

WHAT IS IIPPE?

iippe

IIPPE was founded in 2006 aiming to strengthen the presence of political economy across the social sciences through critical and constructive engagement with mainstream economics, heterodox alternatives, inter-disciplinarity, and activism

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IIPPE IN BRIEF

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FROM PARIS 2012 TO THE HAGUE 2013

In all respects the joint conference between IIPPE, the Heterodox Economics Association (AHE) and the French Political Economy Association (FAPE), held back in July, was a huge success. This Paris conference was the biggest of its kind to date with around 860 papers submitted and somewhere in the vicinity of 650 participants coming from 50 or so countries. There were six plenaries on themes including the future of political economy, the current crisis and the prospects of capitalism, economics education and pluralism, and economics and other social sciences, to political economy outside the Western World. At the Conference there were representatives of several major publishers and of at least 13 leading political economy and heterodox journals who took part in two roundtable discussions on publishing in political economy and heterodox economics organised by IIPPE.

All three associations have worked in harmony to organise this truly global conference – a lesson of what good cooperation can achieve. One of the aims of the conference was to bring about greater cooperation between our associations and others, in particular those outside of the Western world and dedicated a plenary session to political economy outside of the Western world. IIPPE members had the opportunity to meet with representatives from the various Brazilian, Russian and African political economy associations as well as the World Association of Political Economy to discuss future cooperation between our associations.



We would very much like to thank the AHE and FAPE, and in particular the local organisers Bruno Tinel and his team for pulling off what was no small feat and organising a most interesting and fun conference dinner in a private museum of fair-ground attractions from the 19th and early 20th Century.

In 2013, IIPPE and AHE will be holding separate conferences. The IIPPE conference will take place 9th -11th July following AHE's conference 4th -6th July. The two conferences will be taking place in the Hague and London, and with only 200 miles and the North Sea separating them, we hope that many will attend both. Call for papers for the two conferences can be found on pages 11 and 12.

IIPPE's 4th Annual Conference in Political Economy will have the theme of "Political Economy, Activism and Alternative Economic Strategies" and will be hosted at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in the Hague, a fitting home considering the historical and continued commitment of many ISS academics to political economy, critical analyses of development, and engagement with activism and policy debate.

ERIC HOBSBAWM; AN OBITUARY

By Bill Freund

On October 1, 2012, Eric Hobsbawm died at the grand age of 95. He is about the last of a generation of English historians who experienced the Great Depression, World War II, the struggle against fascism, and the hopes associated with the post-war Labour government and who transformed the way history has been written in the English language. In his middle 80s, Hobsbawm produced a popular autobiography, *Interesting Times*, unbeatable as an introduction to his life.

The first part concerns his boyhood and youth in pre-fascist Austria and Germany, the second his coming of age as a member of the Communist Party and the consequences for what he considered the greatest event of modern times, the failed effort to supersede capitalism in the Soviet Union and the third his perspectives, friendships and ideas as an historian. Almost all readers found the first part gripping and memorable while for many the second rubbed in their faces a notoriety that came out in the nasty obituaries in the British right wing and jingoist press. Here I focus on the third facet.

It was only after the revelations at the 20th party Congress in 1956 and the corresponding moral disaster of the Hungarian Revolution that Hobsbawm in middle age began to write books. These include a magisterial history of the modern world starting with *The Age of Revolution* and continuing through *The Age of Capital*, *The Age of Imperialism* and end up with *The Age of Extremes*. He started with *Primitive Rebels* in 1957, his contextualisation of rebels who prefigured the working class heroes of industrial times. Enormously influential, he was able to rival its success long after with the co-edited *Invention of Tradition* which came out in his 70s. Its dissection of nationalism has been equally fertile. Far earlier he produced two classics for economic historians: *Industry and Empire*, an unrivalled concise survey of the rise and fall of industrial Britain that can still serve handily as a university text and *Labouring Men*, a set of essays that explored how the guilds workers formed embedding their skills in organisation turned into modern mass trade unions in Victorian England.

