



Mannkal Yearbook 2024

Edited by Larisa Jacono

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Welcome to Mannkal's 2024 Yearbook!

Our Mission

The Mannkal Economic Education Foundation is a private, not-for-profit organisation. Our mission involves identifying and studying the benefits to all of society, by encouraging a culture of free and responsible individuals.

Our flagship activity is the Mannkal Scholarship Program, providing scholarships for Western Australian tertiary students to undertake seminars, attend conferences and courses, and volunteer for internships with our partner organisations both domestically and overseas.

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Timeline

VIEW THE COMPLETE [MANNKAL TIMELINE](#) FROM 1997 - 2024





Mac Nichols

Chairman

Change in our world is accelerating so too must Mannkal.

Our international markets, democratic institutions and supporting elections are challenged with rising geopolitical risk. Many talking heads opine we are now in World War 3; a hybrid war fought in multiple grey psychological, kinetic and political fronts.

Here in Australia, our culture wars rage, built on the back of Gramsci's long march through our institutions, making for an ever expanding omnipotent bureaucracy and subservient crony capitalist system.

One must observe it takes a particular type of skill to bring the eastern seaboard's power grid into instability in a country supported by an educated hard working skill base with every resource imaginable, and in extreme quantities.

Yet sweet Science and Freedom remain.

This is the goal of Mannkal - to increase understanding of the principles of Freedom with Personal Responsibility and Free Market Economics so that future generations can enjoy the wonderful life and liberty that is available to us in Western Australia.

The Board fully supports this goal and our flagship Scholarship Program remains our basis.

This year we have committed to a commercial relationship with the Samuel Griffith Society, the Institute of Public Affairs and the HR Nicholls Society in order to broaden our offerings to our current and future scholars in pace with this fast changing world.

I hope you agree that 2025 is shaping up as another successful year for Mannkal as we welcome another group of Scholars. We are also looking to reconnect with more of our Alumni and grow our network of Friends and Ambassadors. All in the name of Freedom.

Mackenzie "Mac" Nichols
Chairman



Ron Manners AO

Founder & Director

With pride we announce our enhanced Mannkal Scholar Program.

As a tribute to all those who have constantly improved our Mannkal scholarship offering, over the past 28 years, we have been approached by several of Australia's leading institutes with offers of, "what can we do to be part of your successful scholarship program?"

This enabled us to establish, what we call, our Enterprise Hub, now operating from our office at Hayek on Hood, 3/31 Hood Street, Subiaco.

This enhanced joint venture operation, not only brings the unique skills of the various institutes to the Enterprise Hub but also injects their skills into our ongoing Mannkal Scholar Program.

For the past 28 years Mannkal has been concentrating on economics (that is why we are called the Mannkal Economic Education Foundation) and the additional dimensions now added are culture / philosophy / education / constitutional law / industrial and regulatory law and entrepreneurship and innovation.

The new dimensions are being added as follows:

- The Institute of Public Affairs (IPA) brings economics, culture, philosophy, and education.
- The Samuel Griffith Society (SGS) brings us, the Constitution and law.
- The H.R. Nicholls Society (HRNS) brings the study of industrial relations and regulatory law, with an upcoming White Paper focusing on the draconian Unfair Dismissal Laws.
- & with additional input from the Centre for Entrepreneurial Research & Innovation (CERI) – entrepreneurship and innovation.

Never before has such a comprehensive package of study opportunities been offered to Western Australian students.

What a difference these new dimensions make; so, we invite applications from students/citizens, permanent residents only.

Another touch of good news is that our Mannkal Ambassadors have been honing their mentorship skills and this program will certainly continue to support our scholars.

Ron Manners AO
Founder & Director

Introducing **THE ENTERPRISE HUB**

An exciting joint venture between Mannkal Economic Education Foundation, The Institute of Public Affairs, The Samuel Griffith Society, The H.R. Nicholls Society and The Centre for Entrepreneurial Research and Innovation.

Our Partner Organisations



Scholarship Program *2024*



Summer Scholars 2023/24

Keeping Government in Check

Rhys Budge

2023 John Hyde Scholar | New Zealand Taxpayers Union



The conclusion of my summer internship with the New Zealand Taxpayers' Union coincides with the conclusion of my 2023 Mannkal Scholarship, and what a year it was! Allow me to take you through some of my musings and what I got up to while I was in New Zealand.

Having explored Milton Friedman's ideas early last year while in the United States, I found his views on government spending became particularly relevant as I began interning with the Taxpayers' Union. One quote of his "...If I spend somebody else's money on somebody else, I'm not concerned about how much it is, and I'm not concerned about what I get. And that's government" appropriately sums up the agency problem at the core of much of the wasteful government spending I saw while at the Union.



Rhys touring the Beehive

This agency problem arises from a natural tendency within all of us to be more generous in our spending when others are footing the bill. Politicians and government are not immune from this desire given they must resist the temptation to spend the people's money on advancing their personal profile and in ways that pander to their voters only. To keep government accountable, the public needs the freedom to access the receipts of such spending.

At the Taxpayers' Union I discovered one mechanism that allows the public access to these very receipts. Filing OIAs (requests for information under the New Zealand Official Information Act) allows everyday citizens the ability to judge how their government is performing in their duties. I often saw the results of our OIAs at the Taxpayers' Union put an end to scandalous spending, as the truth made certain wasteful ventures no longer politically viable. This proved to me that sunlight often really is the best disinfectant, and that government spending needs to be transparent to ward off misappropriation.



Rhys posing with the Debt Monster!

In the final month of my internship, much of the longer-term projects I had been working on began to resemble something much more readable. One of my first projects of this kind was a fun, light-hearted report targeting the absurdity of issuing complex government diet guidelines that no one seems to read or follow. While I went into the project somewhat agnostic about government-issued diet guidelines, I left feeling that better outcomes could be achieved if spending was directed instead towards simpler, and more realistic diet advice for everyday Kiwis.

A later research project of mine looked at the state of New Zealand MP pay and explored possible ways this could be done better. The goal was to create a discussion document that could hopefully advance a balanced, open-minded conversation around what might be an acceptable arrangement for both politicians and the public. New Zealand should have a pay system that better rewards politicians for their work when it delivers positive outcomes for the country while not asking taxpayers to pay high salaries to MPs who contribute little.



