

# Yesterday was the first day of the rest of my life

Published: January 13, 2026, 3:15 am

---

Yesterday was the first day of the rest of my life.

That comment needs explanation. What happened yesterday, for the first time since I began to think about retiring so that I might have the opportunity to pursue my own work agendas, free from employment obligations and duties to grant funders, was that I was able to set my own agenda without fear that I was neglecting some obligation to someone else as a consequence. I cannot recall a previous workday when that was the case, although I suspect that they did exist before I became an academic. That is too long ago to recall in detail now.

This does not mean that I did not work. I did. I had a decidedly long work day, but I chose what to do and, as a result, remained fresh enough to begin work last night on the post [I published this morning](#) on the defence of the state, which implicitly references my thinking about the relationship between macroeconomic and microeconomic entities, and how they should record their obligations that has underpinned quite a lot of my theoretical thinking in the last 15 years.

This morning, it is clear to me, based on discussions I have already had, that this will need quite a lot more explanation. But the point is, I might have the time to do that. And that is precisely why I decided to give up being paid.

I admit that this is quite exciting. Having a new business (the YouTube channel) and a new opportunity to develop at nearly 67 could not be otherwise. My next career is underway.