

Editorial Introduction

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Scott Scheall's recent book, *F.A. Hayek and the Epistemology of Politics: The Curious Task of Economics*, merits serious consideration for social scientists and, indeed, philosophers. The book is an exploration of an important problem that has largely been ignored: the problem of policymaker ignorance and the consequences of limited political knowledge.

Professor Scheall explores the possibilities for effective political action as constrained by policymakers' epistemic limitations. The book explains why policymaking often fails and why constituents, whatever their political affiliations, are so often disappointed with political leaders. In this philosophical examination of his work, Hayek's ideas are not merely discussed, analyzed, and contextualized, but extended; the book both draws and defends previously unrecognized implications from the Hayekian canon.

This Symposium has drawn the interest of an invited group of scholars from the U.S. and Europe with the charge of critically assessing the book and its significance. Their papers are original, substantive, and critical. The Symposium starts with a "Prologue" by Scheall that provides the reader with a concise summary of the book, followed by papers by luminaries Peter Boettke, Irwin Dekker, Roger Koppl, and Eric Schliesser, and thorough "Responses" by Scheall to his contributors.