

ACTON INSTITUTE

2022 ANNUAL REPORT





OUR MISSION IS SIMPLE



We want everyone to understand the foundational ideas
that lead to a free and virtuous society.

We do this through promoting our unique synthesis of faith and economics,
and we focus our efforts on reaching influential leaders
in academia, business, and faith communities.

We are only able to do this thanks to our generous and faithful supporters.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

As I survey the good work and many victories we've achieved in the past year, I am humbled and grateful. We live in turbulent times, but through it all we have kept a steady gaze straight ahead. Thanks to a world-class staff, amazing alumni network, and generous donors around the world, together we are making a difference.



Thirty-three years ago when Father Sirico and I began the Acton Institute, liberation theology held sway; it was a perverted combination of Marxism and Christianity that had caught the imagination of many in Latin America and even in the United States. Many of the leading institutions of religious instruction fell under its spell. Our proposal was different: instead of Marxism, we proposed liberty and free enterprise. But not liberty alone—liberty guided by the truth, by religious principles and right moral action.

Not long after starting Acton programming, things began to change—most notably, the end of the awful experiment of real communism. But sages before had warned us that liberty can never be taken for granted and that we must be ever vigilant in its protection and defense.

Today we remain as committed as ever to individual liberty guided by personal moral responsibility. Our namesake, Lord Acton, gave us a sublime purpose for personal morality and responsibility when he wrote, “Liberty is not the power of doing what we like, but the right of being able to do what we ought.” Together we are part of the noble effort to carry this vision forward.

With gratitude for your shared vigilance, I remain...

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kris Mauren".

Kris Alan Mauren
President

2022 BY THE NUMBERS



47

MEDIA
appearances

250+

Published
OP-EDS & ARTICLES

12

BOOKS
published

10,000+

Leaders who attended
**ACTON EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAMMING**

30+

CONFERENCES
across the world

119

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED
Acton University 2023





1,470,361

Annual **VISITS** to Acton.org



2,480,748

Annual **PAGEVIEWS** on Acton.org

1,000,000+

Podcast **DOWNLOADS**
since the launch of Acton's podcast network



786,427



Social Media **FOLLOWERS**

22,735



YouTube **SUBSCRIBERS**

EMERGING LEADERS



Acton's Emerging Leaders Program was created to **find and train the world's top young leaders** to pursue a free and virtuous society.

In 2022 we had 19 students from eight countries represented. **These impressive young individuals spent the summer studying, discussing, and debating leadership and character development** with Acton scholars,

including Father Robert Sirico, Samuel Gregg, and Anthony Bradley.

IN 2022 WE HAD 19 STUDENTS FROM 8 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED.

In addition to enjoying thought-provoking and challenging lectures, **each Emerging Leader is an apprentice to our staff and receives hands-on think tank experience.** With lessons in everything

from fundraising and research to educational programming, the participants walk away ready to succeed in their future careers as well as with the ability to defend the free market, religion, and individual liberty.

In 2022 we expanded the program to a full academic year, continuing to support our students as they went back to their campuses.

After the summer internship, **each leader was mentored one-on-one by Acton staff and scholars.** They also returned to Grand Rapids this past fall to lead discussion groups for Acton's Leadership & Character Summit—a new two-day conference in Grand Rapids for college students and young professionals. Peter Greer gave an engaging and encouraging opening talk on his book *Power of Disillusionment: Enduring Hope for Leaders After Idealism Fades*. The conference explored theoretical and practical principles of personal character development and professional leadership that will **equip these young leaders to be effective advocates for a free and virtuous society.**

TESTIMONIALS



“The Emerging Leaders Program has been **an intellectually enriching experience that has greatly expanded my knowledge and skills as a young professional**. There were many times this summer I stopped and thought of how blessed I was to be part of a program such as this one. I was able to attend 25+ seminars and participate in Acton University. I read a plethora of articles and books that opened my eyes to new truths and perspectives. I want to thank our donors for their contributions to the Emerging Leaders Program, which has deepened my knowledge of what it means to “promote a free and virtuous society.”

—KATE K.

“As a Brazilian who recently graduated with a degree in economics, I must say that **the best choice of my life so far was to apply for this program**; nothing has impacted my life so positively. From the first to the last day of this program, we learned from the best. We learned academically during our intense days of lectures and seminars the ways to build a free and virtuous society, and we learned for our personal lives the importance of being free individuals sustained by religious principles.

Learning and applying what we were taught in the program makes us leaders in our communities, which will impact many societies. This positive impact on so many lives would not be possible without donors’ support. So I thank you on behalf of all Emerging Leaders for making this program possible. We will be forever grateful for your trust in us.”

—MATHEUS C.



ACTON UNIVERSITY



Acton University (AU), our keystone event, is a unique four-day exploration of the intellectual foundations of a free society. Guided by a distinguished international faculty, **AU is an opportunity to deepen one's knowledge with lectures that integrate philosophy, theology, history, and sound economics.**

“THIS WAS BY FAR ONE OF THE MOST IMPACTFUL CONFERENCES I HAVE EVER ATTENDED.”

