

“Central Bank Digital Currencies: What’s the Point?”



“Morals and Markets” meets at 8PM Eastern

on the *fourth Thursday of every month.*

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Course Information:

<https://www.atlassociety.org/events/morals-markets-presents-central-bank-digital-currencies-whats-the-point>

Upcoming Events:

<https://www.atlassociety.org/education/morals-and-markets>

Next Session: Thursday, February 24th from 8-9:30 ET

Meeting url: <https://kazm.com/share/space/the-atlas-society/discuss/05mQh3qDSoppIAxiiVgB/Viwa8kwQ9ebzDL4I9A5C?b=644336>

Central banks, as monopolist issuers of state-based fiat (mandatory) money, operate not to help economies but to assist fiscally profligate governments in funding themselves cheaply and surreptitiously. Lately, in response to the spread (and threat) of cryptocurrencies, central banks have pursued plans to issue their fiat monies in digital form. Per the BIS, 86% of them are actively researching central bank digital currencies (CBDCs), 60% are experimenting with it, and 14% have pilot projects. Fans claim CBDCs will help central banks better manage the payments system, inflation, and the economy. But nefarious motives are also likely, having to do with “Modern Monetary Theory” and more direct means of financing profligate government.

Suggested Readings/Sources:

- BIS, [“BIS Innovation Hub Work on Central Bank Digital Currency \(CBDC\),”](#) 2022.
- U.S. Federal Reserve Board, [“Money and Payments: The U.S. Dollar in the Age of Digital Transformation”](#) (Jan 2022).
- Selgin, G. [“Where the Fed’s Digital Currency Proposal Goes Wrong,”](#) *Alt-M* (2022.01.22).
- Horan, P. & N. Sridhar, [“Should Central Banks Offer the Public Token-Based Digital Currencies?”](#) *Discourse* (2021.06.08).
- Adrian, T. [“Stablecoins, Central Bank Digital Currencies, and Cross-Border Payments,”](#) *IMF* (2019.05.14).
- Adrian, T. & Mancini-Griffoli, T. [“The Rise of Digital Money,”](#) *Annual Review of Financial Economics* (2021.05.03).
- Carapella, F. and Flemming, J. [“Central Bank Digital Currency: A Literature Review,”](#) *FRB* (2020.11.09)

Host: Dr. Richard M. Salsman is an [assistant professor of political economy at Duke University](#), founder and [president of InterMarket Forecasting, Inc.](#), a [senior fellow at the American Institute for Economic Research](#), and a [senior scholar at The Atlas Society](#). In the 1980s and 1990s he was a banker at the Bank of New York and Citibank and an economist at Wainwright Economics, Inc. Dr. Salsman has authored three books: *Breaking the Banks: Central Banking Problems and Free Banking Solutions* (1990), *Gold and Liberty* (1995), and *The Political Economy of Public Debt: Three Centuries of Theory and Evidence* (2017). His most recent book, *Where Have all the Capitalists Gone?*, was published in 2021 by the American Institute for Economic Research. He is also author of a dozen chapters and scores of articles. His work has appeared in the *Georgetown Journal of Law and Public Policy*, *Reason Papers*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, *Forbes*, the *Economist*, the *Financial Post*, the *Intellectual Activist*, and *The Objective Standard*. Dr. Salsman earned his B.A. in economics from Bowdoin College (1981), his M.A. in economics from New York University (1988), and his Ph.D. in political economy from Duke University (2012). His personal website is <https://richardsalsman.com/>.

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THE ATLAS SOCIETY

— Morals and Markets —

Exploring the intersections between ethics, politics, economics, and markets



Dr. Richard M. Salsman

— Testimonials

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