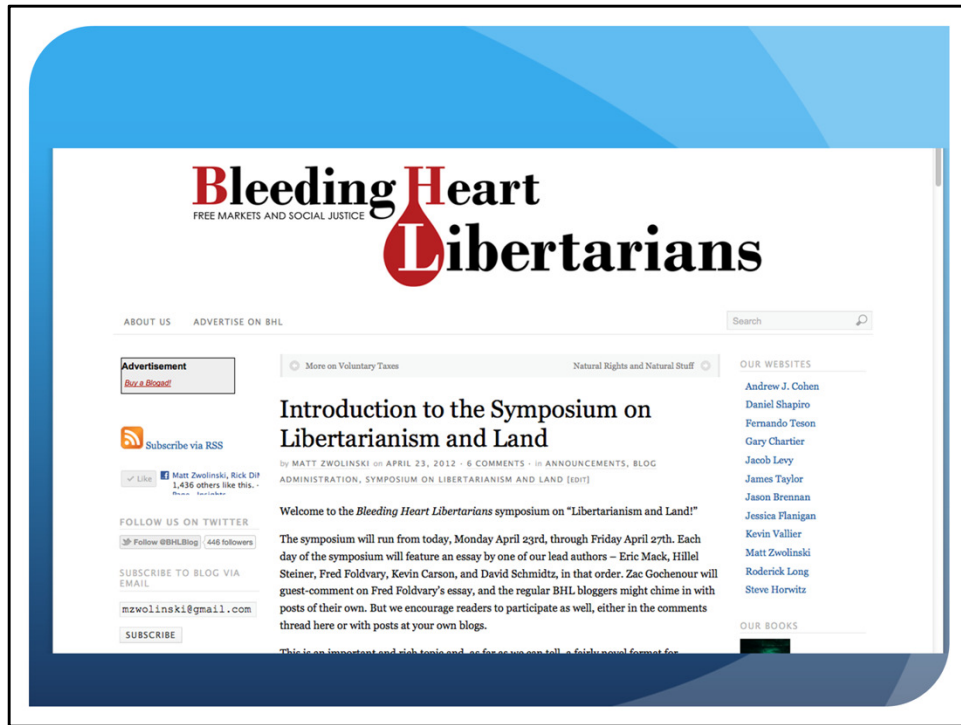


Blogging and Scholarship

Matt Zwolinski
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Started about a year ago

Group blog – 12 members

Closely related to research – I'm a political philosopher specializing in libertarian political thought

Two Ways Blogging Can Help Your Research

- Creating It
 - Facebook as a dry run for blogging
 - Blogging as a dry run for scholarship

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the EconTalk website. The page title is "Munger on Price Gouging | EconTalk | Library of Economics and Liberty". The URL in the address bar is "www.econtalk.org/archives/2007/01/munger_on_price_1.html".

The website header includes the "LIBRARY OF ECONOMICS and LIBERTY" logo and navigation tabs for "Articles", "EconLog", "EconTalk", "Books", "Encyclopedia", "Guides", and "Search".

The main content area features a podcast episode titled "Munger on Price Gouging" by Mike Munger, hosted by Russ Roberts. It includes a "PERMANENT LINK" for January 8, 2007, and social sharing options for Print, Email, and Share. A small thumbnail image of Mike Munger is shown next to the title.

The episode description reads: "Mike Munger of Duke University recounts the harrowing (and fascinating) experience of being in the path of a hurricane and the economic forces that were set in motion as a result. One of the most important is the import of urgent supplies when thousands of people are without electricity. Should prices be allowed to rise freely or should the government restrict prices? Listen in as Munger and EconTalk host Russ Roberts discuss the human side of economics after a catastrophe."

Below the description are buttons for "Play" (Time: 1:00:08) and "Download" (Size: 13.8 MB). A small note says "Right-click or Option-click, and select 'Save Link/Target As MP3'".

There is a section titled "Readings and Links related to this podcast" with a "HIDE READINGS" button. The list includes:

- "They Clapped: Can Price-Gouging Laws Prohibit Scarcity?" by Mike Munger
- "Gouge Away: Hurricanes and the politics of prices" by John Hood. Reason Magazine Online, Dec. 1996
- "North Carolina's Price Control Laws" by Roy Cordato. John Locke Foundation, 2006.

The left sidebar contains various navigation and utility links such as "Search EconTalk", "Recent Podcasts", "Browse Archives" (by date, category, featured guest), "Podcast Listening Guides", "Subscribe", "About EconTalk", "Frequently Asked Questions", "EconTalk FAQ", "Econlib Resources", "About Econlib", "Contact Econlib", "Quote of the Day", "Birthdays & Commemorations", "Frequently Asked Questions", "Get Econlib Newsletter", and "Subscribe to EconTalk".