AU 2022 brought in new participants from hundreds of different organizations—more than half of the general AU participants were new. As one noted:

“This was by far one of the most impactful conferences I have ever attended. A life-changing takeaway from the

short but intense three days of lectures and conversations was coming to the realization that we must repair our understanding of human beings or we will fundamentally devastate our societies and economies.”

Acton University attracts people of influence: college professors, church leaders, nonprofit administrators, and businesspeople. This makes AU a “force multiplier” in the liberty-championing arena. **Hundreds of thousands of people are reached each year through the participation of important leaders and educators from around the globe.**



2,122

Total participants
(in person & online)



26%

of participants have a circle
of influence of 400+ people



31%

of participants
are under age 35



99.7%

of participants would
recommend AU



ACTON UNIVERSITY—PLENARY SPEAKERS



PLENARY PANEL

Jimmy Lai's Extraordinary Struggle for Freedom



VICTORIA TIN-BOR HUI

Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
University of Notre Dame



SIMON LEE

Former Op/Ed
Columnist *Apple Daily*



MARY KISSEL

Former Senior Adviser
U.S. Secretary of State
Mike Pompeo



REV. ROBERT A. SIRICO

President Emeritus
Acton Institute
Executive Producer
The Hong Konger



ERIC KOHN

Director of Marketing &
Communications, Acton Institute
Associate Producer
The Hong Konger



PLENARY LECTURES



L. GREGORY JONES

President, Theologian
Belmont University

Topic:

Love Made Me an Inventor



AMITY SHLAES

Economic Historian
Bestselling Author

Topic:

The Fatal Contract: Unions and
Automakers in the Great Society



MIKE COSPER

Writer, Podcast Producer,
Podcast Senior Director
Christianity Today

Topic:

Mass Loneliness, the Loss of Virtue,
and the Allure of Charisma

ACTON UNIVERSITY—TESTIMONIALS



“The plenary sessions were outstanding, especially the session on Jimmy Lai’s extraordinary struggle for freedom, in addition to the documentary *The Hong Konger*, which was eye-opening to the hidden challenges and sufferings that freedom fighters face even in this modern world. *The Hong Konger* resonates with the continuous struggle for freedom. **I firmly believe that every participant and the faculty members from every continent were inspired, challenged, and motivated to be and remain agents of change toward building a just and virtuous society.**”

—REV. PASCHAL U.

“As an adjunct professor of economics for about 10 years, I desired to express a more foundational approach to teaching free-market theory, an approach that recognized the role of both virtue and culture in conditioning economic policy and decisions made by firms and individuals. To this end, AU fits the bill quite nicely. **Presentations and other lectures have helped me further advance my foundational understanding of economics, which in turn will enhance how I teach the subject going forward.** Thank you, Acton donors, for enabling me to attend. I hope to attend again in the future and will be recommending Acton University and the work of the Acton Institute to my students and colleagues.”

—JIM B.





“One morning I sat with a Catholic from India, a Christian from Uganda, a Muslim ‘Lockean deist,’ and a priest from Rome; the next I sat with five people from Brazil. **The diversity of people was refreshing because I so rarely engage with those outside my community.** Refreshing, too, were the fellow attendees’ attention to my story and willingness to share their own. I engaged with the president of a nonprofit that utilizes microfinance and stresses personal responsibility while serving 25,000 people in the two counties it manages; a lawyer from South America who fights against his socialist, corrupt president; a professor at a university in Florida; a youth pastor of a church in Dallas, and so on. Also, the ecumenism greatly impressed me. [I experienced] deep solidarity—a word I rarely have heard, if at all, until Acton. Ultimately, though, **it was the stunningly true ideas and arguments presented at every seminar that were the true diamonds in the crown of this conference—**elegant expositions of the true, good, and beautiful.”

—LOGAN P.

CONFERENCES



BUSINESS MATTERS

On February 24, we hosted our **4th annual Business Matters** conference engaging entrepreneurs, business professionals, educators, and students to explore the moral good that business does.








We also **initiated college watch parties** of Business Matters at Grove City College, where 55 students attended, and Nyack College, where 15 students attended.

