

## Current Projects

Always I blend my research with my advanced graduate teaching through developing books in conjunction with teaching. For fall 2021, I will teach public choice theory. This course will unfold through my drafting a book I have tentatively titled *The Public Policy Shell Game: Entangled Political Economy at Work*. This book elaborates the contrast between idealistic and realistic treatments of politics and political economy by using the image of a shell game to carry the distinction wherein what is commonly described as public policy is a similar type of activity as what we commonly describe as a shell game.

During spring 2022 I will teach the second course in the graduate sequence on market process theory. This course will proceed jointly with development of the book I have tentatively titled *Markets, States, and the Civilizing Process*. This book takes off from Norbert Elias's work from nearly a century ago, *The Civilizing Process*. It also carries forward themes from Vilfredo Pareto's distinction between logical and non-logical action. From these points of departure, the book probes from various angles conflicting claims about the civilizing properties of commercial and political action.

During my teaching and associated dissertation supervision, I also develop a continuing series of academic papers that stand outside those two book projects but yet are complementary with themes developed within those books. Many of these papers are co-authored with current GMU students, but a good number are also authored with what are now GMU alumni. There are also several projects that I am pursuing with colleagues whose backgrounds are unrelated to GMU.