Rhys hiking in New Zealand



Rhys and the team watching a speech delivered by Casey Costello from Parliament

Now having come to the end of my internship, I can say it has been a pleasure to work with the New Zealand Taxpayers Union. Helping fight the agency problem government faces and furthering the interests of Kiwi taxpayers has been a meaningful undertaking. Despite having now returned home to Australia, I have still committed to working on some of my unfinished projects and seeing them through to the end. I am excited to see where some of these go from here.

For hosting my stay and welcoming me on board, I would like to thank the staff at the Union. My work with you all has given me a newfound appreciation for the role organisations like yours play in keeping the government in check.

“Finally, none of this would have been possible without the support of Mannkal. What a privilege it has been to be a 2023 Scholar and I am so very thankful to all the great people who seek to educate students like myself about liberal principles. Seeing how it changed my life and gave me unparalleled learning opportunities makes me excited to see what it will do for future Mannkal Scholars in 2024 and beyond. Thank you!”

Exploring Atlas

Yasmyn Ware

2023 Mannkal Scholar | Atlas Network - Washington D.C.



Yasmyn at the Washington Monument

In the blink of an eye, my internship with Atlas Network has drawn to a close. It seems like just yesterday when I touched down in the United States, brimming with excitement to meet fresh faces and new challenges. People who were once strangers have become valued friends. I reflect fondly on the moments spent partaking in lunchtime banter, exploring D.C., and seizing weekend getaways.

Interning on Atlas Network's Institute Relations team has proven to be an enriching, dynamic, and collaborative journey. One of the notable highlights was my active contribution to shaping the content for the women in the workplace workshop, which is set to run across various Atlas forums. I found interacting with partners from diverse backgrounds, all profoundly dedicated to their respective missions inspiring. Additionally, I led an initiative aimed at strengthening relationships in Australia and New Zealand which presented new opportunities for growth and learning each day.

The concluding weeks of my internship marked significant milestones, among which was presenting my findings derived from the meetings I facilitated with partners in Australia and New Zealand. Receiving positive feedback for my initiative and witnessing Atlas Network's subsequent changes in response to my recommendations to enhance engagement in these regions was encouraging. In the final weeks, my team requested a compilation of the outreach and focus group resources I developed, along with insights, to use as a model for future interns to follow.

Working at Atlas Network and solo traveling in the United States has been a transformative experience, fostering substantial growth in my personal development and prompting a revaluation of my professional aspirations. Among the key aspects I now prioritise is the incorporation of travel into my work, a feature evident in the roles of numerous Atlas Network employees. Staff have the unique opportunity to attend various international forums, as well as the Liberty Forum and Freedom Dinner in New York. The team at Atlas Network is already gearing up for their regional forums in Spain, India, Costa Rica, and Tanzania. This exposure has profoundly influenced my vision for a dynamic and globally involved career.



Yasmyn at the Manhattan Bridge

Separately, undertaking this opportunity has enabled me to travel around the United States. Entering into the New Year in the heart of Times Square was undeniably an unforgettable experience. As the Crystal Ball dropped at midnight, the entire square was showered in over a tonne of confetti. It was a truly magical spectacle.

During my time in New York City, I went for a stroll in Central Park, visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art, crossed the Brooklyn Bridge, checked out the Statue of Liberty, and ate a somewhat questionable amount of pizza.

Over the Martin Luther King long weekend, I took a trip to Vermont to visit a friend studying abroad and to make the most of the snow. We both had a lovely time exploring the charming shops and restaurants nestled in downtown Burlington. Beyond the picturesque surroundings, this trip was a unique opportunity to experience the American university lifestyle.



Yasmyn outside Congress



Yasmyn in New York City



Yasmyn at the National Gallery

“I am grateful to the Mannkal Economic Education Foundation for providing this invaluable opportunity, and the amazing staff at Atlas Network for their support and warm welcome. The Mannkal Scholarship Program has been influential in broadening my horizons, refining my professional skills, and nurturing my passion for learning. To future scholars, embrace every opportunity to learn, and approach challenges as stepping stones for personal and professional growth.”

Lost in London

Nicholas Tan

2023 Mannkal Scholar | Institute of Economic Affairs - London

Arriving at the IEA, I had no idea what to expect of such a celebrated think tank, and indeed, workplace. Even the UK itself was a land of stereotypes for me – made up of tea-drinkers and dreary weather day-in, day-out. However, stepping onto the Tube for the final time on an uncharacteristically sunny day, I felt strangely at home in a place thousands of kilometres away from Perth.

Reflecting on the Tube ride into Westminster Station, it seemed as though the final few weeks had flown by. After settling into the IEA and getting used to the day-to-day schedule, workplace and tasks, my appointment as head intern brought a whole new range of opportunities for growth. Although at first nervous to take on the responsibilities, I quickly found myself thriving in the role, particularly enjoying the privilege of helping the other interns grow in their interest areas – whether that be in digital design or research writing.

The role also grew my understanding of project management and leadership, rapidly teaching me that good leadership starts from championing your individual colleagues rather than yourself. From managing the operational complexities of a book club event (from keeping track of everything from recording the event, reception set-up, photography, welcoming guests and speaker coordination) to organising social events and nights out (dinners, mini golf and drinks at the local pub, to name a few) for the intern group, I found myself quickly growing into an individual who took full responsibility for his team, successes, and of course inevitable mistakes.

Life outside work was a time to explore a city, country and region bursting with history and stories to tell. The advantage of being in a cultural capital like London is that there was no end of events, places and sights to see – in my short time I was able to go to my favourite artist's concert, watch a Premier League game, and see two musicals (Phantom of the Opera and Hamilton) at the West End.



Nicholas with the IEA interns



Nicholas in London

Back at work, I prepared for one of the other 'keystone' events of the internship – a one hour presentation and Q&A on a topic of my choosing which was to incorporate my learnings from the past weeks to produce a policy recommendation. In collaboration with another intern, we decided to tackle the issue of police brutality, corruption and inefficiency, a problem which has risen to the forefront in the developed world spearheaded by movements such as BLM.

After days of planning, research and consultation with IEA staff, we presented our PPP (Private Public Policing) model. Founded on the common complaint that police are disconnected from the communities they work with, and lack the resources and funding needed to be truly effective, we recommended a three-layered approach in which privately-run community police forces and security companies would work together to combat local crime, with a specialised public force focused on stopping organised and 'severe' crime acting to provide oversight on these respective functions.

