

**SYMPOSIUM ON MATT RIDLEY'S FORTHCOMING BOOK  
THE OPTIMIST: ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND THE EVOLUTION OF THE  
FUTURE  
VILLAGIO INN, NAPA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA  
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The Hon. **Matthew White Ridley** (born February 7, 1958, in Northumberland) is an English science writer, businessman and aristocrat. Ridley was educated at Eton and Magdalen College, Oxford where he received a doctorate in zoology before commencing a career in journalism. Ridley worked as the science editor of *The Economist* from 1984 to 1987, and was then its Washington correspondent from 1987 to 1989, and American editor from 1990 to 1992.

He is the son and heir of Viscount Ridley, whose family estate is Blagdon Hall, near Cramlington, Northumberland. Ridley is married to the neuroscientist Anya Hurlbert and lives in England; he has a son and a daughter.

He was the first chairman of the International Centre for Life, a science park in Newcastle. He is a governor of the Ditchley Foundation, which organizes conferences at its stately home in Oxfordshire.

**Topic:** Progress and the Role that Exchange and Specialization Have Played in It: Symposium on Matt Ridley's Forthcoming Book, *The Bright Side* (Provisional Title)

**Goals:** To convene a highly inter-disciplinary group of scholars, business people and journalists to discuss the subject of economic progress and the role that exchange and specialization have played in it and examine and provide comments on the then-current draft of Matt Ridley's forthcoming book, *The Bright Side*. The symposium will have the twin goals of allowing for direct commentary on the draft of Matt's book, and sparking a more general conversation in which participants can share their views on the topic of innovation and human progress. The conversation will include analysis of what we can learn from this subject in the face of this time of economic turmoil.

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