeting of the New York State Business Council, October 2009.
- [More Sex is Safer Sex](#), Ciudad de las Ideas, November 2008.
- [Some Surprises from Economic Theory](#), Laboratory for Laser Energetics, November 2007.
- “Some Policy Lessons from Economics”, Congressional Chief of Staff Retreat, June 2006.
- Paracsa Distinguished Speaker, University of Alaska, March 2006.
- “Shareholders and Stakeholders”, Cambridge Energy Research Associates forum for oil industry executives, February 2003.
- The Junto, March 2002.
- Fraser Institute, November 2001.
- Piedmont Club, October 2000.
- Cato University, Montreal, October 2000 (three lectures on economics and public policy).
- Keynote Speech, Libertarian Party Dinner, September 2000.
- “Giving Your All”, Conference on Charity, October 2000.
- Terry School of Business, University of Georgia, September 2000 — two talks.
- Federal Reserve Seminar for Economic Journalists, September 2000.
- Liberty Fund Conference, Key West, May 2000.
- Keynote Speech, New York State Libertarian Party Convention, April 2000.
- “People Wanted”, keynote speech, Foundation for Economic Education, October 1999.
- Texas Christian University, October 1999 (two talks).
- Fraser Institute, October 1999.
- “People Wanted”, Virginia Polytechnic University Distinguished Speaker Series, April 1999.
- “Ten Guilty Men”, Reason Weekend, April 1999.
- “What Do We Owe to Others?”, January Series, Calvin College, January 1999.
- Conference on Economic Education, Liberty Fund, December 1998.
- Cato University (three lectures), September 1998.
- “Policy Lessons from Economics”, Congressional Chief of Staff Retreat, July 1998.
- Citibank Seminar, May 1998.
- Commencement Address, University of Rochester, May 1998.
- Cato Institute, October 1997.
- “The Case Against Income Redistribution”, Columbine Institute, August 1997.
- Keynote Speech, New York State Economics Association, December 1994.

Television and Radio:

Over 500 interviews on major radio and television stations, including Fox News, CNBC-TV, PBS, and NPR. Here are 2 recent excerpts from that universe of over 500:

[Interview with Jamie Whyte: Why Capital Should Not be Taxed](#), November 2017.

[Interview with Jamie Whyte: Overpopulation](#), November 2017.

Appeared regularly as a commentator on the syndicated program "Damn Right!", broadcast by PBS and Turner Broadcasting in 131 American cities.

Teaching:

I've taught each of the following courses a great many times:

- Economics 108, Principles of Economics. Approximately 250 students each semester. Some past exams are [here](#). Average instructor rating: 4.43/5.
- Economics 207, Intermediate Microeconomics. Approximately 200 students each semester. Some past exams are [here](#). Average instructor rating: 4.23/5. By far the most common negative comment on the student evaluation forms is that the exams require some creativity. I view this as a feature, not a bug.
- Economics 208, Topics in Microeconomic Theory. This is a challenging course generally taken only by our strongest students. Grades are based on a series of take home assignments that require a great deal of thought and a willingness to step outside-of-the-box, as well as a considerable amount of technical mastery. Average instructor rating: 4.92/5.

—Selected "Social Sciences Professor of the Year" by vote of the undergraduate students, 2007.

Academic Papers (Math):

- “Some Integer Sequences Arising from Game Theory”, in progress
- “Quantum Versus Correlated Equilibria”, in progress
- [Stirling Numbers and Polylogarithms](#)
- [Commutators in the Endomorphism Ring of a Complex](#), March 2018, arxiv:1608.01425
- [Nash Equilibria in Quantum Games](#), *Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society*, December 2011.
- [Quantum Game Theory](#), *Wiley Encyclopedia of Operations Research and Management Science* (2011)
- [Quantum Game Theory](#), *Notices of the American Mathematical Society* 51 (2004)
- [Patching and Birationality](#), *Journal of Algebra* 163 (1994).
- [Some New K-Theoretic Invariants for Commutative Rings](#), in *Methods in Module Theory*, Marcel Dekker (1992).
- [Some Filtrations on Higher K-Theory and Related Invariants](#), *K-Theory* 6 (1992).
- [Patching and Analytic Isomorphisms](#), *Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society* 114 (1992).
- [Relative Chow Groups](#), *Illinois Journal of Mathematics* 35 (1991).
- [On the Spectral Sequence for Relative K-Theory](#), *Contemporary Mathematics* 126 (1992).
- [K-Theory and Patching for Categories of Complexes](#), *Duke Mathematical Journal* 62 (1991).
- [Relative Cycles and Algebraic K-Theory](#), *American Journal of Mathematics* 111 (1989).
- [Algebraic Cycles Relative to a Smooth Principal Divisor](#), *Communications in Algebra* 16 (1988).
- P-Adic Cohomology and Zeta Functions of Elliptic Curves, *Queens Papers in Pure and Applied Mathematics* 76 (1986).
- [The Jimmy’s Book](#), *American Mathematical Monthly* 93 (1986).
- [Patching Modules of Finite Projective Dimension](#), *Communications in Algebra* 13 (1985).
- [Class Groups and Picard Groups of Normal Schemes](#), *Journal of Pure and Applied Algebra* 37 (1985).
- Algebraic Geometry and the Business Cycle, in *Geometry and Identification*, P. Caines and R. Hermann, eds. (Math Sci. Press, 1983).
- [The Milnor Patching Property](#), *Journal of Algebra* 74 (1982).
- [Patching Theorems for Projective Modules](#), *Journal of Pure and Applied Algebra* 21 (1981).
- [Algebraic Fiber Bundles](#), *Transactions of the American Mathematical Society* 266 (1981).
- Variable Sets, Etendues, and Variable Structures in Topoi (notes from the lectures and conversations of F. William Lawvere), *University of Chicago Lecture Notes in Mathematics*, 1976.