Hobsbawm's open Communism excluded him

from the great university jobs during the Cold War and after. His career as a teacher largely unfolded at a London university focussed on adult education, Birkbeck College, long before the obsessive and often philistine demands for 'research' of today. Here he honed the skills that made him the master synthesiser of modern history. The remarkable feature of his books, notably in the four volume 'age' series, was his ability to integrate the history of ideas, the arts and sciences almost effortlessly with political, economic and social history. He was at home in French and German, Italian and Spanish and turned the spotlight on an astonishing array of characters. His work can be seen as a history of modernism and modernity conscious of its moments of horror as well as its glories. But its Eurocentric history now shows real limits even though he developed a wide knowledge of Latin America from the 1960s on: *The Age of Imperialism* was more about the imperialists than their subjects. The spotlight on Europe no longer works in capturing our present. Moreover, for all the fascinating observations on post-modern realities, they come with far less enthusiasm and understanding than his grasp of the world before 1970 by which they are measured.

While Hobsbawm's interests and sympathies were not at all bounded by Marxist formulas, Marxist convictions about the importance of material life, of the central role of class and the salience of understanding the economy was critical for him always. He was a wonderful champion of the older economic history, constantly raising questions about living standards, unemployment, labour conditions, the rise and fall of industries, the causes of the Great Depression. His economic history places the greatest emphasis on labour and is full of individuals, entrepreneurs but not only entrepreneurs.

His work is a challenge to contemporary economic historians who see themselves primarily as social scientists working through precisely defined questions based purely on quantitative data of varying interest and significance. For economic historians, he provides assessments that are integrated with politics, society and culture. Scientific or not, his economic history based on data comprehensible to any educated reader is still the one that is likely to interest and move a broader audience. *The Age of Extremes* was translated into almost forty languages. Despite his unfashionable politics and aided by his superb, apparently conversational, writing style, his books will continue to live on the shelves of readers for a long time.

Bill Freund is Professor Emeritus of the University of Kwa-Zulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa



Eric Hobsbawm
in Rio de Janeiro,
2003

Folhapress 03/Ana Carolina Fernandes

AN INTERVIEW WITH EDWARD FULLBROOK

Edward Fullbrook is one of the leading figures in the Real World Economics movement. Over the years he has tirelessly promoted pluralism in the economic scholarship as well as the economics profession. He has written and edited numerous books and articles including "A Guide to What's Wrong with Economics" and "Real World Economics: A Post-Autistic Economics Reader". Edward Fullbrook was a plenary speaker at the Joint AHP/IIPPE/IIPPE conference in July 2012. He was kind enough to answer a few questions on the present and future of cooperation aimed at reshaping the economics profession and scholarship.

1. What are the core aims of WEA (World Economics Association)?

The way I see it, there are two. One is to promote the free exploration of economic reality from any perspective that adds to the sum of our understanding. To this end it advocates plurality of thought, method and philosophy. Implicit in this aim is the belief that an economist's primary commitment should be to the advancement of economic knowledge, rather than to the institutional, political or careerist standing a particular approach, agenda or group of individuals.

The second core aim is to globalize the organization and leadership of the profession. For our age, the current and long-standing world hegemony of the American Economic Association (and the 10 universities that control it) is an anachronism of extreme proportions. Prior to the digital age it was not practical to challenge it, but now it is vulnerable.

2. One of the aims of WEA is the promotion of pluralism. What does the experience of WEA so far tell us about the objective of breaking the mould of the economics profession?

It tells us that the WEA's ambitions are realistic. Naturally the WEA organizers were optimistic or they would not have launched it. But the progress it has made so far exceeds our expectations. After only 17 months the WEA has 10,644 members widely dispersed throughout the world, 3 quarterly journals with readerships as large or larger than any other non-neoclassical journals and larger than most of the neoclassical ones, a rapidly expanding innovative online conference program, and a bi-monthly 12-

page newsletter. Morale is high among the increasing number of people actively involved with developing the World Economics Association.

3. What is the position of the WEA with respect to neoclassical economics?

The WEA has no position regarding neoclassical economics in and of itself other than the wish to include it. But the WEA does not support the view that economic reality can be described by a single conceptual system or model and, moreover, one in which all key relationships are taken to be predetermined. Opposition to this view pertains not just to neoclassical economics, but to any variety that might wish to close down inquiry and to curtail the retention and advancement of

knowledge except within the confines of its conceptual point of view. Another example of this misuse of a variety of economics is the position that Marxist economics enjoyed in the Soviet Union. In both cases the costs to humankind have been high.