We also discussed how the model would be funded, how it would bring performance and cost gains, and why it would be the most effective way of dealing in crime. The presentation taught me how to draw together my understanding of economic theories and public policy implementation to effectively communicate my position on a topic I had otherwise never previously encountered. It was also an 'aha!' moment through which I was able to truly reflect on the growth I had undergone throughout the internship.



Nicholas at the West End



Nicholas in Leicester Square

Prior to beginning at the IEA, my knowledge of classical liberalism and free-market economics was strong in theory, but not in practice. I knew of all the great thinkers like Hayek, Mises and Buchanan, but often those intellectuals stayed just that – writers from an era past-gone with interesting and counter-cultural arguments. Through working in a storied think tank like the IEA and living and breathing these economic ideas, their theories came to life, sparking a newfound appreciation for how they continue to resonant in the modern era, speaking to everything from policing methods to the way we understand dieting laws.

“As I look back at my time at the IEA, it is with a great appreciation for the staff and interns I was able to work with. The privilege to work and live in another country, particularly a global metropolis like London, is something I did not take lightly, and there was seldom a day – rain or shine – where I would walk past Big Ben and Parliament without pausing to reflect on how amazing it was to be in a place where the very principles of the democracy and society Australians live every day was founded.”

Nestled in the North East

Justin de Vries

2023 Mannkal Scholar | American Institute for Economic Research - Great Barrington, MA

As my internship with the American Institute for Economic Research (AIER) draws to a close, I reflect on an adventure that was both enriching and transformative. The opportunity to engage with research, coupled with the exploration of America's vibrant Northeast, has been a privilege that has shaped my life in many ways. This journey has not only honed my academic and professional skills but also broadened my cultural horizons, providing me with an experience that transcends the conventional internship. It is with a sense of accomplishment and gratitude that I recount the highlights and the impact of my time at AIER.

During my internship, the bulk of my time was devoted to reading and researching a topic I chose under AIER's guidance. This led me to research the effects of subsidies for renewable energy in Australia on electricity prices. Given the condensed nature of my program, diligent work was needed to ensure the completion of the research within the limited timeframe. My efforts culminated in findings that attributed the surge in Australian electricity prices from 2009 to the present almost entirely to the Federal Government's Renewable Energy Target scheme. These findings hold significant implications, potentially influencing energy policy in Australia.



Justin in Great Barrington

Having the chance to present my research to AIER's faculty in a concise 10-minute presentation was a pivotal moment for me. This opportunity went beyond a simple academic exercise; it was a step in developing my abilities to articulate ideas succinctly and engagingly. Mastering public speaking and presentation skills is vital for anyone in the realm of research or any field that demands clear and impactful communication.

The challenge of condensing my research into a brief presentation not only tested my ability to highlight the core of my findings but also emphasised the importance of engaging an audience with clarity. This experience was not just about refining essential skills; it offered a real glimpse into the day-to-day life and challenges faced by researchers. The positive reception and constructive feedback from the faculty not only bolstered my confidence but also deepened my resolve to pursue a career in research and writing, a field I had been considering with interest.



Justin presenting his research

My time at AIER transformed each day into a quest for new knowledge. Far from just affirming my interest in research, it deepened my passion and curiosity, pushing me to explore beyond the surface of conventional studies. This venture into the world of data gathering and analysis brought a profound sense of accomplishment. Each day presented new challenges, from deciphering dense data sets to connecting disparate pieces of information to form a cohesive narrative. This constant engagement with the unknown and the potential to contribute to meaningful policy changes made my time at AIER very rewarding.

The experience has not just solidified my dedication to pursuing research or writing as a career but has also highlighted the deep satisfaction that comes from immersing oneself in work that can drive real-world change. The insights gained and the skills developed during my tenure have indelibly shaped my approach to research and my future career trajectory, making it a transformative phase of my professional development.



Justin at the New York Stock Exchange



Justin with the AIER interns

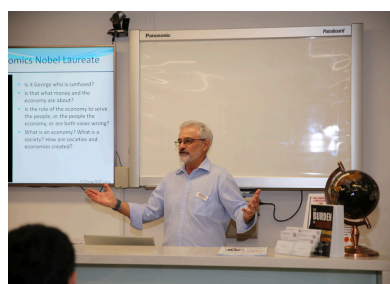
AIER offered more than just a platform for research; it provided a gateway to experiencing American life, particularly in the Northeast (New England). During my stay, I embarked on three significant journeys: to Albany, Boston, and New York City, each within a three-hour drive from AIER. Albany, the capital of New York State, was a quiet city, notable for its splendid architecture, including the New York State Capitol building. My trip to Boston proved the most educational, rich in American Revolutionary War history, and it also facilitated bonding with fellow interns. New York City was a highlight, offering unforgettable experiences such as visiting Times Square, enjoying a Broadway show, exploring iconic churches, and witnessing landmarks like the Statue of Liberty, Wall Street, and the 9/11 Memorial. Despite the heavy rain, our spirits remained undampened, making each trip memorable and enriching.

“Reflecting on my time with AIER, I am grateful for the opportunity to grow academically, professionally, and personally. This experience has enriched my life, leaving me with insights and memories that will guide my future endeavours.”

Student Seminars

Thank you to our speakers!