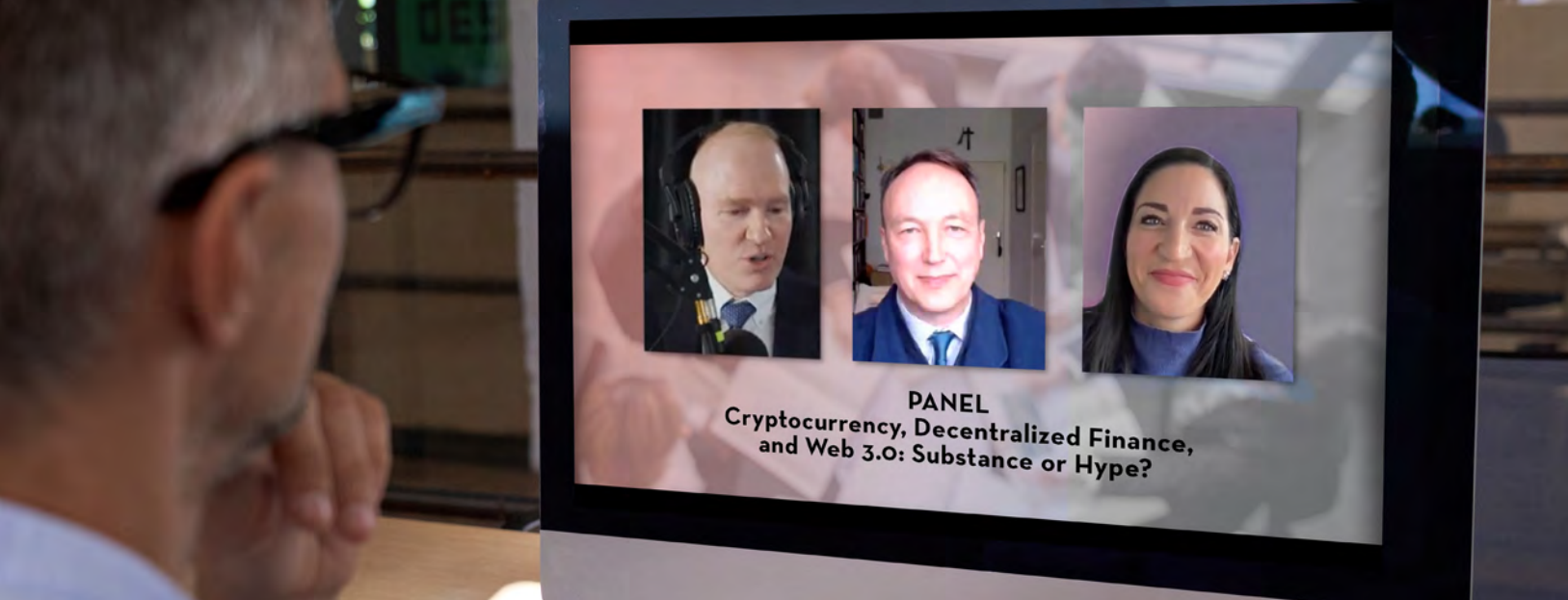
Participant records continue to show we are engaging our target business-leader audience with **content they find valuable and insightful**.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPANT

"It was thrilling [to see] part of my experiences in the story of others and learning how they navigate through, building a wonderful business career."

—Maria Ayelen Sanchez

THE #s	 554 Registrants	 242 New to Acton Institute	 42% Businesspeople
 43 Countries represented	 234 Participants viewing in Portuguese, Spanish, and French	 98% Agreed their work will be affected by what they learned	 98% Agreed the event was excellent



Business Matters Online Conference

LIBERTY & MARKETS SEMINARS

Acton hosted **two Liberty & Markets events** in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Targeted to graduate-level Acton alumni, these partnered events with Liberty Fund Inc. offer **a deeper exploration of the intersection of truth, liberty, and economics** through guided text-based Socratic discussions. Attendees range from young professionals to pastors, activists, clergy, and professors.

The seminar in March was focused on **the nature of religious liberty**, its Protestant character in the colonial period and early Republic, and the challenges facing religious liberty today; while April's discussions explored **the nature of social justice**, if and when redistribution is justified, and the nature of the common good in a pluralistic society.

Liberty & Markets Seminar



CONFERENCES CONT.



FREE AND VIRTUOUS SOCIETY (FAVS) CONFERENCES

After three years, **Acton's signature Free and Virtuous Society conferences came back!** FAVS and CityFAVS cater to pastors, lay leaders, and those working in poverty-alleviating organizations. In 2022, we hosted three FAVS and City

**EXPLORE THE NATURE
OF THE HUMAN PERSON
AND THE CREATED ORDER
FROM THE PERSPECTIVES
OF SCRIPTURE AND
NATURAL LAW**

FAVS conferences, in Minneapolis, New York City, and Joplin (Missouri). Some of the discussion topics included: Social Flourishing in Civil Society, Black Liberation Through the Market Place, Importance of Fatherhood, and Market Solutions to Poverty.

Our City FAVS conferences offer **an introduction to the moral foundations of personal and economic liberty** by combining an in-depth treatment of sound economic principles with those of social justice and anthropology. They explore the nature of the human person and the created order from the perspectives of scripture and natural law, examining concepts such as justice, equality, stewardship, and virtue. In addition, these seminars focus on applying the principles of economic liberty to matters such as poverty, welfare reform, and globalization.

Conference participants **envision a new framework for examining complex problems facing today's cities**, built upon a foundation of theological and economic clarity. They discuss the application of personal and economic liberty to poverty-centered issues, network with other catalysts in their communities, ground discussions in continued emphasis on real-world uses of biblical principles, and develop leadership capacity through the resources offered in each session.



The Minneapolis FAVS in August 2022 was perhaps **our most diverse FAVS ever**, with many first-time attendees and participants from a variety of



backgrounds, occupations, and denominations. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive; one attendee shared that *“this has opened my eyes to many things,”* including the role of foundational institutions and the power of markets to fight poverty and discrimination.