There is no a priori reason why neoclassical economists need be anti-pluralist, and I do not doubt that many are sufficiently sophisticated epistemologically to know that they should be so. But today if they are inclined to be such, the institutional framework of the profession is such that if they were to give public support to pluralism, their careers could be threatened. The WEA hopes in time to

diminish this possibility.

4. You were a plenary speaker at the joint IIPPE, AHE, AFEP Paris conference. What did you make of the conference and what is your view as far as these types of initiatives are concerned?

It was impressive and heartening to see so many non-neoclassical economists gathered in one place. But in the future I would hope to see the sessions organized more around aspects of economic reality, rather than around particular approaches. For example, at the July conference, when wanting to attend a session on the GFC I had to choose between three running at the same time, each by a separate school of thought. The WEA's conferences are topic based rather than school based. I would like to see this practice spread to the organization of sessions at location conferences. For the advancement of economic knowledge, lip service to pluralism is not enough.



WORKING GROUPS PAGES

Marxist Dependency Theory Working Group: Call for Participation

To date, the study of capitalist development has mainly been approached from a eurocentric perspective. Consequently, the most advanced capitalist economies of the West have tended



'Tenochtitlan' by Diego Rivera

to form the empirical basis for theoretical construction. Marx himself observed England in the writing of *Das Kapital*. Today, the capitalist mode of production has reached most of the globe and that the study of the world economy in the 21st century necessarily requires analysis of the particularities and the essence of the periphery of the capitalist system. To this end, and to rectify the eurocentricity of scholarship to date, a number of young social scientists, in close touch with a number of prominent Latin American Marxist economists and the Brazilian Society of Political Economy, have established a working group in Brazil which currently has over 20 members.

Our main goal is to disseminate the literature on dependent capitalism and to connect researchers working on this topic. Marxist Dependency Theory was originally developed by critical thinkers in the 1960s and 1970s as a reaction to the failure of the strategies for achieving economic and social development in Latin America. It is currently being revived due to the increasing local interest in creating new and consistent paths to socialism.

Our interests cover both theoretical and empirical studies, especially key concepts such as superexploitation, the relationship between absolute and relative surplus-value production, worldwide value transfer and (sub)imperialism. As part of our activities, we are organizing a series of seminars. Our next seminar is scheduled for April 2013 in Uberlândia, MG, Brazil.

We are very interested in cooperating with scholars from all over the world and invite all interested in the above and related issues to join the Working Group on Marxist Dependency Theory.

If you would like to get involved, please contact:
tiagocamarinhalopes@gmail.com.

FROM IIPPE FINANCIALIZATION WORKING-PAPER TO JOURNAL PUBLICATION

A version of the IIPPE Financialization working paper by Jorge Garcia-Arias entitled "International Financing for Development and the Need for a World Tax and Financial Organization" has been accepted for publication in the European Journal of Development Research under the title "*The Systemic Approach to International Financing for Development and the Need for a World Tax and Financial Organization*". The IIPPE Financialization working paper series is coordinated by the Financialization working group. All submissions are peer reviewed and receive feedback which may aid towards preparation for journal submissions. Please visit www.iippe.org to view past working papers as well as to find information on submission.

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Please contact
iippe@soas.ac.uk

Please include 'iippe in brief' in the subject line of your email

WORKING GROUPS PAGES

Working Groups form the backbone of IIPPE. The purpose of the working groups is to facilitate discussion and collaboration in order to strengthen and further the development of political economy. We currently have working groups organised around 17 topics (see box below for a full list of the WGs as well as contact details for each). IIPPE working groups are at various stages of development with each running itself subject to con-

forming to broader IIPPE aims. So far, activities that have been organised by IIPPE working groups include workshops, panels at conferences, online debates and exchange of literature and other resources. The IIPPE working groups have brought together researchers from across disciplines, institutions and countries. A number of working groups are planning working paper series and other collaborative work. IIPPE is looking to expand the diversity and

scope of the working groups, and we welcome suggestions and offers to organise new working groups as well as collaboration with other working groups from outside the initiative. Those interested in this should contact individual working groups or, for more general enquiries, those interested in setting up new groups please contact iippe@soas.ac.uk.



