

## Editorial Introduction

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I am grateful to Leslie Marsh and the editors of C+T for this opportunity to convene a Symposium on *Economic Freedom and Social Justice: The Classical Ideal of Equality in Contexts of Racial Diversity*, and to Frank Furedi, Walter Block, Bruce Pardy and Simon Deakin for their comments on the book which are published in this issue of C+T. I am also grateful to David Gordon for his contribution both to *Economic Freedom* and to this symposium.

In his Foreword to *Economic Freedom* David Gordon writes “In our times, classical liberalism is under attack. Contemporary progressives say that individual liberty and the free market do not suffice for genuine justice”. This question, how to satisfy the demands of justice, lies at the heart of *Economic Freedom*. The attacks to which Gordon refers are on all fronts, and the book was specifically concerned with the onslaught from Rawlsian egalitarianism. In its Preface the book sets out the premise to be discussed, namely that “egalitarian ideals, like all subjective value judgements, must be subjected to critical intellectual inquiry rather than treated axiomatically”, even in contexts where the debate concerns racial inequality.

The aim of these Symposium papers is to evaluate some of the themes addressed by that inquiry. All the commentators have offered thoughtful questions and critical analysis of the book. They have raised several important issues that merit further inquiry, some of which are addressed in the response that follows.