

My deeply libertarian instincts

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I had an [article on The Conversation](#) website yesterday that elaborated my thinking on the sale of student debt, [already rehearsed on this blog](#) earlier this week. I stress, the article was commissioned, based on that blog post. And on The Conversation there are editors who make demands of an author.

It's been interesting to note the reaction in the comments section. Seemingly orchestrated by [Tim Worstall](#) (who seems only able to write about me in the last day or so), many of those who regularly populate his Alt-Right comments section, which is notable for its aggressive offensiveness, have taken to maligning, squealing in their delight at being able to do so and highlighting the fact that I routinely block far-right, usually male, deeply offensive aggressiveness from the comments section of this blog precisely because my belief in free speech makes it a necessity to do so.

Bullying and freedom cannot co-exist. It is something they have not noticed.

Others have though. I was discussing the phenomena of online aggression with an MEP yesterday. They said online aggression was something they had been forced to get used to as a result of their work, but it made it no less unpleasant. They also wondered if awareness of such aggression put many off standing for office. I think it might. In that case these people's fight against freedom and liberty may have a deeply undesirable consequence. And that just reinforces my own determination to give them no air time. My deeply libertarian instincts demand that I don't.