Visit www.iippe.org

Current Working Groups

Agrarian Change

[D. Johnston \(dj3@soas.ac.uk\)](mailto:dj3@soas.ac.uk)

Beyond Developmental State

[J. Saraswati \(js6258@nyu.edu\)](mailto:js6258@nyu.edu)

Commodity Studies

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Environment

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Financialisation

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Heterodoxy

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International Political Economy

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Marxist Political Economy

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Minerals-Energy Complex / Comparative Industrialisation

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Neoliberalism

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Political Economy of Institutions

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Transition as Development

[J. Marangos \(marangos@econ.soc.uoc.gr\)](mailto:marangos@econ.soc.uoc.gr)

Urban and Regional Political Economy

[J. Gough \(Jamie.Gough@sheffield.ac.uk\)](mailto:Jamie.Gough@sheffield.ac.uk), [Ozlem Celik \(O.Celik@sheffield.ac.uk\)](mailto:O.Celik@sheffield.ac.uk)

Two new additions to the IIPPE Book Series

Dot.compradors: Power and Policy in the Development of the Indian Software Industry

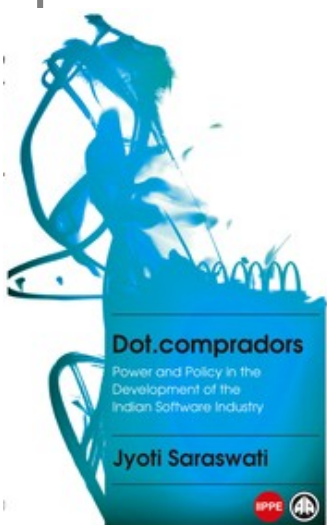
BY JYOTI SARASWATI

Published 2012

The global business media has eagerly portrayed the software industry in India as a neo-liberal poster child and the harbinger of a wider surge in national development. Presenting a definitive political economy study into the origins and evolution of the industry, *Dot.compradors: Power and Policy in the Development of the Indian Software Industry* methodically dismantles both these postures. Saraswati not only demonstrates that state intervention has been integral to its growth but also argues that the outcomes of this development are not as salutary as commonly assumed.

Dot.compradors promises to be an important resource for students, scholars

and practitioners concerned with the current pattern of economic development in India and the role of the software industry in it, opening up vital new avenues for critical research on an industry which has traditionally been the academic preserve of neo-liberal economists and business scholars. Furthermore, by drawing out wider lessons (and warnings) about this new model of service-based development, it is a must-read for policymakers in countries intending to follow in India's software footsteps.



BEYOND THE DEVELOPMENTAL STATE: INDUSTRIAL POLICY INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

Edited by Ben Fine, Jyoti Saraswati and Daniela Tavasci

Forth coming 2013

The market is dead! Long live the market! This appears to be the mantra of mainstream economists, politicians, and policymakers the world over. They all acknowledge the failure of the free-market experiment but appear unable intellectually to consider, let alone politically to promote, an interventionist state in engendering long-term development.

Beyond the Developmental State: Industrial Policy into the 21st Century is an attempt to address this situation. As the title suggests, this collection of chapter case studies, and the lessons they proffer, goes well beyond the standard 'developmental state' scholarship of the past three decades. Three features in particular differentiate it markedly from earlier studies.

First, the editors have assembled a collection of chapter case studies of state intervention unparalleled in breadth, cutting across all manner of sectoral, geographical and political contexts. Second, breaking with the analytical framework of an autonomous state, each case engages with a Marxist understanding of development, emphasising the role of economic and political interests and the conflicts within and between them. And third, rather than providing detailed blue-prints of policy recommendations, the book presents original analytical approaches for policy formulation.

Beyond the Developmental State provides a much-needed injection of fresh-thinking into discussions over the appropriate role of the state in economic development. And as such, it promises to be the go-to text for those students, practitioners and scholars unhappy with the status quo in development discourse.

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CARING CROWD FUNDING

By Irene van Staveren

Crowd funding is a community-based form of finance, which allows the funding of innovative activities in which banks and governments are reluctant to invest. The reasons for this reluctance relate to perceived high risks, lack of knowledge about the innovative area of activity, or a general low supply of credit due to the credit crunch following the financial crisis. Interestingly, crowd funding can generate both high rates of social returns as well as high rates of private returns on investment, due to strong synergies of combining the force of the market with the strength of civil society.

I have carried out a case study of a crowd funding project in the Netherlands, which combines the social aim of a transition to a green economy with a private return on investment that lies above the market rate in any economic sector at the moment, including in the financial sector. I combined two methods of analysis: participatory observation, through becoming one of the crowd funders, and an interview with the two farmers in a one-hour meeting on the farm.