Academic Papers (Economics):

- “Beyond the Obvious”, forthcoming.
- [Abortion and Public Policy](#), *Independent Review*, Summer 2024.
- [Remarks on Optimal Population](#), submitted.
- [McCloskey at Chicago](#), in “Humanism Challenges Materialism in Economics and Economic History”, edited by Sir Roderick Floud, University of Chicago Press.
- [The Coinflipper’s Dilemma](#), submitted.
- [Albert and the Dinosaurs: A Solution Concept for Games with Incomplete Information](#), submitted
- [In Praise of Wasteful Spending](#), *Economics Letters* 2014, vol. 124.
- [Quantum Strategies](#) (with Gordon Dahl), submitted.
- [The Methodology of Normative Economics](#), *Journal of Public Economics*, 2007

- [The Positive Economics of Methodology](#) (with James Kahn and Alan Stockman), *Journal of Economic Theory* 68 (1996).
- [Aristocratic Equilibria](#), *Journal of Political Economy* 103 (1995).
- [On the Competitive Resolution of Trading Uncertainty](#) (with Ben Eden), *Journal of Economic Theory* 47 (1989).
- [Taste Change in the United Kingdom](#), *Journal of Political Economy* 89 (1981).

Academic Papers (Philosophy):

- [Truth, Provability and the Fabric of the Universe](#)
- [On Novel Confirmation](#) with James Kahn and Alan Stockman, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 43 (1992).
- [Locking Out the Critics](#) (with James Kahn and Alan Stockman), *Social Epistemology* (1992).

Some Unpublished Notes:

- [Is Income Always Good?](#)
- [On Ricardian Equivalence](#)
- [Selection in Insurance Markets](#)
- [Notes on Diversity](#)
- [Optimal Population](#)
- [Stirling Numbers and Polylogarithms](#)
- [Some notes](#) on algebraic cycles, summarizing some ideas of Spencer Bloch.
- [A remembrance of Andre Weil.](#)

Invited Academic Lectures (Partial List):

Webber International University, Texas Tech University, University of Wisconsin (Madison), Florida State University, Hillsdale College, Institute for Advanced Study, Oberwolfach, University of Paris VII, University of Michigan, George Mason University, Clemson University, University of Alaska, University of California at San Diego, University of Georgia, McMaster University, Duke University, University of Illinois, Dartmouth College, University of Western Ontario, University of Alberta, University of California at Berkeley, Cornell University, Institute for Advanced Study, Mathematical Sciences Research Institute, University of Miami, University of Nebraska, Northwestern University, University of Oklahoma, Queens University, Rutgers University, University of Rochester, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, University of Wisconsin

Theses Directed:

Tyrel Marak: The Logic of Toposes

Carolyn Werner: Picard Groups of Real Plane Curves

Also served on thesis committee for Jinsung Yoo: A Lefschetz Duality Theorem for p-Adic Cohomology

MathOverflow:

I am (as of this writing) the 95th ranked participant on MathOverflow, a research-level question and answer site for professional mathematicians, which attracts participation from many of the best mathematicians in the world. A summary of my contributions can be seen [here](#).

Corporate and Foundation Directorships:

Hutchinson Technology, 1997-2001.

[American Institute for Economic Research](#) (voting member), 2016-present

[Ciudad de Las Ideas](#) advisory board, 2008-2020

Miscellaneous:

[Retirement planning software](#).

[P-Set](#) A mathematical game.

Other Stuff:

I can do [this](#).

And [this](#).