



FREEDOM AND
PROSPERITY CENTER

First Annual Freedom and Prosperity Research Conference

February 2, 2023

[#PathToProsperity](#)

Agenda

Morning Session - Presenters In-Person

9:30am – 9:40am

Welcoming Remarks

Dan Negrea, *Senior Director*, Freedom and Prosperity Center

9:40am – 10:10am

Fireside Chat

Fred Kempe, *President and CEO*, Atlantic Council
Michael Fisch, *CEO*, American Securities

10:10am – 10:20am

Remarks

Damon Wilson, *President and CEO*, National Endowment for Democracy

10:20am – 10:35am

The Quest for Freedom and Prosperity in the MENA Region

Khemaies Jhinaoui, *Former Minister of Foreign Affairs*, Tunisia

10:35am – 10:50am

Pathways to Economic Prosperity: Theoretical, Methodological, and Evidential Considerations

Markus Jaeger, *Professor*, Columbia University

10:50am – 11:05am

Freedom, Innovation, and Development: How Prepared are Different Worldviews for the New Wave of Innovation

Julio Amador Diaz Lopez, *Lecturer*, Imperial College London

11:05am – 11:20am

How Do Private Investments Contribute to Local Prosperity?

Clara Volintiru, *Professor*, Bucharest University of Economic Studies

Camelia Crisan (Virtual), *Assistant Professor*, National School of Political Science and Public Administration in Romania

11:20am – 11:35am

Dimensions of Freedom and Economic Performance

Ignacio Campomanes, *Resident Fellow*,
Navarra University, Spain

11:35am – 12:35pm

Panel Discussion

**Panelists: Khemaies Jhinaoui, Markus Jaeger,
Julio Amador Diaz Lopez,
Clara Volintiru, Ignacio Campomanes**

Moderator: Dan Negrea, *Senior Director*, Freedom
and Prosperity Center

12:35pm – 1:35pm

Lunch Break

Afternoon Session - Presenters Virtual

Introduction of Presenters

Yomna Gaafar, *Assistant Director*, Freedom and
Prosperity Center

1:35pm – 1:50pm

**Freedom, Prosperity, and Human Development:
Why Freedom Matters? The Case of Egypt**

Mohamed Farid, *Senator*, Egypt

1:50pm – 2:05pm

**Freedom and Prosperity Indexes: Lessons for India
in Comparison to Asia and the World**

Parth Shah, *Professor*, Indian School of Public Policy

2:05pm – 2:20pm

**Who Came First: Freedom or Prosperity?
An Inquiry About Liberty and Welfare**

Vladimir Fernandes Maciel, *Professor*, Mackenzie
Presbyterian University, Brazil

2:20pm – 2:35pm

**Mexico Mostly Free? Mexico Mostly Prosperous?
Uncovering Shades of Grey in the Freedom and
Prosperity Index**

Vanessa Rubio-Marquez, *Former Senator and
Deputy Minister, Mexico*

2:35pm – 2:50pm

**The Causal Relationship Between Economic
Freedom and Prosperity**

Ben Powell, *Professor, Texas Tech University*

2:50pm – 3:50pm

Moderated Panel Discussion

**Panelists: Mohamed Farid, Parth Shah, Vladimir
Fernandes Maciel, Vanessa Rubio-Marquez,
Ben Powell**

Moderator: Joseph Lemoine, *Deputy Director,
Freedom and Prosperity Center*

3:50pm – 4:00pm

Closing Remarks

Dan Negrea, *Senior Director, Freedom and
Prosperity Center*

4:00pm

Reception

Biographical Notes

Fred Kempe

Fred Kempe is the president and chief executive officer of the Atlantic Council. Before joining the Council, Kempe was a prize-winning editor and reporter at the *Wall Street Journal* for more than twenty-five years. For his commitment to strengthening the transatlantic alliance, Kempe has been decorated by the Presidents of Poland and Germany, and by King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden.

Michael Fisch

Michael Fisch is the founder of American Securities and has been CEO since its inception in 1994. He serves as a Member of the Atlantic Council's Executive Committee of the Board of Directors and Chairman of the Advisory Council of its Freedom and Prosperity Center, a Member of the Board of Trustees of Northwell Health, and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Princeton Theological Seminary.

Damon Wilson

Damon Wilson is the President and CEO of the National Endowment for Democracy. Prior to this role, he was the executive vice president of the Atlantic Council from 2011 to 2021. He also held senior positions with the National Security Council and State Department. Wilson served at US embassies in Baghdad, Brussels, and Beijing.

Khemaies Jhinaoui

Khemaies is a former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia and former Ambassador to Russia and Ukraine. He is President and Founder of the Tunisian Council for International Relations.

Markus Jaeger

Markus an Adjunct Associate Professor of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs and a Fellow at the German Council on Foreign Relations. Previously he was a Director at Deutsche Bank in New York and London where he held a variety of advisory and research roles.

Julio Amador Diaz Lopez

Julio Amador Diaz Lopez is a Lecturer at the Imperial College London and an Assistant Professor at the London School of Economics. His research includes big data studies of online political participation, political leadership online, and misinformation.

Clara Volintiru

Clara Volintiru is Professor at the Bucharest University of Economic Studies and Director of the German Marshall Fund in Romania. She has worked as a consultant for international organizations such as the World Bank, European Commission, Eurofound, and the Committee of Regions.

Camelia Crisan

Camelia Crisan is Assistant Professor at the National School of Political Science and Public Administration (SNSPA) and the Managing Director of the Project Romania 2030 - a new initiative designed to foster an accelerator of ideas and solutions and a movement to generate a “Historical Leap” for Romania.