The project concerns consumers financing solar energy panels for farms, with a return on investment paid in farm products. Both parties experience higher benefits as compared to traditional, bank-based financing and purchasing organic food in organic food stores or general supermarkets.

The two farmers, Koos and Monique, run an organic milk farm, 'de Beekhoeve', in a small village in the province of Utrecht, in the Netherlands, with 60 cows. They sell the milk through an association of over 100 ecological milk farmers in the Netherlands, to regular as well as organic supermarkets. Their other products, which are also organic – including meat, cheese, apple juice, and ice cream – are sold at the farm and to shops and restaurants in the neighbourhood, stimulating the local economy.

Monique and Koos decided to invest in solar panels on the roof of the cow shed, during the financial crisis in 2008. They already had taken bank credit for earlier investments and looked for an alternative credit opportunity. They found a crowd funding initiative called 'Boer zoektBuur'. The partici-

pation is by 27 organic farms and 750 investors/consumers ('neighbours'). The project offered shares worth 250 euro each. In return, investors/consumers receive six vouchers of 50 euro each, to be spent on the products on the farm of their choice, one per year. This is a return on investment (ignoring inflation, which is very low anyway) of 20 percent. There are additional advantages for both farmers and consumers. For the farmers: the investment does not require pay back in money, from profits, and hence saves money for other financial investments. Instead, the arrangement to pay back in products ensures the farmers a fixed minimum demand and an increase in volume sold, helping to attain economies of scale.



30 consumers participated in the solar energy investment on the farm of Koos and Monique. This resulted in 50% financing of the investment through the project, with the other 50% financed through the farmers' savings and a small bank loan. The disadvantage of the project is that the farmers have a higher administrative load

as compared to a bank loan, because of the smaller number of investors. The advantage, however, of this personalized investment relationship is more contact between farmer and 'neighbor', one of the objectives of the project and a means to support sustainable farming in society through strengthening consumer ties with organic agriculture. This is also enabled through additional caring economic activities such as voluntary work at the farm and the adoption of cows in exchange for regularly updated information about the cow's wellbeing. The additional advantages for the consumer are first that consumers know where their food originates, by visiting the farm in person when collecting their products on an annual basis. Second, they benefit from the price difference in organic products sold in organic or regular shops and lower wholesale prices at the farm gate. To give an indication of the price advantage, the table below shows the price differences of several types of meat and other products at 'de Beekhoeve' and in shops in the Netherlands. The average weighted price advantage for consumers is 30 percent.

Table: Organic product prices in the Netherlands, 2012, per kilogram.

Product	Shop prices	Prices at 'de Beekhoeve'	Price difference per kilogram (%)
Meat loaf	11,00	9,50	- 14%
Entrecote	21,90	23,00	+ 5%
Rib-eye	23,50	19,00	- 19%
Steak	28,50	23,00	- 19%
Tournedos	53,50	35,00	- 35%
Sausage	25,20	13,50	- 46%
Apple juice (1 l.)	1,45	2,00	+ 38%
Walnuts	9,98	6,00	- 35%
Cheese (young)	11,30	13,00	+ 12%
Average weighted price difference			- 30%

Data sources: websites of 'de Beekhoeve', butcher chain De GroeneWeg, Rotterdam, regular supermarket Albert Heijn and organic supermarket Eko Plaza, 2011.

In conclusion, the 'Boer zoektBuur' project may be regarded as facilitating caring financing, because it reduces pay back risk by providing consumers with vouchers for six years rather than requiring pay back out of volatile financial returns, while in the case of bankruptcy, the 'neighbours' may collectively offer voluntary labour for the survival (farm work) and future strategy (management advise) of the farm. The project provides access to alternative finance to the farm and provides a secure minimum in sales contributing to the realization of economies of scale. While the investors/consumers reap a return on investment of 20% plus a price advantage of 30% for trustworthy organic food products with known origin. The positive externality, or social return, is threefold. First, low-carbon energy generation, second, consumer and investor support for a transition to a green economy through the commitment built between farm and neighbors and third, lower risk levels because of transparency, pay-back in goods produced with high fixed and low variable costs, and the potentiality of emergency labour and management advice. The project shows that the market does not need capitalism to flourish – a committed community and entrepreneurial farmers together with a low-cost innovative intermediary can align long term economic objectives through the market and civil society quite efficiently at low risk.

