

February 2021

**John Alcorn**  
**Principal Lecturer, Formal Organizations**  
**Trinity College**  
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## **Employment**

Principal Lecturer, Formal Organizations, Shelby Cullom Davis  
Endowment

## **Education**

1999 Ph. D., Department of History, Columbia University  
Dissertation: *Social Strife in Sicily 1892-94: The Rise and Fall  
of Peasant Leagues on the Latifondo before the Great Emigration*  
Defense Committee: Victoria DeGrazia (chair), Edward Malefakis  
(sponsor), Jon Elster, Duncan Foley, and J. W. Smit.

## **Fellowships**

Fondazione Giovanni Agnelli  
International Doctoral Research Fellow, Social Science Research Council  
Fulbright/Hays Grantee, Board of Foreign Scholarships/I. I. E.  
Whiting Fellow, Columbia University

## **Grants**

2020-21 Grant for Free Speech and Open Inquiry, Institute for Human Studies  
NEH Summer Seminar for College Teachers (twice)

## **Manuscripts in progress**

- *Prohibitions* (book ms)
- *The Godfather and Game Theory: The Art of Hard Choices by Mafiosi* (book ms)
- *Giacomo Leopardi's Art and Science of Psychology* (book ms)
- *Justice in Hell: A Fresh Look at Dante's Inferno*

## **Select Publications**

- “Adam Smith *contra* François de La Rochefoucauld: Sympathy, Conscience, & Deception,” in Sarah Skwire, editor, *New Perspectives on Adam Smith* (Liberty Fund, forthcoming)

- “The Nature & Scope of *Contrapasso* in Dante’s *Inferno*,” in Simone Casini, Christine Sansalone, Salvatore Bancheri, and Michael Lettieri, editors, *A Journey through Knowledge* (Franco Cesati Editore, University of Toronto Series, 2020) pp. 127-142.
- Series of articles, “Prohibitions,” *EconLog.EconLib.Org* (Fall 2019)
- “*Virtu distorte: Manzoni e la scelta fatidica di Gertrude*,” in Alviera Bussotti, Valerio Camarotto, & Silvia Ricca, editors, *Il lessico delle virtù nella letteratura italiana ed europea tra Ottocento e Novecento* (Sapienza University Press, 2019) pp. 105-118.
- “Experts, Markets, & the Citizen’s Dilemma: The Case of Climate Change,” in *Markets & Liberty* (Shelby Cullom Davis Endowment, 2019) pp. 1-27.
- “Suffering in Hell: The Psychology of Emotions in Dante’s *Inferno*,” *Pedagogy* 13:1 (Duke U. Press, January 2013) 77-85.
- “Forze e meccanismi in atto nella Grande Emigrazione verso l’America,” *Neos: Rivista di storia dell’emigrazione siciliana* 2:1 (December 2008) 47-68.
- “Revolutionary Mafiosi: Voice and Exit in the 1890s,” in *L’associazionismo a Corleone: Un’inchiesta storica e sociologica*, edited by Paolo Viola and Titti Morello (Istituto Gramsci Siciliano, Palermo, 2004).
- “Pope Pius XII and the Holocaust in Italy: An Introduction,” *Journal of Modern Italian Studies* 7:3 (June 2002) 215-218.
- “La ginestra: Un esempio di arte sociale,” *La Rassegna della Letteratura Italiana* 103:1 (January-June 1999) 223-251. Dario Del Puppo co-author.
- “Giacomo Leopardi’s Art and Science of Emotion in Memory and Anticipation,” *MLN* 111:1 (January 1996) 89-122.
- “Sophisticated Liberals,” in *Italian Socialism: Between Politics and History*, edited by Spencer Di Scala (U. of Massachusetts Press, 1996), pp. 38-44.
- “Giacomo Leopardi’s ‘La ginestra’ as Social Art,” *Modern Language Review* 89:4 (October 1994) 865-88. Dario Del Puppo co-author.
- “Argument & Allocation: The Contention of Ajax & Ulysses for Achilles’ Armor,” *Science & Society* 58:2 (Summer 1994) 163-74.
- “The *Commissione per i contratti agrari* of 1894: A Case Study in Ideology and Social Science,” in *Quaderni a cura del Servizio Studi Legislativi dell’Assmblea Regionale Siciliana*, edited by Nicola De Domenico, Alessandro Garilli, and Pietro Nastasi (Palermo: La Regione Sicilia, 1994) 2 vols, I, pp. 97-184.

