

Freedom and Property

This new one-week seminar is designed to explore the relationships between private property – the robust protection thereof – and liberty both from a theoretical and a practical perspective.

It will consist of four major sections:

- **Introductory thoughts**
 - o The concept of property
 - o The essential importance of property in human interaction
 - o The history of liberal thought on property
 - o The viability of life without property
- **The relevance of private property today**
 - o Current issues in the news
 - Intellectual property rights and AIDS
 - Intellectual property rights and pirated goods
 - Property rights and indigenous products
 - Property rights and environmental issues
 - Property rights and vandalism
 - o Limitation to property rights from a liberal perspective, if any
 - o Stronger or weaker intellectual property rights? An introduction into opposing liberal standpoints
- **Private property and development**
 - o An introduction to Hernando de Soto's ideas
 - o The international property rights index and its relevance for policy
 - o The most important shortcomings with regard to property rights in developing and transitional economies – and possible solutions
- **A liberal consensus on property rights**
 - o Arguments in favour of robust protection of private property
 - o A “draft” manifesto on private property (including discussion of current Liberal International work on the subject)

The excursion will take us to two meetings on the topics of

- The German tax system and the issue of infringement of property rights
- Property rights and the involvement and compensation of citizens in city and infrastructure development

The seminar is both a learning and a discussion event. Participants should have at least some knowledge of property rights issues in their respective countries in order to be able to participate fully in the event.

The seminar documentation will consist of a collection of basic texts on property rights, from a liberal perspective, a collection of reports from the seminar itself and, on a CD-ROM, follow-up texts that might help to deepen understanding of various topics and issues covered by the seminar.