Irene Van Staveren is Professor of Pluralist Development Economics at the Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam, and member of the Sustainable Finance Lab.

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The Crisis of Civilization, A Book and Film Review of Ahmed's Take on the Global Political Economy

By Robert Drury King

Nafeez Mosaddeq Ahmed—Executive Director of the Institute for Policy Research and Development in London—has written a stunning analysis of contemporary crises across the following domains of social life: climate catastrophe, energy scarcity, food insecurity, economic instability, international terrorism, and militarization. His *A User's Guide to the Crisis of Civilization and How to Save It* (Pluto Press, 2010) is unlike other studies which examine social crises in their relation to the problem of “civilizational collapse”—studies such as Joseph Tainter's or Thomas Homer-Dixon's—because of the unparalleled depth of empirical support marshaled for its arguments and the very capable proposal it offers for structural, systematic reforms of the system of capital, realistically aimed at addressing the immense magnitude of the abovementioned crises. In fact, this book should be of great interest to those interested in political economy precisely because the book finds its culmination in a diagnosis of the global political economy. Indeed, Ahmed notes, “[w]e have now developed a body of empirical data unequivocally demonstrating the potentially catastrophic convergence of six global over the coming decades. It is essential to now develop a conceptual apparatus that can make sense of these crises by examining their systemic-causal origins in the structure of the global political economy.” Ahmed's diagnosis chapter begins by defining the system of capital as a complex adaptive system—on these terms, Ahmed shows how the system can be rigorously modeled—the structural dynamics of which indicate the “inherently dysfunctional” nature of the global political economy and the specifically neoliberal ideology that helps to sustain it. Ahmed defines this ideology through a look at the Washington Consensus (the dominant “state”-based response to social crises), with its policies of deregulation and financial liberalization. For example, the state deploys excessive strategies of militarization to attempt to address crises that seem to be inherently irresolvable through military means, e.g., problems in finance economics or environmental catastrophe. Ahmed also links the presuppositions of orthodox International Relations (IR) theories to the Washington Consensus strategies such that the very methodology of orthodox IR becomes a

part of the problem. In a critical vein, then, Ahmed condemns theories of political economy which proceed from the orthodoxy (which he locates in both neoliberal and neorealist theories of inter-state relations), taking a larger view of the metabolic rift—precisely borrowing the Marxist orientation on social metabolic reproduction—that the orthodoxy's policies continue to generate and exploit. So it is, then, that Ahmed's solution to social crises grows out of a concern to set the balance aright between society and nature, to restore a healthy metabolic relation between social life and its ground in nature. Indeed, within this Marxian tradition of political economy, every social formation is able to reproduce itself (as an output) precisely by drawing from natural resources (and indeed, from human labor, as inputs). The problem with the orthodox political economy (and perpetuated by its prevalent ideology) is that it is structured, at base, precisely to generate an exploitative rift between social formations and the ground of their possible reproduction, thus tying together and exacerbating social crises. The results of Ahmed's terrific book have recently been produced as an accessible film, *The Crisis of Civilization*, directed by Dean Puckett. The film is excellent. I have shown it in a Reshaping the Modern World course that I currently teach to undergraduates, and the students find it a highly illuminating window into the key confrontations and tasks within the contemporary political economy of social crises. Perhaps no other studies in political economy that address civilizational collapse and social crises from a systematic point of view can compare to the recent work of Ahmed.

Robert Drury King is Assistant Professor, Sierra Nevada College and Research Fellow, Centre Leo Apostel, Free University of Brussels



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW BOOKS

States, Banks And Crisis: Emerging Finance Capitalism in Mexico and Turkey

By Thomas Marois
Published by Edward Elgar

Thomas Marois' groundbreaking interpretation of banking and development in Mexico and Turkey builds on a Marxian-inspired framework premised on understanding states and banks as social relationships alongside crisis and labor as vital to finance today. The book's rich historical and empirical content reveals definite institutionalized relationships of power that mainstream political economists often miss in their understanding of contemporary finance capitalism.