Ignacio Campomanes

Ignacio Campomanes is a Resident Fellow at the Navarra Center for International Development of the University of Navarra. He was a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Mohamed Farid

Mohamed is a member of the Egyptian Senate and Deputy Chair for the Senate's Committee on Human Rights and Social Solidarity. He is also a founding member of the Cairo Liberal Club.

Parth Shah

Parth is Founder and President of the Centre for Civil Society, one of India's leading free market think tanks. Parth's research and advocacy work focus on the themes of economic freedom (law, liberty and livelihood campaign), choice and competition in education (fund students, not schools), property rights approach for the environment (terracotta vision of stewardship), and good governance (new public management and the duty to publish). He has published extensively in international and Indian journals, on various topics from currency regulation to education policy.

Vladimir Fernandes Maciel

Vladimir is the head of the Mackenzie Center for Economic Freedom and professor at the Graduate Program in Economics and Markets from Mackenzie Presbyterian University.

Vanessa Rubio-Marquez

Vanessa is the Associate Dean for Extended Education for the School of Public Policy at the London School of Economics. She had a 25 year long career in Mexico's public service, including serving as Senator and three times Deputy Minister (Finance—first woman in the history of the job; Social Development; and Foreign Affairs). She has represented Mexico in various international fora including the UN, the IMF, the World Bank, OECD, the G-20 and a wide variety of regional development banks.

Ben Powell

Benjamin is the Executive Director of the Free Market Institute at Texas Tech University, a Professor of Economics in the Rawls College of Business and a Senior Fellow with the Independent Institute.

Freedom and Prosperity Center Team

Dan Negrea

Dan Negrea is the Senior Director of the Center. Between 2018 and 2021, he served at the U.S. State Department as a member of the Secretary's Policy Planning Office and as the Special Representative for Commercial and Business Affairs. For three decades before that, he held leadership positions in Wall Street firms.

Joseph Lemoine

Joseph Lemoine is the Deputy Director of the Center. Previously, he was a private sector specialist at the World Bank. He advised governments on policy reforms that help boost entrepreneurship and shared prosperity, primarily in Francophone Africa and the Middle East. He also participated in the creation of development indicators on business climate, good regulatory practices, women's entrepreneurship, and government transparency.

Yomna Gaafar

Yomna Gaafar is the Assistant Director of the Center. She had previous associations with the World Bank, the United Nations, the Egyptian Ministry of International Cooperation, and Endeavor Global, an international organization promoting entrepreneurship.

James Storen

James Storen is the Program Assistant of the Center. He worked previously in South Africa with a communications organization and with an anti-corruption nonprofit in Cambodia.

About the Freedom and Prosperity Center

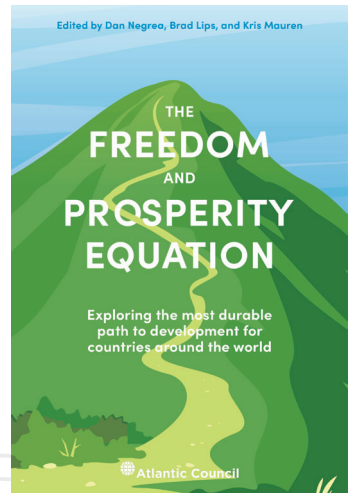
The Freedom and Prosperity Center aims to increase the well-being of people everywhere and especially that of the poor and marginalized in developing countries through unbiased, data-based research on the relationship between prosperity and economic, political, and legal freedoms, in support of sound policy choices.

The Center analyzes some of the defining questions of our time and of all time. Do countries need freedom to achieve prosperity? Do democracies or autocracies have the better answers to the aspirations of the peoples of the world? What about countries that are not electoral democracies in the Western sense, but have high levels of economic and legal freedoms and leaders who appear to enjoy a high level of legitimacy among their citizens?

The Center measures the freedom and prosperity of nearly every country in the world through its annual Freedom and Prosperity Indexes. The Center also sponsors academic grants to scholars around the world who study the relationship between freedom and prosperity, and reform grants to think tanks in developing countries.

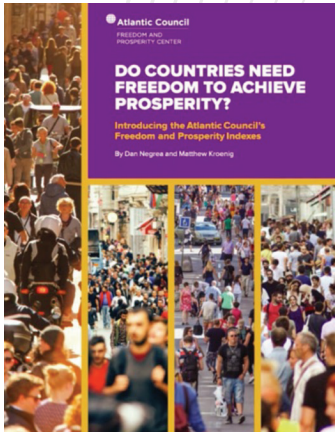
Coming November 2023

This year's authors are sixteen current and former government officials and scholars from eleven countries.



Coming June 2023: Second annual report on the Freedom and Prosperity Indexes

2022 Report on the Freedom and Prosperity Indexes



The Freedom Index measures economic, political, and legal freedoms for nearly every country in the world, using the latest available data when the index was constructed at the end of 2021. The Prosperity Index measures economic well-being and human flourishing for the same countries and time period. In addition, we collected historical data to allow us to track and analyze change over time.

Academic Grants



In partnership with the Acton Institute, the Center offers Freedom and Prosperity Academic Grants. These grants are inspired by our research on Freedom and Prosperity, aiming to increase opportunities for poor and marginalized indi-

viduals in developing countries. We are interested both in scholars who will examine our indexes and offer concrete recommendations on how to improve our methodology, as well as scholars who seek to further explore the general relationship between freedom and prosperity. Scholars will be paid up to \$25,000 per quarter for their work.

Reform Grants



In partnership with Atlas Network, the Center offers Freedom and Prosperity Reform Grants. Strong candidates for funding will present an achievable strategy for

increasing economic, political, and legal freedoms in their country or community. We will consider grant requests of up to \$35,000 from Atlas Network partners outside the United States.

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