

Department of Economics presents
David S. Saurman
Provocative Lecture Series 2018



**Wednesday,
February 28th**

SJSU,
Student Union Theater
5:15-6:45 pm

*Free and open
to the public*

Jacob T. Levy, Ph.D.

Tomlinson Professor of Political Theory and Professor of
Political Science, McGill University

“Black Liberty Matters”

*“How is it that we hear the loudest yelps for liberty among
the drivers of negroes?”*

This was Samuel Johnson’s bitter rhetorical question about the American Revolution, and the conflict it identifies has never been far from the surface of American political and intellectual life. Compared with the societies of 18th and 19th century Europe, the United States was unusually obsessed with the idea of liberty and unusually economically dependent on slave labor. Sometimes Americans like to tell ourselves that the revolutionary idea of liberty is what finally made abolition possible two generations later, but that sidesteps the paradox that the U.S. was one of the last countries to abolish slavery, and did so only after a decades-long expansion.

<http://jacobtlevy.com>

The Department of Economics invites students, faculty, and the general public to consider intellectual arguments on controversial topics. Presenters are noted for outstanding scholarship and public speaking ability. This series fosters the tradition of higher education to challenge ideas and develop critical thinking in an environment of respect for intellectual discourse. Our goal is that you engage critical thinking skills to reach your own informed position on controversial issues. We invite you to attend, to relax, to ponder, and to enjoy the thought process.

For more information or to be added to our events list, please contact: John.Estill@sjsu.edu