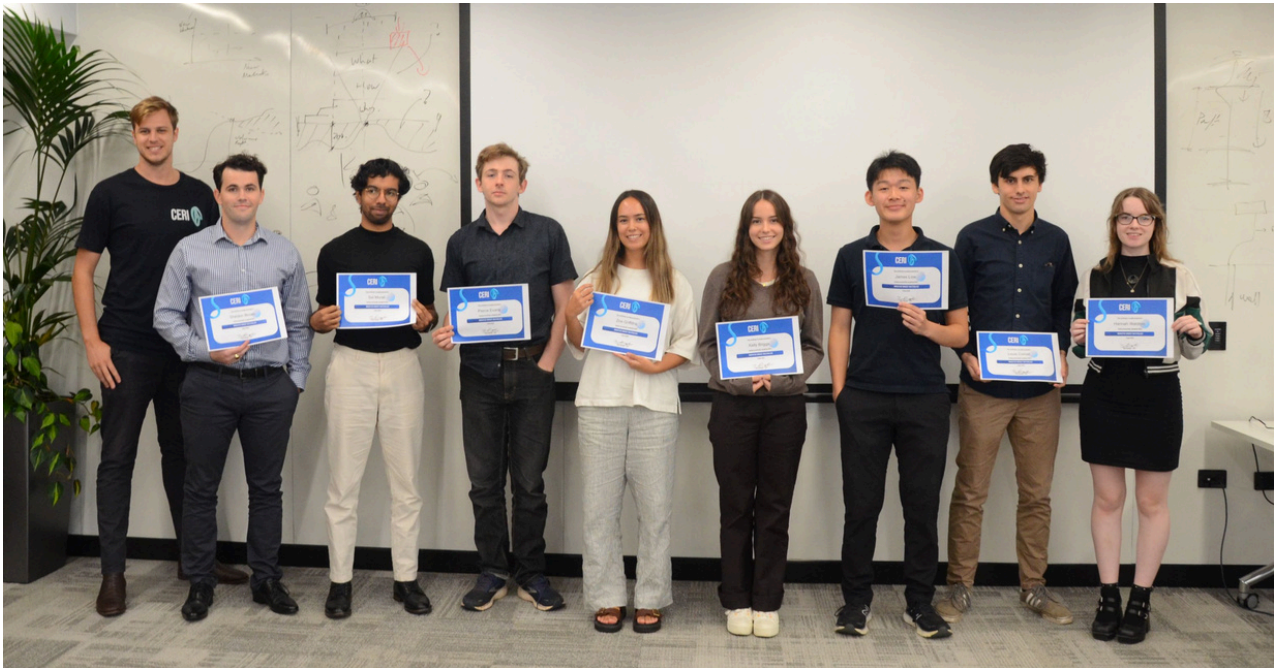
A heartfelt thank you to all our speakers this year for facilitating insightful seminars for our Scholars and the broader community. These seminars featured guest speakers from diverse industries including finance, business, law, and academia. We are grateful for the contributions of Kate Wagstaff, Joe Kosterich, Mary-Claire Travers, Lesley Gillespie, Riko Stevens, Jo Nova, Thaddeus Meadows, Willy Packer, Doug Hall, Lorraine Finlay, Lyndon Rowe, and Julian Coleman. Your expertise and perspectives have greatly enriched our programs.



CERI Bootcamp

Mannkal Innovative Mindset Masterclass

Our Mannkal Scholars completed the Mannkal Innovative Mindset Masterclass at the Centre for Entrepreneurial Research and Innovation. Throughout the program, they learned about developing an entrepreneurial mindset, acquired skills to develop their personal brand, and discovered strategies for success in their studies and future careers.



Scholar Testimonials

“The CERI Masterclass was tailored to our specific circumstance as Mannkal Scholars, as we learnt to pitch ourselves rather than a business. The constructive feedback I received during the masterclass served me well for the rest of the week, where I pitched my thesis to faculty members at university. I can confidently say that my learnings have already translated into tangible results.”

- Louis Comer

“My biggest takeaway from the CERI Masterclass was learning how to frame myself as a startup breaking into the market. During the workshop, I focused on the development of my ‘why’, ‘how’, and ‘what’. As I go on in the future, I will continue to lead with my ‘why’ when applying for opportunities.”

- Zoe Griffiths

“The CERI Innovative Mindset Masterclass provided me with a rare opportunity to explore how I can evolve my thought processes to discover new ideas, and how to bring them to fruition in my future career.”

- Jamie Low

Samuel Griffith Society Conference

Lessons on Law

Jamie Low
2024 Mannkal Scholar

Thanks to Mannkal, I was given the unique opportunity to attend the Samuel Griffith Society Conference 2024 along with seven other Scholars. It was an honour to meet and hold discussions with esteemed professionals in law and politics including the Human Rights Commissioner Lorraine Finlay, Senator Jacinta Price, Queensland's Deputy Leader of the Opposition Jarrod Bleijie, and the Honourable James Edelman from the High Court of Australia. The conference provided participants with an overview of how Australia's legal system and constitutional law influences important topics such as the Voice, the role and protection of Human Rights Acts during COVID, and the role of liberalism and federalism in Australia's current society.



Jamie Low with Lorraine Finlay



Scholars with Xavier Boffa, Jarrod Bleijie, Jacinta Price, Lorraine Finlay, and Colin Lillie

Of the sessions, I found the student seminar with Lorraine Finlay and Professor Nicholas Aroney (Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Queensland) to be the most educational. Lorraine and Nicholas provided an excellent introduction to the Constitution, Parliament, the process of law-making and explaining certain key concepts in constitutional law, which I especially found helpful as a student who is not studying law. The concepts discussed during this student seminar proved to be extremely helpful when listening to the advanced, technical sessions and speeches later in the conference.

The conference provided me with the unique opportunity to network and discuss topics with professionals in law and politics while in sessions or over drinks and food. I enjoyed hearing from seasoned professors, politicians and lawyers who all had different backgrounds and experiences. One conversation that particularly stood out to me was a conversation I had with Lorraine Finlay, who was extremely open to any conversation and topic, and gave an excellent, informative response when I asked about human rights in relation to the recent Elon Musk X/Twitter battle with Australia.

I also found Senator Jacinta Price's Saturday breakfast keynote address session extremely interesting. As a university student, I had previously only heard one perspective of the referendum from students my age. Jacinta's speech and experience provided a completely different and unique perspective on the referendum and brought up relevant cases which I and other students in attendance were unaware of.

A common trend I noticed was that only one side of an argument or perspective was provided on several key topics. I believe that the most fruitful discussions are those which include both sides of a debate and multiple perspectives. It would be helpful if speakers could acknowledge the key points of both sides of the debate, and potentially directly rebut the points that the opposing side makes. By doing this, it is my belief that attendees can be given a more informed perspective on important topics.



Jamie Low with Jarrod Bleije



Attendees at the Society Dinner



The Mannkal Attendees with Xavier Boffa (leftmost)

“Several of the perspectives provided at the Samuel Griffith Society Conference starkly contrasted to many common viewpoints that I have heard at university and from other people from my generation. Attending the conference honed my ability to appreciate different perspectives, some of which I agreed with and some which challenged my previous beliefs.”

The conference provided me with the opportunity to interact with professionals in constitutional law and shed light on different viewpoints to those common to younger people in my generation, some of which aligned with my previous beliefs while others challenged my existing beliefs. These discussions have educated me on constitutional law and provided me with a more informed view when forming opinions on contentious topics.

