IIPPE COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT, AUGUST 2015

This has been a very fruitful year for IIPPE, now entering its sixth year of existence. The procedure for establishing a formal status started in September 2014 following elections of Council Members. In August 2015 we will submit an application to the Charity Commission to register IIPPE as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Over the past year our membership has expanded considerably reaching 1,365 (full and associate) members. Last year's Naples conference was one of the most succesful in terms of numbers attending, number and breadth of activities and quality of papers presented. The signs so far are that the Leeds conference will be of equal quality with a number of new innovations. We are also excited to announce that next year's (2016) conference will be a joint one with Critical Political Economy Research Network and will be held in Lisbon. Over the past year IIPPE organized a record number of Training Workshops with greater geographical and thematic diversification. Three more Working Groups have been initiated, while a few others have been discontinued. There is still a lot that can and needs to be done, and in the next pages there are quite a few suggestions in this direction. We are of course always open to new ideas, proposals and initiatives that will help develop IIPPE further. We would like to take this opportunity and thank all those who have contributed in making this last year a cornerstone in IIPPE's development.

1. 2014 IIPPE Naples Conference

IIPPE's 5th International Conference in Political Economy that took place 16-18 September 2014 in Naples was a great success. The University of Naples L'Orientale hosted some 260 participants from 38 different countries and 5 continents. A diverse range of papers was presented in 71 Panels that ran across the 3 days of the conference. Each day of the conference concluded with a plenary session pertaining to the nature of, and prospects for, the crisis, and the possibilities for alternatives. The plenary speakers included prominent academics and activists Anastasia Nesvetailova, Anwar Shaikh, Trevor Evans, Francisco Louça, Hilary Wainwright, Euclid Tsakalotos, Emiliano Brancaccio and Mario Pianta. In addition to high level academic contributions, the conference attracted many activists indicating a clear interest in building a more stable and constructive interaction between academia and activism within IIPPE.

As with the 4th annual conference, this year's event was preceded by a one-day training workshop delivered by Simon Mohun and Marco Veronese Passarella with 40 or so in attendance.

On top of the usual conference activities the local conference organisers arranged a host of cultural events on the days either side of the formal meetings. Conference participants were welcomed to Naples on the evening of the 15th, with an outdoor concert of Neapolitan music staged on a public square of the old city, surrounded by the historical buildings of The University of Naples. The music to which we were treated told stories of workers' struggles and narratives drawn from the social fabric

of everyday working class Neapolitan life. On the days that followed the conference, participants had the chance to take part in a social programme that included trips: to the unique archaeological site of Pompeii; to Procida, one of the Islands of the Gulf surrounding Naples; and to the crater of Vesuvius.

IIPPE would like to thank all those involved in the organisation of the conference. In particular we are grateful to the local organisation team that included Michela Cerimele, Pietro Masina, Lorenza Monaco and Francesco Pontarelli, together with their brigade of enthusiastic volunteers.

2. 2015 IIPPE Leeds Conference

The Programme Committee for the IIPPE 2015 Leeds Conference consists of Al Campbell, Alfredo Saad-Filho and Niels Hahn. The call for papers resulted in nearly 330 submissions.

This number includes Individual Proposals, Proposals for a Panel, and Proposals for a Stream of Panels. Nearly all of them were accepted. The total number of presenters registered for the conference has reached 230.

As a core objective of IIPPE is to engage with activism, the Programme Committee has made it possible for activist to submit proposals for the conference. There has been some interest in this from several activists, but lack of funding appears to be a major barrier, including lack of resources in IIPPE to promote activism and link up with activist groups. This could improve for next year's conference.

This year we will be having four particular contributions focused on activism. First, there will be a panel by the International Student's Initiative for Pluralism in Economics (ISIPE) (connected also to the strong base of student activists at Leeds). Second, there will be a panel by the Reteaching Economics movement. Third, the final plenary will have presentations both by a speaker from the Reteaching Economics movement, and from the FEPS organization (Foundation for European Progressive Studies). Finally, there will be a particularly different and creative project, a Documentary Section at the conference. Its objective is to create a space where academics can meet documentarians and explore ways in which to collaborate. Eight slots for film screenings and Q&A sessions have been created at the Leeds conference. If this works well, then the documentary section can be expanded at the next IIPPE conference.

The Local Organising Committee in Leeds consists of Annina Kaltenbrunner and Mary Robertson. The conference organisation has benefited from a number of IIPPE members being based at Leeds, and from a number of PhD students volunteering to help with logistics during the conference itself. There has not been so much local institutional support as at past conferences. E.g. we have hadto pay for room bookings. This burden has been partially compensated by a

generous donation from FEPS. Nonetheless, the budget is tight and it is unlikely that we will have a surplus at the end of the conference.

