

Dan Klein's lecture on  
Adam Smith

for UPenn

26 June 2025

Don't hesitate to ask me questions by email: [dklein@gmu.edu](mailto:dklein@gmu.edu)

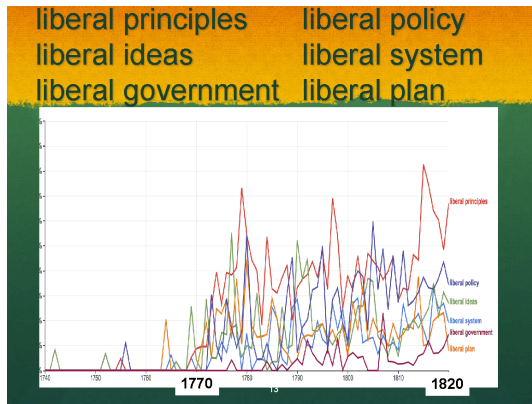
Two open-access books with Klein's stuff on Smith:

[\*Smithian Morals\*](#) (2023)

[\*Central Notions of Smithian Liberalism\*](#) (2023)

Outline of Klein's presentation for UPenn:

1. Printing press → disjointed interpretation → fighting over the higher things → religious wars → new attitude about government → jurisprudence → “the liberal plan” (WN)
2. Smith as a **moral authority**
3. Jurisprudence, commutative justice (see Ch. 1 of *Central Notions*, Ch. 14 of *Smithian Morals*)
4. Liberty, the liberal plan
5. The liberal christening (see:  
<https://elibrary.duncker-humblot.com/article/74903/ldquoliberalrdquo-as-a-political-active-in-english-1769thinspndashthinsp1824>)



6. Smith presumption of liberty (see Ch. 2 of *Central Notions*)
7. Looking at WN, Chapter 1
8. Q & A