Development Politics in Transition: The Neoliberal Era and Beyond

Edited by Chang Kyung-Sup, Ben Fine and Linda
Weiss
Published by Palgrave Macmillan

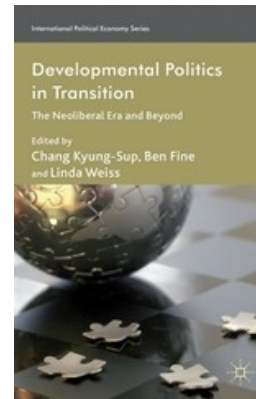
In many parts of the world, nevertheless, neoliberalism has not replaced but interacted with national developmentalism in complex and diverse ways.

With new constituencies of developmentalism emerging across the globe and with classic developmental political economies themselves restructuring beyond national boundaries, the sociopolitical conditions, processes, and consequences of national development have turned out to be much more diverse and complex than previously acknowledged under the supposedly, if increasingly challenged, homogenizing umbrella of neoliberalism and globalization. Concomitantly, the structural incongruity across various goals of national progress – i.e. among democracy, social equity and integration, and economic development – has become a prevalent phenomenon across the globe.

Accordingly, we consider it essential to examine critically various national configurations of developmental politics in the neoliberal era with particular attention paid to the nature of the interrelationships among political, social, and economic processes.

Accordingly, it grapples with the following questions: what kinds of mutual interrelations, interactions, and influences have ramified between developmentalism and (global and national) neoliberalism; how have political conditions and consequences of national development changed along the complex and dynamic interfaces of developmentalism and neoliberalism; how has the systemic relationship between economic and social policies been transformed along such interfaces.

The case studies cover, on the one hand, post-ISI, post-socialist, post-developmental statist, and post-liberal instances of developmental politics during the ascendancy of neoliberalism and, on the other hand, East and South Asian, Latin American, African, European, and Australian experiences of neoliberal-era developmental politics.



MASTERS COURSE AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Erasmus mundus

Economic Policies in the age of Globalisation (EPOG)

The main objective of the EPOG Master's course is to give birth to a new generation of international experts, able to define and assess economic policies and evolve within different political, social and regional contexts. The programme is based on institutional and holistic approaches of economic policies, and has been created thanks to the cooperation of 8 prestigious universities:

- the University Paris 13,
- the University of Turin,
- Kingston University,
- the Berlin School of Economics and Law,
- the University of Witwatersrand (South Africa)
- the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro,
- the University of Massachusetts (Amherst),
- Seoul National University.

The very best students from all over the world will be eligible for scholarships awarded for 2 years by the European Commission, based on our selection.

Deadline for students who are applying for Erasmus Mundus scholarships will be the 10th of January 2013.

Deadline for other students will be the 10th of June 2013.

The course will start in September 2013.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

www.epog.eu <<http://www.epog.eu/>>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFERENCE AND MEETINGS

15th Conference of the Association for Heterodox Economics Economy and Organisation

Call for Papers

4-6 July 2013

**Centre for Socio-Economic Research
(Cf SER)**

London Metropolitan University

Keynote speakers will include:

Professor Sir Anthony Atkinson,

Professor Johnston Birchall, Professor William Lazonick.

For 2013 the AHE Conference theme is Economy and Organisation. The world economy could be characterised as suffering from extreme imbalances. At the heart of many of these has been the nature and conduct of organisations. A number of gross corporate scandals have suggested organisations have cultures in which wider responsibilities or concerns are not recognised. There appear to be specific cultures at work suggesting something more serious than 'rogue' traders. Issues to be considered include how organisations understand their purposes, how this understanding is formed, as well as how governance both treats and is treated by them. All these problems suggest an imbalance of interests with detrimental effects. Such imbalances could be argued as being at the heart of the global financial crisis suggesting a longer term problem rooted in how organisation is conceived. Understanding inequality may be difficult without considering how executive pay has risen; differentials between CEOs and staff have reached extraordinary levels.

The Conference asks people to explore whether heterodox oriented perspectives in economics can deliver optimistic views of organisation and its social and cultural context. We ask for people to explore whether economics can learn from actual organisational practices around the world, including examples of mutualism. We welcome critical evaluation of such issues and indeed of the mainstream conception of free markets, set against heterodox alternatives.

The conference invites submissions for single papers, panels and sessions of relevance to the overarching conference theme, or which address topics or issues of importance to heterodox economics from standpoints which differ from, or critically examine, mainstream economics.