We had **fantastic engagement both during and after the sessions**, including one participant sharing about living in Cuba under the Castro regime and asking whether the U.S. was moving in the same direction. Another participant

offered his experience growing up in an orphanage and how his current role in development is a way to support faith-based poverty-alleviation efforts. **FAVS conferences bring attention to Acton’s core values and vision** and serve as launching points for attendees to have a better conception of how to pursue a free and virtuous society in their own contexts. We are overjoyed to be back up and running with these powerful conferences.

A FEW PARTICIPANT COMMENTS

“It is always good to be reminded of the hope we can bring in light of suffering while respecting the poor.”



“Simply superb; it was as inspiring as it was educating.”

“I learned more about different faith approaches to poverty.”

“Dr. Ferguson opened my understanding on what Black Americans have achieved economically.”

PROGRAM UPDATES



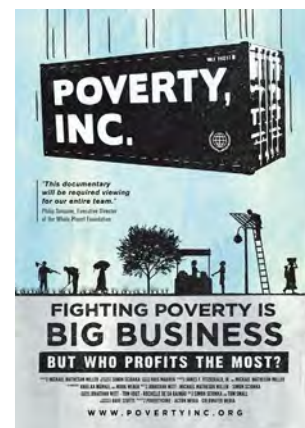
POVERTY CENTER



In 2022, the Acton Institute announced the launch of our new center addressing issues of poverty, social capital, and civil society, led by **MICHAEL MATHESON MILLER**. Miller is best known for his work as the director and producer of the award-winning documentary *Poverty, Inc.*, the PovertyCure DVD series, and The Good Society series. He is also the founding director of PovertyCure, which promotes entrepreneurial solutions to poverty in the developing world.

The new center will focus on re-engaging and reigniting the global PovertyCure network, training civil society leaders at educational events, and producing a follow-up to the award-winning documentary *Poverty, Inc.*

The **new film will focus on poverty in the United States**, touching on such topics as the problem with large-scale social engineering approaches to broken families, addictions, inequality, social mobility, and more.



On November 2, 2022, the center hosted the **2nd biennial PovertyCure Summit**. This one-day virtual conference provided an opportunity for participants to listen to scholars, human service providers, and civil society leaders address the most critical issues we face today that either exacerbate or alleviate poverty.



2,601

Attendees, virtual
(unique log-ins during live event)



91.36%

Participants new to
Acton Institute



119

Countries
represented



TOP 3

Countries represented
NIGERIA • USA • PAKISTAN

These speakers joined panel discussions to explore the legal, economic, social, and technological issues pertaining to both domestic (U.S.) and global poverty. Presentations were **rooted in the foundational principles** of anthropology, politics, natural law, and economics, **enabling participants to gain a deeper understanding** of the causes of poverty and identify practical means to reduce it and promote human flourishing.

COLLINS CENTER

In the fall of 2022, the Acton Institute launched the Collins Center for Abrahamic Heritage to advance research and education from Jewish, Christian, and Islamic perspectives on liberty, economics, and human flourishing. Acknowledging both the commonalities and differences between religions, **the Collins Center encourages genuine, robust dialogue between scholars and leaders of different faiths.**



Intolerance, religious conflict, and legal inequalities victimize many believers around the world. Rather than decrying the role of religion in society, **the Collins Center explores the roots of these problems and sees great opportunity to find solutions** and better the world from within these religious traditions.

Collins Center programs include creating global networks of religious scholars, international conferences, book publications, and other resources. An initiative of the Acton Institute, the Collins Center will **diversify Acton's audiences and bring principles of a free and virtuous society** to millions of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim leaders worldwide.

The Collins Center hosted an **inaugural international event** in Madrid on September 19, where **attendees explored the history, challenges, and prospects of Jews, Christians, and Muslims living together in peace, prosperity, and liberty.**

Topics at the conference included:

- The history of relations between Jews, Christians, and Muslims
- The history of interfaith relations in Spain
- Scientific thought from the Abrahamic faiths
- Economic thought from the Abrahamic faiths

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS



NEWLY APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH



John C. Pinheiro, Ph.D., joined the Acton Institute as director of research in 2022. Prior to joining Acton, he was longtime professor of history and the founding director of Catholic studies at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he also founded the college's popular Semester-in-Rome program, chaired the history and philosophy departments, served on the college's strategic leadership team, and directed general education. Before his work at Aquinas, Dr. Pinheiro was assistant editor on the Presidential Series of the Papers of George Washington at the University of Virginia. In 2005 he and his fellow editors presented Presidential Series Volume 12 to President George W. Bush in the Oval Office and was a group recipient of the National Humanities Medal.

Dr. Pinheiro holds a Ph.D. in history from the University of Tennessee and degrees in history and religious studies from California State

University, and he studied Italian at Università per Stranieri di Perugia. From 2014 to 2018, he was an elected member of the National Network Board of the Lilly Fellows Program, a Lilly-funded network of 120 church-related colleges and universities. **His publications include academic and popular articles on the early American republic, American religious history, and Roman Catholicism.** In 2019 he published

The American Experiment in Ordered Liberty for the Acton Institute, arguing for the compatibility of Catholic social teaching with the universal aspects of the American founding. His current book project is *Beyond Burke: George Washington and the Origins of American Conservatism*.

**THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION, HE SAYS,
INVOLVED THE DEFENSE
AND THEN ARTICULATION
OF AMERICANS' LONG
EXPERIENCE WITH LIBERTY
AND ITS BLESSINGS.**

JOURNAL OF MARKETS & MORALITY

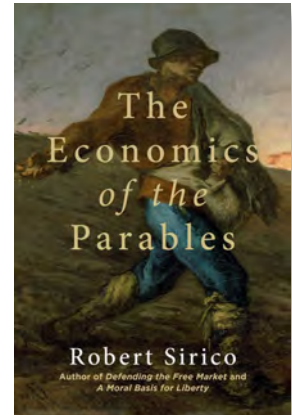


Over this past academic year, we published two issues of the *Journal of Markets & Morality*: vol. 24, no. 2, and vol. 25, no. 1. The journal publishes peer-reviewed, academic articles that seek to advance the state of scholarship at the highest level with regards to faith and freedom, ethics and economics, law and liberty.

In 2022, Acton Research scholars **PUBLISHED SIX BOOKS** and more than

250 articles, essays, and op-eds in outlets such as the *Wall Street Journal*.

Perhaps the most noteworthy book published this year was by Acton's emeritus president, **REV. ROBERT SIRICO**: *The Economics of the Parables*. This work is being translated and published in several foreign languages.



Another interesting monograph based on free market economics and limited government, with the potential to reach a wide Muslim population, was *Islam & Economics* by Ali Salman.

NOVAK AWARD

Named after the distinguished American theologian, the late Michael Novak, this \$15,000 award rewards new outstanding scholarly research concerning the relationship between religion, economic freedom, and the free and virtuous society. This award recognizes those scholars early in their academic career who demonstrate outstanding intellectual merit in advancing an understanding of religion's connection to human dignity, the rule of law, limited government, religious liberty, and freedom in economic life.



In 2022, the Acton Institute awarded the Novak Award to Erik W. Matson, senior research fellow at the Mercatus Center and the deputy director of the Adam Smith Program in George Mason University's Department of Economics, in recognition of his outstanding research in the fields of ethics, politics, and economics.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS CONT.



NEW AFFILIATE SCHOLARS & PASTOR

We welcome our new affiliate faculty members and new affiliate pastor:



RACHEL FERGUSON is director of the Center for Free Enterprise and assistant dean and professor of business ethics in the College of Business at Concordia University Chicago. She is the coauthor, with Marcus Witcher, of *Black Liberation Through the Marketplace: Hope, Heartbreak, and the Promise of America*. Her commentary can be found in a variety of venues, including Acton's *Religion & Liberty*, *Acton Line*, *National Review*, the *Christian Post*, and *Law & Liberty*. Rachel is a board member for the Freedom Center of Missouri, Faith Ascent Ministries, and LOVEtheLOU, and a founding member of Gateway 2 Flourishing. She received her Ph.D. in philosophy from Saint Louis University in 2009.



STEPHANIE SLADE is a senior editor at *Reason*, the magazine of “free minds and free markets,” and a fellow in liberal studies at the Acton Institute. Prior to joining Reason, Slade worked as a speechwriter, a pollster, and a regular contributor to *U.S. News & World Report*. In 2013 she was named a finalist for the Bastiat Prize for Journalism and in 2016 was selected as a Robert Novak Journalism Fellow. Stephanie is also a proud graduate of the University of Florida, where she studied economics and political science.



SAMUEL GOLDMAN is an associate professor of political science at George Washington University, where he is also executive director of the John L. Loeb, Jr. Institute for Religious Freedom and director of the Politics & Values Program. His most recent book is titled *After Nationalism: Being American in a Divided Age* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2021). Sam received his Ph.D. from Harvard and taught at Harvard and Princeton before transferring to George Washington. In addition to academic work, his writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and other publications.



MICAH WATSON is the executive director of the Henry Institute for the Study of Christianity and Politics, the Paul B. Henry Chair in Political Science, and program director for the Politics, Philosophy, and Economics (PPE) Program at Calvin University. Micah earned his M.A. degree in church-state studies at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and holds M.A. and doctorate degrees in politics from Princeton University. He taught a course at AU 2022 entitled “C.S. Lewis, Law and Liberty” and is a very welcome addition to our team.



JOHNSON RETHINASAMY is the new affiliate pastor and engagement liaison at Acton. He serves as the senior pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Whitestone, Queens, N.Y., and as the mission executive for a regional judicatory of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod. Johnson co-founded the Global Evangelical Leadership Network, a think tank and hands-on mission-planting, mission-leader, and church-revitalization networking platform. Johnson holds degrees in teaching, education, and theology from the University of Madras, Annamalai University, and Serampore University in India. He also holds a doctorate from New York Theological Seminary.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS CONT.



FREEDOM AND PROSPERITY ACADEMIC GRANTS

The Freedom and Prosperity Academic Grants are **a collaboration between the Acton Institute and the Atlantic Council's Freedom and Prosperity Center**, a new center that aims to increase the prosperity of the poor and marginalized in developing countries and to explore the nature of the relationship between freedom and prosperity.