AIER & CapitaF Week

A Legacy of Liberty

Reuben Keyser
2024 Mannkal Scholar

As I settle back into the routine of life here in Perth, I find myself reflecting on a trip that has been both exciting and insightful. Thanks to Mannkal, myself and three other scholars had the privilege of spending an enriching three weeks with the Free to Choose Network at CapitaF and the American Institute for Economic Research. The knowledge I have gained during my time in the United States has instilled in me a greater appreciation for free-market economics and the rich history classical liberalism has within the Western tradition.

Our first week in the US was spent near the small Vermont town of Fairlee at Milton and Rose Friedman's CapitaF. The house was formerly the Nobel prize-winning economist and his wife's summer home and is situated in the pristine New England countryside. It is here, that following the success of Milton's book, *Capitalism and Freedom*, that Milton and Rose wrote their bestselling work, *Free to Choose*. This book was written to accompany Milton's 1979-80 documentary, *Free to Choose*.

Our mornings would be spent learning about and discussing Milton and Rose's ideas around social security, education, taxation and personal and governmental responsibility put forward in their two books. Our afternoons would be spent exploring the beautiful surrounds, including hiking peaks, exploring streams, waterfalls and the beautiful property.

We were fortunate enough to visit a local maple syrup farm and the nearby Ben and Jerry's factory. We also enjoyed a brilliant day visiting Dartmouth College and the beautiful old town of Hanover. On our final day at CapitaF we were transported back in time to the late nineteenth and early twentieth century exploring the childhood home and summer residence of the thirtieth president of the United States, Calvin Coolidge. Here we learned about his upbringing as well as his unique inauguration and laissez-faire approach to economics and governance.



View from CapitaF



Scholars at CapitaF



Human pyramid outside
Dartmouth College

Our final fortnight was spent at the free market think tank, AIER in the stunning Berkshires, near the small town of Great Barrington, Massachusetts. In our brief time there we learned how to advance our data and statistical analysis skills as well as the benefits and detriments of artificial intelligence.

My independent work consisted of writing a paper on the Australian government's ban on live exports by 2028 and the impacts it would have on rural communities and dependent industries. We were also fortunate enough to spend a weekend at historic Cape Cod as well as a day exploring Boston and the Freedom Trail. Naturally, 4th of July celebrations were a blast, celebrating the best of American culture alongside our new American friends.

Finally, I would like to thank Mannkal and CERI for this amazing opportunity. Drawing from my experiences in the United States, it is clear that government can either inhibit or foster entrepreneurship and innovation. In line with both CERI and Mannkal's missions, reducing regulatory burdens and promoting job dynamism by integrating classical liberal principles can nurture a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem in Australia.



Kelly Briggs, Sid Murali, Louis Comer, and Reuben Keyser arriving in the US

For instance, my research into Australia's agricultural sector revealed the historical and continual innovations of our regional communities. From the header and sunshine harvesters to Ridley's Stripper, air seeders, the ute and the wool press, Australians have revolutionised farming on so many fronts. By enhancing entrepreneurship through streamlining the regulatory process, removing barriers to entry, expanding access to capital and tax reforms, Australia can not only transform current industries, but diversify industries and drive economic growth through job creation and increased productivity, thereby boosting our global competitiveness.



Reuben Keyser, Kelly Briggs, Sid Murali, Louis Comer, with Ryan Yonk, Senior Research Faculty at AIER

“Visiting CapitaF and AIER highlighted the gravity with which we must approach national discourse around preserving the liberties which have so significantly shaped our society – so that generations to come may enjoy these achievements that have been so hard won. This experience has given me renewed vigour to contribute to positive change in Australia in a meaningful way – taking our stewardship seriously and advancing the legacy of liberty we have inherited.”

Cambridge Freedom Week

Punts, Pints, & Policy

Hannah Waldron
2024 Mannkal Scholar

It was a surreal experience to find myself walking the cobbled streets of Cambridge and attending Freedom Week in the late August summer. This unique conference, a collaboration between the Institute of Economic Affairs and the Adam Smith Institute, challenged us to deepen our understandings of classical liberalism, and to reconsider the role of government, the sanctity of individual rights, and the true meaning of freedom.

From the very first day, I found myself engaged in thoughtful discussions with students and professors heralding from the UK, Spain, Denmark, Lithuania and Canada. As we strolled down to the local pubs to enjoy a tasteful pint of mango cider, I found myself learning about life in the UK and finding commonalities with our friends from the Northern Hemisphere.

Each morning at Selwyn College, we were charged with intellectual curiosity as we prepared to hear lectures that blended the timeless principles of classical liberalism with fresh insights on contemporary challenges. I appreciated the breadth of topics and perspectives presented across the week; we heard everything from Dr Victoria Bateman on the Sex Factor, to Richard Teather on the Evils of Taxation, to Matthew Lesh on Digital Regulation, to Dr Francis Vorhies on Unlocking Africa's Wildlife Economy, and so many more.



Dr Victoria Bateman presenting to the scholars



Jamie Low, Hannah Waldron, and Zoe Griffiths at Cambridge University

Dr Kristian Niemietz's talk on the UK's housing crisis was particularly interesting, and I found it intriguing to compare the differences between the UK and Australia. It was depressing, yet not surprising, to learn that the housing affordability ratio in England was greater than eight. His analysis of the housing crisis and the concept of NIMBY-ism, as well as how government interventions, including greenbelts, have distorted the housing market, sparked ongoing discussions amongst us throughout the conference. Dr. Niemietz's proposed solutions — rolling back greenbelts, relaxing regulatory requirements, and fostering a YIMBY movement — were thought-provoking and left us contemplating the best ways to address similar challenges in Australia.

Dr Christopher Snowden's lecture on paternalism broadened my understanding of soft and hard paternalism, and offered a new perspective on public health. He explored how the harm principle often justifies interventions, and used smoking campaigns as a case study to highlight potential flaws in public health arguments. This talk sparked an internal debate within me on how to balance economics and morality, and where to 'draw the line' on paternalism.

In this vein, I enjoyed the spirited debates that we partook in on morally complex topics, which included “is taxation theft or a necessary evil” and “should people be allowed to profit from organ donation”. These debates ultimately highlighted the diverse perspectives within libertarian and classical liberal frameworks.