We have switched to having two speakers per plenary session, in order to allow more time for both speakers and discussion. In addition, we have a joint plenary by the Brazilian Political Economy Society and the Latin American Political Economic Association, which will start a new tradition of sister organisations leading their own plenary sessions hosted by IIPPE.

Based on the success of the Social Programme in Naples, following the conference, Loranza Monaco has taken the lead on organising a similar two-day social programme in Leeds. The objective of the social programme is to provide a space where people can meet and discuss their research in a relaxed informal environment. Last year this resulted in a number of new research collaborations, the formation of a new working group on China, and a lot networking in general. This year's social programme will aim at exploring the 'cradle' of capitalism - and of anti-capitalist resistance. It will run on the two days following the conference, and will take place between Leeds and Manchester, including visits to the Leeds Industrial Museum, the People's History Museum and a Radical Walking Tour in Manchester, following 'the footsteps' of Marx and Engels. It is open to all conference participants (and extra guests, upon registration), who will cover their own expenses. We are expecting at least 70-80 participants.

3. 2016 IIPPE Lisbon Conference

We are pleased to report that our 7th Annual Conference will be a **joint conference** co-organised with the **Critical Political Economy Research Network** and is scheduled to take place at the Lisbon School of Economics and Management (ISEG) of the University of Lisbon with Professor Francisco Louça taking the lead, to whom we are correspondingly grateful.

4. Training Workshops between Naples September 2014 and Leeds September 2015

- We were awarded a grant of £2,500 by the Amiel & Melburn Trust in support of Training Workshop activities.
- There have been seven Training Workshops during the 2014-2015 academic year.
- The Training Workshops have branched out from their previous geographical focus on London During 2014.15, two were held in London, one in Scotland (Aberdeen, June 2015), two in England outside London (Bristol, January 2015 and Leeds, forthcoming, September 2015), and two outside the UK (Athens, December 2014 and Ankara, April 2015).
- There remains an appetite for political economy, but we have learned that it is insufficient to have a workshop in a place where there are IIPPE activists unless

there is also a linked student or activist base (the Bristol event was less successful in terms of attendance, the Aberdeen event much more successful). We remain keen to promote workshops outside London, but they require much more active preparation and publicity than London events.

- We would like to broaden our international activities, but that requires local organisation.
- We would like to broaden our speaker base (being currently too male, white and Mohun).
- We would like to explore possibilities of linkage to the activities of Working Groups (the Aberdeen workshop was a joint activity between Training Workshops and the Financialisation Working Group, as well as the Aberdeen Political Economy Group).

Below is a full list of the Workshops of 2014-2015.

TW9: 5 November 2014; SOAS London

- a) Marco Veronese Passarella, A history of the labour theory of value
- b) Simon Mohun, Some recent approaches to value and price

TW10: 9-11 December 2014; National Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece (jointly sponsored by the Political Economy Section of the Department of Economics at National Kapodistrian University of Athens)

- a) 9 December: Simon Mohun, Value and price
- b) 10 December: Simon Mohun, Value and profit
- c) 11 December: Simon Mohun, Value, finance and crisis

TW11: 21 January 2015; University of Western England, Bristol

- a) Simon Mohun, Introduction to Marx's Political Economy
- b) Ben Fine, Why Do We Consume What We Consume and What Does It Matter: From Value of Labour Power to Systems of Provision, Or Is It the Other Way Around?

TW12: 28-30 April 2015; Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey (jointly sponsored by the METU Department of Political Science and Public Administration and the Turkish Social Sciences Association)

- a) 28 April: Simon Mohun, Value and price
- b) 29 April: Simon Mohun, Value and profit
- c) 30 April: Simon Mohun, Value, finance and crisis

TW13: 22 June 2015; SOAS, London

(with financial support from the Amiel & Melburn Trust)

Marxist theories of finance, inequality and the causes of the financial crisis of 2007-8

a) Simon Mohun, Productive and unproductive labour; interest and the rate of interest; fictitious capital; money, banks, inequality, liquidity and crisis

b) Photis Lysandrou: The colonisation of the future: an unorthodox Marxist view of financialization; the primacy of inequality in the subprime crisis: a Marxist commodity theory approach

TW14: 25-26 June 2015; University of Aberdeen, Scotland (jointly sponsored by the IIPPE Financialisation Working Group, the Aberdeen Political Economy Group, and the Radical Independence Campaign, with financial support from the Amiel & Melburn Trust)

25 June: Financialisation and the Political Economy of Money and Finance

- a) Simon Mohun, Introduction to Marx's method and the production & distribution of surplus value; money, capital and finance
- b) John Weeks, The political economy of finance and crisis and the economic consequences of the election
- c) Joseph Choonara, Financialisation: the growth and impact of finance over recent decades

26 June: Money, Finance, Neoliberalism and the Crisis in UK and Scotland

- a) James Foley, From finance capital to financialization in Scotland
- b) James Meadway, The UK's second wave of crisis: the failure of neoliberalism, the collapse of growth, and the rise of the transfer state
- c) Neil Davidson, The political economy of neoliberalism and the potential for capitalist self-destruction

TW15: 8 September 2015; University of Leeds

- a) Simon Mohun, The political economy of the rate of profit
- b) John Weeks, Rate of profit and crisis
- c) Alfredo Saad-Filho, Theories of crisis

5. IIPPE 2015 Working Groups Report

IIPPE currently has 19 Working Groups on our books (see table 1). An audit was conducted in 2013 and again in late 2014 where all Working Group coordinators were contacted. A number of groups were removed on request of their coordinators and, for several, new coordinators were found to replace those that wished to stand down.