**GRANTS OF UP TO
\$25,000 PER
QUARTER ARE
AWARDED TO
RESEARCHERS.**

The Freedom and Prosperity Academic Grants are intended specifically to promote research using the Atlantic Council Freedom and Prosperity Indexes, either by examining the relationship between freedom and prosperity in general or by enhancing the robustness of the Indexes themselves.

Grants of up to \$25,000 per quarter are awarded to researchers who examine various aspects of the Atlantic Council Freedom and Prosperity Indexes. Proposals considered for funding include but are not limited to: (1) those that examine the indexes and provide recommendations for strengthening or improving them



(e.g., qualitatively, quantitatively, or with respect to data robustness), and (2) those that use the indexes to examine the relationship between freedom and prosperity in general.

In 2022 we received eight grantees from seven countries whose research projects were awarded a total of \$212,475 in grants. These grantees

**IN 2022 WE RECEIVED
8 GRANTEES FROM
7 COUNTRIES.**

include Ignacio P. Campomanes from Spain with research on Dimensions of Freedom and Economic Performance; Ben Powell from the U.S., who focused on The Causal Relationship Between Economic Freedom and Prosperity;

and Vladimir Fernandes Maciel from Brazil, whose project theme was Who Came First: Freedom or Prosperity? An Inquiry About Liberty and Welfare.

Upon research completion, grant recipients must deliver a concrete artifact (e.g., published paper, book chapter, etc.) and submit a report of their research, conclusions, and recommendations to the Freedom and Prosperity Center and the Acton Institute.

RESEARCH PROJECT GRANTEE



“A simple look at the world today reveals a clear picture: the most prosperous countries are almost without exception established democracies where freedom and fundamental rights are preserved and defended.

... Historical and current examples of democracies that failed to deliver prosperity for their citizens show that freedom and democracy are not sufficient conditions for economic development.”

—Ignacio P. Campomanes

MASS COMMUNICATIONS



THE HONG KONGER DOCUMENTARY

The latest documentary feature film from the Acton Institute, *The Hong Konger: Jimmy Lai's Extraordinary Struggle for Freedom*, tells the story of China's hostility toward freedom of the press, freedom of expression, and human rights through the life of the pro-democracy newspaper publisher and Hong Kong business leader Jimmy Lai.

Since its world premiere at the Human Rights Foundation's Oslo Freedom Forum in May 2022, **the film has been seen by more than 5,000 people at over 90 screenings around the globe**. It was selected for inclusion in 11 film festivals and won Best Documentary Feature at the Anthem Film Festival and Best Feature Documentary: Social Rights Subject at the American Filmatic Arts Awards Festival.



2023 UPDATE

In April 2023, *The Hong Konger* was publicly released, quickly going viral. In three weeks, **the film has garnered more than 2,000,000 views** and has been mentioned in national media including *Washington Times*, Fox News, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *National Review* and has drawn the attention of Congress's House Foreign Affairs Committee members. Keep an eye on **FreeJimmyLai.com** for updates.





PODCASTS

Acton Line has been our flagship podcast for many years, and in 2022 it hit **1,000,000 DOWNLOADS!**

TOP DOWNLOADED EPISODES

6,119

FATHERHOOD, FRATERNITIES, AND MORAL FORMATION

downloads

5,804

THE ESSENTIAL NATURAL LAW WITH SAMUEL GREGG

downloads

5,786

IAN ROWE ON AGENCY:
EMPOWERING ALL CHILDREN TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS

downloads

Podcasting is growing in popularity and fast becoming the leading media platform of the age. According to Edison Research, **people ages 12-34 make up 66% of podcast listeners within America**, and 26% of Americans (80 million) are weekly podcast listeners, a huge **17% increase over 2020**.

OTHER ACTON PODCASTS:



ACTON INTERNATIONAL



ROME

ISTITUTO ACTON

Over the years **we have established close ties** with all the major pontifical universities and many international seminaries in Rome that **draw in elite students to be formed for future ecclesial and educational leadership.**

Moreover, we have cultivated relationships with key, high-ranking officials within the Vatican Curia, the international press, international business, and NGOs. We also collaborate with other institutions of secular and religious leadership in Rome and throughout Europe.



During the COVID period, **our Rome office forged ahead with dozens of online conferences while organizing in-person private conferences** in cooperation with the French Cultural Center (Francophone African seminars—see page 28), the Pontifical Urban College (PovertyCure symposium), and the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum (three symposiums with professors and seminarians).

In addition, we continued our monthly Campus Martius seminars and winter conferences at hotel venues and restaurants. **Today we continue to increase our opportunities** with conferences and seminars at other pontifical universities, such as the Angelicum and Gregorian. These conferences, seminars, and symposiums attract hundreds of seminarians, missionaries, and many priests who will be future bishops and cardinals, in addition to lay theologians and pastoral leaders from all around the world, especially Latin American, Africa, and East Asia.