Beyond academic rigour, Freedom Week offered us ample opportunities to enjoy the sights and sounds of Cambridge. Punting on the River Cam under the warm sun was a quintessential Cambridge experience, as discussions flowed freely as we floated down the stream. Our nights were spent enjoying the finest cuisine the UK had to offer, as we sat and chatted in the pubs into the wee hours of the night, discussing everything from our moral and philosophical views on life to laughing about the excitement that us Australians had shown towards the famed Cambridge cows (as was noted by one of the speakers during the week, whoever would be taking photos with the cows? Certainly not us!). In this spirit, one of the absolute highlights of Freedom Week for me was the friendships forged over half-asleep breakfast chats, and pre-dinner walks, and late-night talks in the Selwyn College kitchens.



Scholars with the Cambridge Cows!

Reflecting back on this momentous week, the overarching theme of Freedom Week is clear: the power of free markets and minimal government intervention to foster innovation and entrepreneurship. This aligns closely with the mission of the Centre for Entrepreneurial Research and Innovation (CERI), which emphasises creating an environment that allows entrepreneurial spirits to thrive without unnecessary government constraints.

“Freedom Week reinforced my understanding of how overly complex regulatory frameworks in both the UK and Australia can stifle competition and entrepreneurship. In Australia, the role of government in fostering and hindering entrepreneurship can be a double-edged sword, wherein often excessive regulation, layers of bureaucratic red tape and high tax can stifle entrepreneurial spirit and limit the agility needed for startups to thrive. If Australia can move towards policies that reduce regulatory friction and support early-stage ventures, Western Australia can further develop into a hub for entrepreneurial success.”



Scholars with Max Marlow, Director of Research at the Adam Smith Institute

HETSA Conference

Contraception and Poverty in Early British Economic Thought



Mannkal Scholars at HETSA with Professor Paul Oslington and Dr Riko Stevens

Sid Murali **2024 Mannkal Scholar**

I recently had the privilege and pleasure of attending the History of Economic Thought Society Australia's (HETSA) annual conference in beautiful, not-so-sunny Sydney, and it was a thoroughly enriching and insightful experience. The three-day event was an opportunity for academics and postgraduate students to showcase their recent research into various historical aspects of the economics profession.

One of the first highlights from the conference was Associate Professor Miriam Bankovsky's presentation on "Contraception and Poverty in Early British Economic Thought". Her insightful comparisons with France during the same period provided a nuanced understanding of how differing approaches and attitudes to family planning may have influenced economic outcomes.

As someone with an irrational fascination with the late 19th and early 20th century history, I had to flag A/Prof Bankovsky down after her presentation and learn more about her research into French population dynamics. Thankfully she shared my enthusiasm and recommended some useful French books on the subject.

Book recommendations quickly became the common thread weaving together all my conversations during the conference. I was thrilled to meet, for the first time, a young professional from the Treasury who shared my love of the great political economy historian, Adam Tooze. He provided me with sage advice on how to navigate the Australian Public Sector as a graduate student, and we have continued to keep in touch and send each other books after the conference.

Another standout presentation came from Mannkal's very own Nathan Cuthbertson, who reviewed Pareto, Olson, and Ostrom's literature on "Concentrated Benefits and Dispersed Costs". It was an eloquent and poised exploration of one of Mannkal's core principles and a great complement to the Public Choice Theory unit I am currently studying at Notre Dame. Nathan's presentation inspired me look further into Elinor Ostrom's writings, as I feel her institutional design principles strikes the most pragmatic balance between free markets, private property rights, and state intervention – an increasingly relevant question in today's economic landscape as highlighted by Lyndon Rowe's recent seminar.

On the final day, we were treated to a series of richly researched and thought-provoking presentations from a contingent of scholars from the Japanese Society for the History of Economic Thought (JSJET). I was surprised to learn how influential and relevant Marxism continues to be in Japanese economic thought and it was fascinating to see how they employ a Marxist lens to favourably interpret Adam Smith's moral philosophy – a rather bewildering proposition on first glance! Furthermore, it was interesting to note their emphasis on French thinkers such as François Quesnay, Frédéric Passy, and Frédéric Bastiat, whose contributions to economic thought are often underrepresented in Australian academic discourse.



Nathan Cuthbertson's presentation on Concentrated Benefits and Dispersed Costs



Sid at the Sydney Opera House

“At HETSA, I had the opportunity to connect with numerous scholars and students, which deepened my appreciation for the discipline of economic history. I gained valuable insights into the rigorous processes involved in sourcing and vetting primary information, reinforcing the importance of meticulous research in thesis construction and historical narratives.”

The dinner discussions proved to be equally valuable, with presenters sharing their experiences and advice regarding postgraduate study. Their insights will undoubtedly guide me as I consider my academic journey moving forward.

All this would not have been possible without the generous financial help and enthusiastic hospitality afforded to me by the Mannkal Economic Education Foundation and HETSA. I would also like to thank my economics lecturer, Dr Riko Stevens, for his hard work organising the conference and the Young Scholars Initiative, and for his tireless advocacy of economic history at Notre Dame. HETSA 2024 will be remembered as one of the great conferences in the annals of the history of economic thought.

2024/25 Summer Scholars

Congratulations!



Congratulations to our 2024 Scholars who will be undertaking internships and courses this summer. We look forward to seeing the incredible experiences and insights they'll gain from these world-class opportunities!



Louis Comer

Centre for Policy Studies (UK)



Reuben Keyser

Centre for Independent Studies
(Sydney)



Hannah Waldron

American Institute for
Economic Research
(MA, USA)



Jamie Low

Institute of Economic Affairs (UK)



Ari Barboutis

Atlas Network (Washington D.C.)