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying "peasoup.typepad.com/peasoup/2007/08/whats-wrong-wit.html". The browser's address bar also shows "PEA Soup: What's Wrong With Price Gouging?". The page content includes a header for "PEA Soup" with the tagline "A blog dedicated to philosophy, ethics, and academia" and a background image of a tree. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, About, Archives, and subscription options. The main content area features a post titled "What's Wrong With Price Gouging?" dated August 27, 2007, by Alice Williams. The post text discusses the morality of price gouging, particularly in the context of natural disasters like earthquakes and hurricanes. A sidebar on the left lists contributors, and a sidebar on the right includes a search bar and a list of recent posts.

PEA Soup
A blog dedicated to philosophy, ethics, and academia

Home About Archives Subscribe to PEA Soup Subscribe to PEA Soup Comments Instructions for Contributors

CONTRIBUTORS
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« Esotericism, part II | Main | To be bold or cautious? »

August 27, 2007

What's Wrong With Price Gouging?

Price gouging seems like a rotten thing to do. There isn't much written about it from a philosophic perspective, but most philosophers I've talked to think it's a fairly nasty practice. President Bush thinks it's morally analogous to looting. And it's illegal in most states. Here in California, for instance, if in the wake of an earthquake I were to sell bags of ice which I normally sold for \$2.00 per bag for \$2.20 per bag or more, I would be guilty of a criminal offense punishable by up to one year in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Yikes.

But what's so bad about price gouging, anyway? It's usually a consensual exchange. And not even the kind of questionably consensual exchange involved in, say, *restate2006*. No one ever charges that gouged buyers are lacking relevant information or acting irrationally in some way. People in Florida in the wake of Hurricane Wilma were willing to pay \$5000 for generators because they needed generators, not because they were tricked in some way.

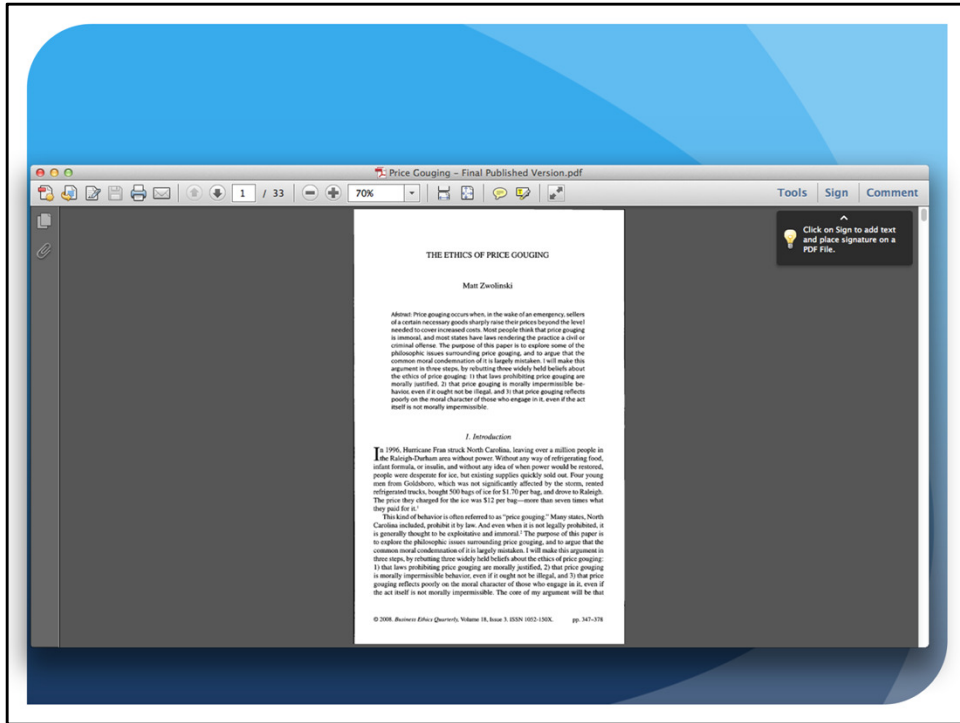
But maybe that's just the point. Gouging victims often need the items they're buying. And gougers know this. And they jack up their prices to take advantage of that need. That looks an awful lot like exploitation, and that seems wrong.

ETHICS AT PEA SOUP
Ethics at PEA Soup

SEARCH PEA SOUP

RECENT POSTS
Attributability and Daddy Issues

<http://peasoup.typepad.com/peasoup/instructions-for-contributors.html> it's so sure, though. Consider the following points.



Two Ways Blogging Can Help Your Research

- **Promoting It**
 - Forces you to explain your idea clearly, concisely
 - Every once in a while, someone will bite!

Jen Flannigan – Australian public broadcasting
Atlantic Monthly's online blog, or National Review or Reason Magazine



What makes you different, worth reading?



Group blog = less pressure to post regularly, more people to promote the blog to their friends and colleagues



Really, this is something you should be asking yourself anyway: how is my research relevant to ordinary people? But blogging forces you to do it.

Tips for a Successful Academic Blog

- Find a niche
- Consider a group blog
- Make it relevant
- Carve out a specific time for it

A good blogger doesn't just write on blogs, he reads other blogs – part of making yourself relevant to the conversation.