ANNUAL ROME CONFERENCE

Annual high-level, international Acton conferences are normally held in December at one of the major pontifical universities. The audience is composed of seminarians and professors as well as thought leaders in business, media, public policy, diplomacy, and various religious organizations in Rome and around the world. Average attendance is around 300, including networking lunches and VIP dinners.

INTERNATIONAL VIP SYMPOSIUMS

Istituto Acton has begun a new format of VIP rooftop dinner symposiums to debate themes from its latest publications. Inspired by exclusive views of St. Peter's Basilica and the Roman Forum, the dinner discussions are attended by 130 senior officials from Pontifical Universities and Seminaries, the Vatican Curia, embassies to the Holy See, Vatican press, and the international business community. Topics from the 2021 and 2022 were aptly chosen from the Italian version of Acton's books: *The Global Governance Conundrum* and *For God and Profit: How Banking and Finance Can Save the Common Good*.



IN-SEMINARY FORMATION

Over the years, Istituto Acton has strategically built strong relationships with Italian seminaries and universities and become an integral role in the formation of leaders in Rome. Through educational programming such as "PovertyCure: Economic Development and Human Flourishing" and "Anthropology of Economic Freedom," Acton's core principles are being presented, discussed, and debated by hundreds of young theologians each year.

ACTON INTERNATIONAL CONT.



FRANCOPHONE AFRICA PROGRAM

One particular highlight of the recently concluded Rome academic projects was the Francophone Africa Program. It was hosted at the French embassy to the Holy See's Institut Français Centre Saint-Louis from October 2021 to November 2022. **The program included six seminars with VIP guest lecturers on themes of rule of law and entrepreneurship**, several original and translated academic articles published internationally, and two books (one in translation and one original) published at top-tier publishing houses for wide distribution in Francophone Africa and the general French-speaking world.



The program had 185 registered students, most of whom were priests and seminarians studying at the Vatican's major pontifical universities. The largest audience was 160 for the launch seminar, while the remaining events saw about 70-100 in attendance, with a core of 42 doctoral and graduate students who were offered a Bourse Maritain (a fellowship worth essentially a semester's pontifical university fees).

**Blue-colored countries represent French-speaking areas.*



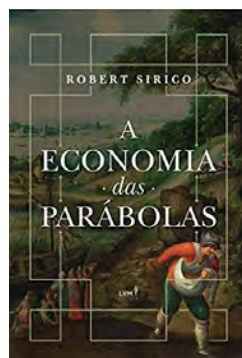
BOOKS

With a team of professional translators and international journalists, Istituto Acton has translated a number of Acton's key monographs and trade press publications in Italian, French, and Spanish, with prefaces by famous authors.

These titles were sold in international bookstores by prestigious publishing houses and presented in several cities (Rome, Naples, Milan, Verona, Paris, Madrid) to sold-out venues, with hundreds of books printed and distributed to pontifical students, professors, curial officials, and Catholic business leaders.

Recently published texts include:

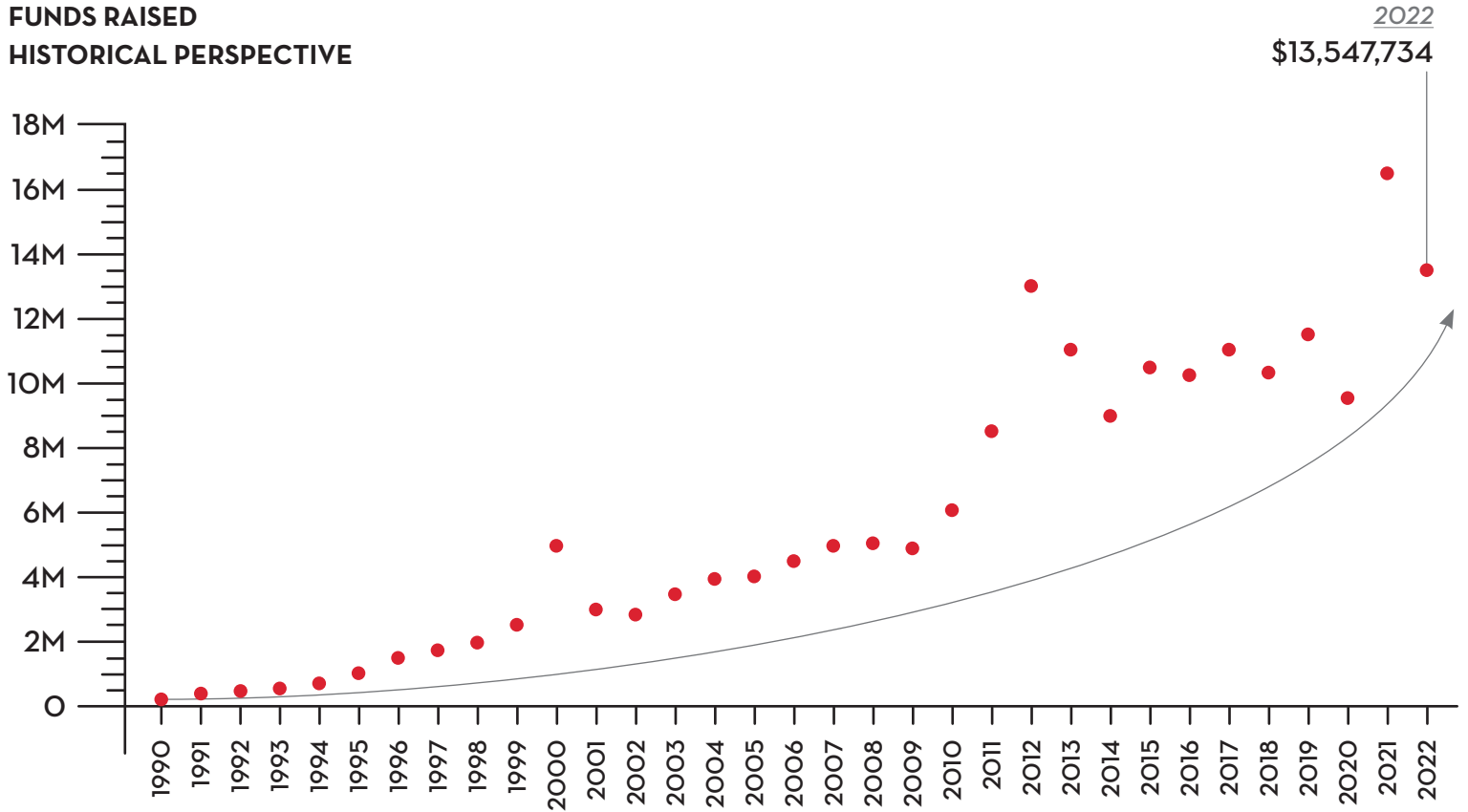
Defending the Free Market (Fr. Robert Sirico); *The Good that Business Does* (Robert G. Kennedy); *For God and Profit* (Samuel Gregg); *The Economics of the Parables* (Fr. Sirico); *What's Wrong with Global Governance* (Robert F. Gorman); and *On Christians and Prosperity* (James V. Schall)