Mannkal Events

2024



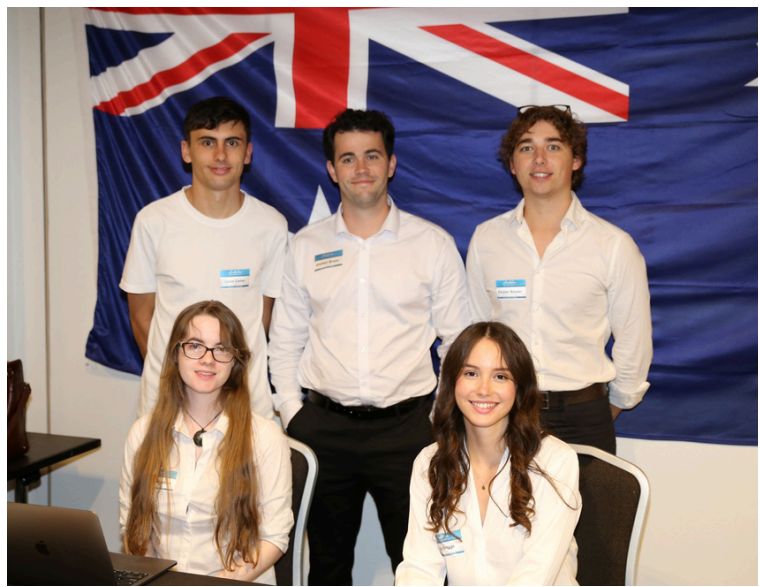
Emerging Leaders

At our Emerging Leaders event in March at the University of Western Australia Club, we celebrated Mannkal's graduating cohort from 2023, and welcomed our new Scholars for 2024. Editor-in-Chief of The Spectator Australia, Rowan Dean, was our keynote speaker. Rowan inspired us all to be proactive in resisting attacks on the freedoms we enjoy. We announced the winner of our annual John Hyde Scholar award for our best performing Scholar in 2023 – Rhys Budge. We also awarded the Niamh Loader Prize for writing to 2022 Scholar Frances An for her article "Truth-Seeking is a Moral Imperative in Scholarship: A Case Study in the Comfort Women History Wars".



Australia: The Road Ahead *Conference*

Mannkal proudly supported 'Australia: The Road Ahead', a one-day conference which brought together renowned speakers from diverse political backgrounds to tackle the most pressing issues affecting our state and community. The aim of the conference was to inspire the next generation with the foundational ideas and philosophies that shaped the West, while also addressing the contemporary challenges facing Australians today. We extend our gratitude to all who joined us and contributed to the discussions on moving forward with renewed hope, trust, and unity.



Freedom to Choose *Conference*

Mannkal was proud to support the Freedom to Choose conference in collaboration with The University of Notre Dame. Now in its 14th year, the conference continues to champion the effectiveness of free-market policies. This year's theme, "The Path to Freedom: The Enduring Relevance of Hayek's The Road to Serfdom", celebrated the achievements of Hayek and explored the enduring relevance of his ideas on liberty, free markets, and the dangers of centralised control. Just as Hayek cautioned against the concentration of power in economic systems, the conference explored how his principles apply to today's challenges—whether it is the overreach of government in health directives or the erosion of personal choice in the face of institutional authority.



Student Info Night

Enterprise Hub Launch

On November 14th, we hosted our Student Information Night, where we shared the exciting news about Mannkal's expanded range of opportunities for 2025 and the launch of our new Enterprise Hub. Supporters of the Hub include the Institute of Public Affairs, the Samuel Griffith Society, H.R. Nicholls Society, with input from the Centre for Entrepreneurial Research and Innovation. We extend our thanks to our speakers and attendees for making it a memorable evening, and look forward to an extraordinary year ahead!



Alumni *Update*



Alumni Update

Where are they now?



Alexandra Colalillo
2014 Mannkal Scholar

Alexandra Colalillo has been a Senior Manager at PwC for a year, currently on secondment to the UK office. Her role involves traveling between Edinburgh, Glasgow, and London, providing her with a diverse client portfolio and valuable networking opportunities. Alexandra regularly writes for The West Australian and has expanded her media presence in the UK, contributing to The Scotsman and The Edinburgh Inquirer. Alexandra is also looking to venture into broadcasting, with aspirations to work with the BBC.



Millie Muroi
2021 Mannkal Scholar

Millie Muroi is currently a business and banking reporter and regular columnist at the Sydney Morning Herald and The Age. Millie's role involves reporting on financial services companies from the big four banks to insurers and fund managers, as well as markets, and writing opinion pieces with a focus on economics. From August, she will be working out of the press gallery in Canberra as the Herald's economics correspondent and part-time columnist.



Brook Lewis
2021 Mannkal Scholar

Brook Lewis met a Mannkal Alumnus who introduced him to Paxon Group, where he has been for almost three years working in commercial advisory across infrastructure and healthcare, recently returning from an engagement with the Sultanate of Oman and supporting a 100 hectare development in Abu Dhabi. Brook enjoys being at the coalface of analysing how private investment decisions are influenced by factors including public policy and in the future hopes to continue to increase his exposure to international business.



Josh Adamson
2014 Mannkal Scholar

After moving on from his role as Research Manager at Mannkal, Josh began working as a commercial analyst at Woodside Energy. At Woodside, Josh worked across a range of areas, including energy market advisory, commercial analysis and business development. In early 2023, Josh relocated to London and joined the Gas & LNG team at Baringa Partners, where he is currently a senior consultant. He consults for clients across the gas & LNG value chain – including international E&P companies, system operators, regulators, and government.



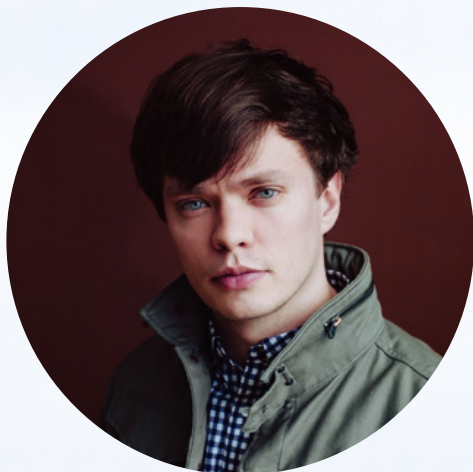
Lucas Roosendaal
2017 Mannkal Scholar

Lucas Roosendaal is currently a Solicitor at the Legal Aid Commission of WA, advising primarily on NDIS matters and law reform issues. He is a Government litigation lawyer, currently acting for clients with disabilities in the ever-changing NDIS policy landscape. He has experience at a national commercial firm in commercial litigation, having started his career as an Associate at the Federal Circuit Court and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. Lucas gives credit to Mannkal for equipping him with global experiences and critical thinking skills, which he continues to draw from in his legal career.



Hannah Berdal
2012 Mannkal Scholar

Hannah blazed new frontiers across the legal world in places like Dubai and the UK, and now works at a private equity firm in London. She champions the Mannkal Scholarship Program as a guiding force in her life, providing her with opportunities for international study and employment. Hannah offers this piece of advice to ambitious students in their early years of study: “I would strongly encourage any students who want to challenge themselves personally and professionally to get involved in Mannkal's events and programs - it may end up changing the course of your career!”



