

VISITING SCHOLAR LECTURE

PERSECUTION AND TOLERATION: THE LONG ROAD TO RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Religious freedom has become an emblematic value in the West. Embedded in constitutions and championed by politicians and thinkers across the political spectrum, it is to many an absolute value, something beyond question. Yet how it emerged, and why, remains widely misunderstood. In this lecture Mark Koyama will discuss his new book, which traces the history of religious persecution from the Fall of Rome to the present-day. The book, co-written with Noel D. Johnson, provides a novel explanation of the birth of religious liberty. The authors elucidate the economic and political incentives that shaped the actions of political leaders during periods of state building and economic growth; treating the subject in an integrative way by combining economic reasoning with historical evidence from medieval and early modern Europe.

MARK KOYAMA

George Mason University



Mark Koyama is an economic historian at George Mason University. Born and educated in the UK, he obtained his BA in Modern History and Economics from Trinity College, Oxford and his DPhil (Ph.D.) in Economics from Wadham College, Oxford in 2010.

He has taught at the University of Oxford, Brown University, the University of York as well as George Mason, and held visiting positions

at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. His main research interests are in the origins of economic growth and liberalism in Europe, as well as in comparative state development. His research has appeared in numerous leading journals including the *Economic Journal*, the *International Economic Review*, the *Journal of Development Economics*, the *Journal of Law and Economics*, *Explorations in Economic History*, and many others. He is on the editorial board of the *Journal of Economic History* and the *Association for the Study of Religion, Culture, and Economics (ASREC)*.

A light lunch will be provided. Please **RSVP** to cals@allard.ubc.ca



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APRIL

12

FRIDAY

**12:30 –
2:00PM**

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