

OUTLINE

Is multilateralism irreversibly a thing of the past? Have we entered a genuinely new age of empires where all rules result from bilateral deals that mirror the empires' relative geopolitical and geoeconomic power?

While this picture reflects the current state of global affairs, our conference questions the irreversibility of the underlying trends. New imperial power struggles must not be the lasting substitute for the hegemonial retreat of the US – instead, a new multilateral order is a possible equilibrium that can emerge from these struggles. By focusing on the notion of resilience, we want to discuss why the traditional multilateral order experienced heavy blows over the past two decades – and how this order can rebound and assume a new, more sustainable shape.

We begin by examining the history of multilateralism and its perennial fragility, searching for the ideas, institutions, and interests which were “resilience destroyers” of earlier multilateral orders. This helps to diagnose the transition into today's new mercantilist order. Subsequently we examine potential “resilience enhancers” which can contribute to a future rebound of the multilateral order. These enhancers include different possible levels of multilateral integration in the flows of globalization, i.e., trade, investment, financial markets, and technologies, but also varieties of new frameworks for the reset of international institutions.

The Social Market Economy as the motivation behind the Ludwig Erhard Forum's activities is built on rules-based reasoning (“Ordnungspolitik”) where the rules leading to “prosperity for all” should apply equally to everyone – nationally and internationally. Exploring a geoeconomic future built on new, but nevertheless generally applicable rules is crucial for the future of this liberal tradition of political economy.



Julius Romo Rabinowitz Building · Department of Economics · Room 101
20 Washington Road · Princeton · NJ 08544



3rd Annual Conference of the



in cooperation with



PROGRAM DRAFT

Friday, October 17, 2025

Julis Romo Rabinowitz Building · Department of Economics · Room 101

- 11:45 Arrival and informal lunch
- 12:45 Welcome remarks:
Stefan Kolev, Ludwig-Erhard-Forum and **Harold James**, Princeton University
- 13:00 **Session #1: From Old Multilateralism to New Mercantilism**
- Chair: **Harold James**, Princeton University
Speaker 1: **Albrecht Ritschl**, London School of Economics
Speaker 2: **Friedrich Asschenfeldt**, Stanford University
- 14:30 *Coffee break*
- 15:00 **Session #2: A Renewed Framework of International Institutions**
- Chair: **Roland Koch**, Ludwig-Erhard-Stiftung
Speaker 1: **Inu Manak**, Council on Foreign Relations
Speaker 2: **Bettina Stark-Watzinger**, formerly Federal Minister of Education and Research
Speaker 3: **Christoffer Koch**, formerly International Monetary Fund
- 16:30 *Break*
- 16:45 **Session #3: Ideas and the Role of Economists**
- Chair: **Nils Goldschmidt**, Global Ethic Institute
Speaker 1: **Dalibor Rohac**, American Enterprise Institute
Speaker 2: **Jernej Kosec**, Vilnius/Ljubljana
Speaker 3: **Patrick McLaughlin**, Stanford University
- 18:15 *End of the first conference day*
- 18:45 Reception and
- 19:15 Dinner at Prospect House
Keynote: **Adam Posen**, Peterson Institute for International Economics

Saturday, October 18, 2025

Julis Romo Rabinowitz Building · Department of Economics · Room 101

- 09:00 **Session #4: Trade and Investment Flows**
- Chair: **Inga Michler**, Ludwig-Erhard-Forum
Speaker 1: **Rohit Lamba**, Cornell University
Speaker 2: **Nicolaus Heinen**, Ludwig-Erhard-Stiftung
- 10:30 *Coffee break*
- 11:00 **Session #5: Financial Markets and Technologies**
- Chair: **Claus Tigges**, Deutsche Bundesbank
Speaker 1: **Piroska Nagy Mohácsi**, London School of Economics
Speaker 2: **Anselm Küsters**, Centre for European Policy Network
- 12:30 *Lunch*
- 13:30 **Finalizing the "Princeton Memorandum on the Future of Multilateralism"**
- Chair: **Harold James**, Princeton University
- 15:00 Concluding remarks:
Stefan Kolev, Ludwig-Erhard-Forum and **Harold James**, Princeton University
- 15:15 *End of the conference*