Phillip Hancock
2015 Mannkal Scholar

During his time at Mannkal, Phillip was awarded a full scholarship to travel to the United States and intern at a film incubator. It is during this trip that he secured prospects and opportunities to return to the U.S. to live and work. Phillip has worked as a producer for SMOCK Media and AMDC Films, an Advanced Staff Lead for Donald Trump, and is currently the Chief of Capitol Operations at the Presidential Inauguration Committee.

If you are an Alumni...

**We would love to
hear from you**

Contact our Alumni Leaders
to let us know where you are now and
get involved with our Alumni program

alumni@mannkal.org



Alumni News

A MANNKAL WEDDING

Hearty congratulations to 2019 Mannkal Scholars, Annie Harfoushian and Damon Miles, on their recent engagement!

Annie and Damon got to know each other when they both travelled to the US on Mannkal Scholarships in early 2020, forming a close friendship. On their return to Perth, Damon asked Annie out on a few dates, and the rest is history! We wish you both all the very best for your future together.



Scholars at the UWA Business School Prize Ceremony



Mannkal Alumni Nicholas Tan (2023) and Larisa Jacono (2022) attended the UWA Business School Prize Ceremony. Nicholas received the J and J Top Solutions Bright Minds Scholarship, which recognises high-achieving students with an entrepreneurial spirit and a strong commitment to their community. Larisa was awarded the Productivity Commission Prize for ECON3302 Applied Microeconomics, achieving the highest overall mark in the course.

Scholars taking on Politics



Tom White

2011 Mannkal Scholar



Tait Marston

2012 Mannkal Scholar



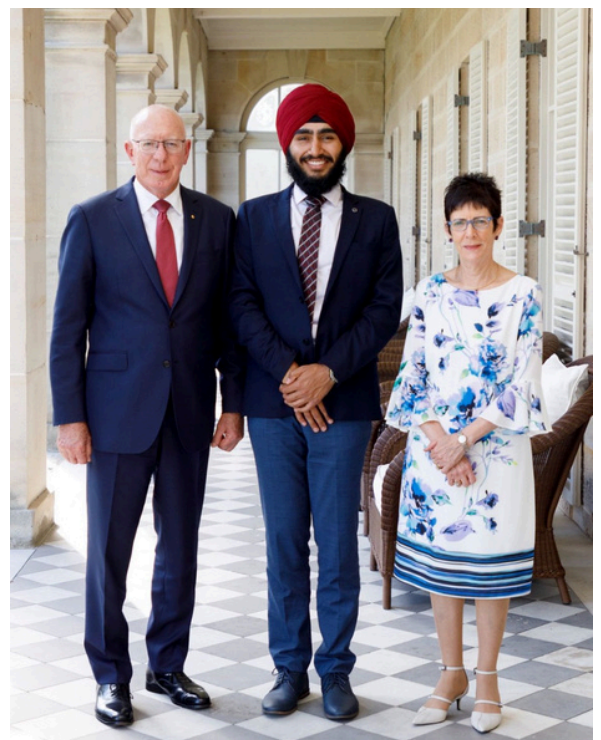
Sean Ayres

2018 Mannkal Scholar

Several of our distinguished Mannkal Alumni are stepping into the political arena, showcasing their leadership and dedication to public service. Among them are Tom White running as the Liberal Federal Candidate for Curtin; Tait Marston as the Liberal State Candidate for Oakford; and Sean Ayres as the Liberal Federal Candidate for Burt. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and wish them the very best in their candidacies as they strive to shape Australia's future.

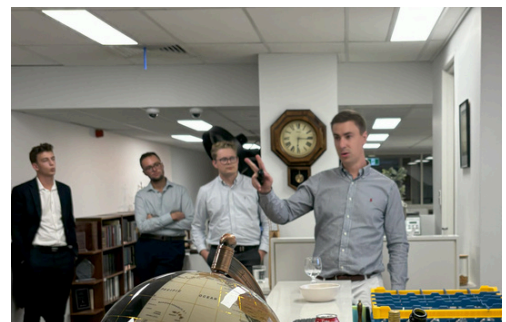
Scholar awarded the Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship

Mannkal Alumnus Hukambir Kohli (2023) has been awarded the prestigious Order of Australia Foundation Scholarship in Law, a testament to his outstanding academic prowess and commendable community involvement. This well-deserved recognition propels him to new heights, where he aspires to emerge as a leader and prominent figure in the community. The scholarship provides \$40,000 in financial assistance and a mentor who is a member of the Order of Australia Association.



Alumni Events

We were fortunate to host Alumni Events throughout the year, fostering valuable opportunities for alumni to connect and engage across cohorts. A special thank you to our Alumni Leaders, **Yannik Simkovics** and **Patrick Leclezio**, for their dedication in organising these events. We also extend our gratitude to our speakers, which include, **Trent Fleskens**, **Tom White**, and **Andrew Pickford**, who brought exceptional insight and expertise to our Alumni,



Ambassador *Program*

Mannkal's Ambassadors come from a wide range of backgrounds: business, politics, public policy, academia, entrepreneurs, finance, mining, law, agriculture, and retail. There is also a range of life experience, from recent graduates (and Mannkal Alumni) to retirees. Ambassadors provide a financial contribution to Mannkal. This is typically \$1,000 per year (tax deductible) with a number of our Ambassadors willing to provide more based on their circumstances.



The Ambassador Program incorporates three streams:

1

A mentoring program for Mannkal Scholars

This is a voluntary scheme matching Ambassadors to Mannkal Scholars which typically sees the Scholar and Ambassador meet for a discussion every 4 to 6 weeks to help with career and personal coaching.

2

Direct involvement in the Mannkal Scholarship Program

There is potential for Ambassadors to present student seminars to our Mannkal Scholars sharing their professional expertise and wisdom.

3

An education program for Ambassadors

Every 3 months we aim to host an informal education and discussion session for Ambassadors. The topics reflect the Mannkal philosophy of promoting liberty and free markets

If you are interested in becoming involved in the Ambassador Program, please contact
Lead Ambassador Doug Hall at ambassadors@mannkal.org

MANNKAL

ECONOMIC EDUCATION
FOUNDATION



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