



SMU | Interdisciplinary Institute
DEDMAN COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SCIENCES

The Scott Hawkins Lecture Fund, the Department of History, and the Center for Presidential History present

From Coffeehouse to Tea Party: Austrian Economics and American Politics

Janek Wasserman, Ph.D.



Friedrich Hayek delivering a speech at the Mont Pelerin Society's first meeting in 1947

Austrian Economics has become a popular intellectual movement with conservative think tanks, libertarians, and Republicans. Its leading exemplars Friedrich Hayek, Joseph Schumpeter and Ludwig Mises are frequently cited in the defense of free market capitalism and in attacks on labor organizations and the modern welfare state. However, the 'Austrian School' is virtually unknown in its country of origin. Moreover, there were virtually no Austrians practicing 'Austrian Economics' when the movement resurfaced in the US in the early 1970s. This talk will examine the paradoxical history of this transatlantic intellectual phenomenon, from its modest and eclectic origins in Habsburg Vienna to its controversial, ideological rebirth in post-WWII America.

Thursday, April 6
5:30 p.m. Reception, 6:00 p.m. Lecture
Caruth Hall, Room 147
This event is free and open to the public.

About the Speaker: Janek Wasserman is Assistant Professor of Modern German and Central European History at the University of Alabama. He received his Ph.D. in European history from Washington University in St. Louis. He was a recipient of fellowships from the Österreichisches Austauschdienst, the Botstiber Institute for Austrian-American Studies, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Hoover Institution, and the History of Political Economy Fellowship at Duke University. His first book, *Black Vienna: The Radical Right in the Red City, 1918-1938*, appeared with Cornell University Press in 2014 (and will appear in paperback in the summer of 2017). His current book project, *Marginal Revolutionaries: Austrian Economics from Coffeehouse to Tea Party*, is under contract with Yale University Press.