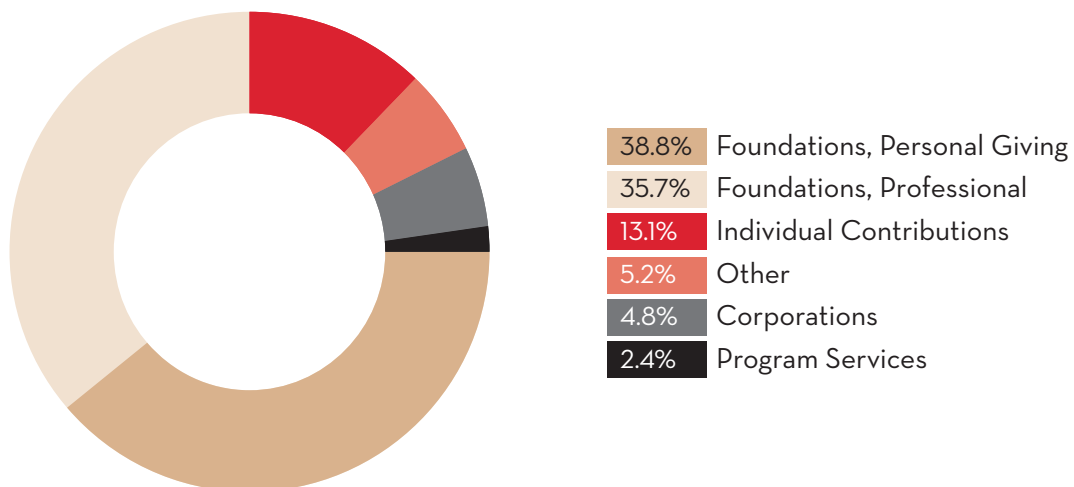
FINANCIALS



FUNDS RAISED HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE



REVENUE BY SOURCE, 2022



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CLOSING WORDS



It is such a wonderful blessing to see the amazing things the Acton Institute has done in the past year. Between the launch of the new poverty center and the renewed commitment to educational events, the Acton Institute has continued its tireless pursuit of the creation of a free and virtuous society.

When Kris and I started the Institute more than 30 years ago, we knew that this would be no easy fight. But little did we know that the two-person business run above a flower shop would become the powerhouse organization it is today.

In 2022 alone, the Institute trained over 10,000 participants, hosted 21 conferences across the country, and published well over 250 op-eds and articles. This is how we change hearts and minds. We actively recruit, train, and equip highly leveraged leaders from around the globe to promote the good of business and the necessity of morality.

I am sharing these numbers with you for one simple reason: you. None of this would have been possible without your support. Whether as a participant, volunteer, donor, or informed ambassador, you played a key role in our success in 2022.

As you continue to support the work of the Acton Institute in 2023, please note that we are truly grateful for your partnership, advocacy, and commitment to building a free and virtuous society.

I am known for finding the right words to describe pretty much anything, but there is probably one thing that words can't convey, and that's the level of gratitude I feel for you.

I look forward to seeing the extraordinary things that 2023 brings.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rev. Robert A. Sirico".

Rev. Robert A. Sirico
President Emeritus

ACTON
INSTITUTE

98 Fulton St E | Grand Rapids, MI | 49503