- “I Fasci siciliani ed il primo grande sciopero contadino dell’Italia liberale (1893),” [“The Sicilian Leagues and Liberal Italy’s First Great Peasant Strike (1893)”], *Nuove Prospettive Meridionali*, 3:5-7 (1993) 195-270.

#### *Books edited*

- *Markets & Liberty* (Shelby Cullom Davis Endowment, 2019).
- *A Passion for History* (Cesare Barbieri Endowment for Italian Culture, 2008)
- *In Celebration of Language* (Cesare Barbieri Endowment for Italian Culture, 2004). Dario Del Puppo, co-editor.

#### **Courses**

FORG 325 Sports: Players, Organizations, & Markets  
 FORG 315 Prohibitions  
 FORG 280 College: Organizations in Higher-Education  
 FORG 272 Mafia  
 FORG 211 Normative Analysis of Organizations  
 FORG 210 Behavior in Organizations

#### **College service (Trinity College)**

- Planning & Budget Council (2010–2019)
- Financial Affairs Committee (2005–2007 and 2010–2019; Chairperson AY13-14, AY-14-15, & Fall 2015)
- Benefits Committee (2010–2017)
- 403(b) Investment Committee (2012-2017)
- Admissions and Financial Aid Committee (Chairperson AY05-06, AY14-15)  
 Designed Presidential Scholarship Program (merit scholarships)
- Advancement: Raised \$160,000 for the Cesare Barbieri Endowment for Italian Culture

#### **Professional service**

- Board of Directors Member, Association of Private Enterprise Education (APEE) (2018-present)
- Trustee, Cesare Barbieri Endowment for Italian Culture (1999–present)
- Executive Committee, Cesare Barbieri Endowment for Italian Culture (1999–present)
- Selection Committee, Trinity College Research Grant in Modern Italian History (2002–present)
- Peer review of book manuscripts for McGraw Hill, Praeger, Westview Press, and Catholic University Press of America
- External evaluator for tenure candidacy at Middlebury College
- Organization of academic symposia, lectures, and conferences:
  - International conference “Leopardi today”
  - Symposium, “Debating Sex Work” (Jessica Flanigan & Lori Watson)

Symposium, “What’s Wrong with Education?” (Bryan Caplan & Miguel Urquiola)  
Symposium, *Radical Markets* (E. Glen Weyl, Robert C. Ellickson, & Hélène Landemore)  
Symposium, “Visions of Anarchy” (James C. Scott, David Friedman, & Robert C. Ellickson)  
Symposium, “Making Democracy Smarter: Markets or Deliberation?” (Howard DeLong, Arnold Kling, Robin Hanson, Hélène Landemore)  
Website: [www.smartdemocracy.com](http://www.smartdemocracy.com)  
“Pope Pius XII, the Holocaust, and Rescue in Italy” (Susan Zuccotti, Ronald Ryschlak, Samuel Kassow, Alexander DeGrand, Berel Lang). Broadcast by C-SPAN.

## References

A senior social scientist (external reference):

Jon Elster, Robert K. Merton Professor Social Sciences, Columbia University  
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Supervisors at Trinity College:

Edward Stringham, Director of the Shelby Cullom Davis Endowment  
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Dario Del Puppo, Chairperson, Cesare Barbieri Endowment for Italian Culture  
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Senior scholar of Italian literature (external reference):

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A senior historian of Modern Italy (external reference):

Spencer DiScala, Research Professor of History, Univ. of Massachusetts, Boston  
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