Please go to website for further details: <http://www.hetecon.net/>

Fourth Annual Conference of IIPPE

9-11 July, 2013

International Institute for Social Studies, The Hague, The Netherlands

Deadline for abstracts of individual papers and panels: February 15, 2013

See the full version of the call for papers on the back page

International Initiative for Promoting Political Economy (IIPPE)
Fourth Annual Conference in Political Economy
“Political Economy, Activism and Alternative Economic Strategies”
 July 9-11, 2013,
 International Institute for Social Studies, The Hague, The Netherlands

The financial crisis revealed its first signs over five years ago, on August 9, 2007, when BNP Paribas suspended payment on three of its funds. It has since morphed into the deepest US and then world economic crisis since the Great Depression. The “green shoots” of recovery of some Third World economies, that the IMF had acclaimed in 2010, had withered within a year. By 2012 it was admitted that the “world recovery had stalled”, as even the handful of large, better-performing, developing economies slowed. But, ever upbeat except when imposing adjustment, the IMF predicts not only an improved 2013 but continual yearly growth over the following four years as well.

Yet, the world’s largest economy remains stuck. While even the weak economic growth in the USA looks good by comparison with Europe, measured unemployment remains around 8%. Home loss, homelessness, poverty and hunger remain at their highest levels in decades. Nor is there a prospect of a recovery across Europe. The northern economies, and especially Germany, that until now have performed better in the core-periphery division of the continent, have stagnated, inevitable perhaps given the prolonged implosion of the economies of their most important foreign customers. There is a particularly severe crisis of youth unemployment. And the stagnation of the economies of the First World has caused a sharp slowing of growth in their BRIC counterparts and the few other better-performing Third World economies that the recovery Pollyannas had projected for several years as the engines that would drive the world rebound.

Popular discontent has manifested itself in varieties of ways, from the Arab Spring to the renewal of Latin American left radicalism. In the global North, it has erupted in the form of the movements of the Indignados in Spain, Occupy Wall Street in the USA, and popular resistance in Greece. Whilst the Greek political system has been transformed beyond recognition but without resolution of the ongoing economic and political crisis, action in the rest of the North has appeared to have limited lifespan and effects, even with polls showing very high dissatisfaction with the current economic and political situation. It is striking how no broadly supported political movements have arisen, successfully promoting and engaging in a struggle for alternative economic policies. And, in their absence, finance has slowly, if not rapidly, and surely restored its economic, political and ideological hegemony over everything from our daily lives to our longer-term prospects, from the environment to our social and economic prospects.

The ongoing economic and political crises place two related questions on history’s agenda. In the face of the dismal failure of the continuing, mostly overt neoliberal policies to resolve the deep problems, what alternative economic strategies should be pursued? And a more radical form of that same question, are alternative economic structures and an entirely different system of economic structures and practices necessary? The second question is concerns the sorts of actions that must be engaged to move the political process on to a path of alternative outcomes, from mild reforms to major transformation (and the connection between the two).

The 2013 Annual Conference of IIPPE will focus on these questions. In doing so, it will need to acknowledge: the breadth and depth of discontent and the more or less spontaneous protest and conflict against the consequences of the crisis; how struggles have been conditioned by the crisis and the failure to resolve it without either determining their form and strength, their diversity and their complex dependence on non-economic factors; and the lack of strength, unity and coherence of oppositions and posing of alternatives. In this light, the conference will bring together scholars from all strands of political economy and heterodox economics, in seeking to engage debate with political parties and other progressive organisations in order to explain the incidence of struggles and how they might best be supported in bringing about broader, deeper and more unified responses to the crisis. In particular, it will be necessary to interrogate how continuing general conceptualisations, such as financialisation and neoliberalism, can (or cannot) be put to these purposes, when set against the diverse experiences of, and response to, the crisis.

Submissions of individual abstracts or panel proposals addressing these issues of Activism and Alternative Economic Strategies are particularly encouraged, although, as always, this yearly political economy conference will consider proposals on any issues in political economy or heterodox economics.

Submissions of abstracts for individual papers and panel proposals should be sent by email to iippe2013@iss.nl with abstract submitted iippe2013 or panel submitted iippe2013 in the subject line.

Deadline for abstracts of individual papers and panels: February 15, 2013

Authors will be notified concerning acceptance March 15, 2013

Deadline for submission of the full paper: May 15, 2013

Deadline for registration (with reduced fee): May 15, 2013