Since the 2014 annual conference we have three new Working Groups. These are: Africa, Political Economy of China's Development & Political Economy and Religions. Those wishing to form a new Working Group are requested to submit a proposal to the Working Groups' coordinator (Susan Newman). The main criteria for approval of a new Working Group are that their aims are aligned to the six aims of IIPPE, that the topic and issues are sufficiently broad to allow for diverse interests of members, but, clearly demarcated from other Working Groups. Once proposals have been discussed with the Working Groups' coordinator, they are sent to the Council for approval.

The Working Groups have varied in terms of their level of activity over the last year. More detailed reports for some of the Working Groups can be found at the end of

this document. The named coordinators of the Environment Working Group have not responded to recent requests for information. There may be a need to identify new coordinators for the group. The Working Groups' coordinator will approach those that are presenting in the environment WG panel at this year's conference. The coordinators of the Political Economy of Institutions Working Group want to step down and are looking for new coordinator(s).

Table 1. IIPPE Working Groups 2014/15

	Working Group Coordinator(s) Email(s)
1	Africa Hannah Cross h.cross@westminster.ac.uk
2	Agrarian Change Deborah Johnston dj3@soas.ac.uk
3	Beyond Developmental State
4	Commodity Studies Liam Campling & Susan Newman
	l.campling@qmul.ac.uk, susanamynewman@gmail.com
5	Conflict, War and Development Niels Hahn nsc.hahn@gmail.com
6	Environment Murat Arsel & Bram Buscher arsel@iss.nl, buscher@iss.nl
7	Financialisation Carolina Alves & Serap Saritas carolina_alves@soas.ac.uk,
548340@soas.ac.uk	
8	Marxist Political Economy Gong Hoe Gimm
	ghgimm@gmail.com
9	Minerals-Energy Complex /Comparative Industrialisation Basani
Baloyi	bbasibal@yahoo.co.uk
10	Neoliberalism Alfredo Saad-Filho & Kean Birch as59@soas.ac.uk,
kean.birch@lbss.gla.ac.uk	
11	Political Economy and Religions Salvotore Drago
	drago73salvo@tiscali.it
12	Political Economy of Institutions Dimitris Milonakis &
G.Mera	mveliotakis d.milonakis@uoc.gr, meramveliotakis@yahoo.gr
13	Political Economy of China's Development Sam-Kee Cheng
	214533@soas.ac.uk
14	Political Economy of Work Andrew Brown & David Spencer
	A.Brown@lubs.leeds.ac.uk, das@lubs.leeds.ac.uk
15	Privatisation Kate Bayliss Kb6@soas.ac.uk
16	Social Capital Asimina Christoforou asimina.christoforou@gmail.com
17	Teaching Political Economy Kevin Dean & Elisa van Waeyenberge
	Kevin.Deane@northampton.ac.uk, ew23@soas.ac.uk
18	Transcending Capitalism Al Campbell al@economics.utah.edu
19	Urban and Regional Political Economy Jamie Gough & Ozlem Celik
	Jamie.Gough@sheffield.ac.uk, ozlemcelik.mail@gmail.com

Table 2. Working Group participation in the annual conference, 2014 and 2015 Working Group Number of panels 2014 Number of panels 2015

1

Africa New group

1

- 2 Agrarian Change 3 7 3 **Beyond Developmental State** 1 4 **Commodity Studies** 3 5 Conflict, War and Development 1 0 6 **Environment** 1 7 Financialisation 11 8 8 Marxist Political Economy 2 9 Minerals-Energy Complex /Comparative Industrialisation 1 panel was submitted but due to the withdrawal of a paper, remaining papers were allocated to other panels.
- 10 Neoliberalism 6 7 11 Political Economy and Religions New group 2 12 Political Economy of Institutions 2 13 Political Economy of China's Development New group 5 14 Political Economy of Work 2 15 Privatisation 1 3 16 Social Capital 6 3 17 **Teaching Political Economy** New group 2 18 **Transcending Capitalism** 0 19 Urban and Regional Political Economy 1 1

Reports from individual Working Groups

Social Capital Working Group

Generally, our group has been very active and successful in organizing panels at IIPPE's annual conferences. Our panels feature themes that generally relate to the role of social norms and network in the economy and attempt to provide a critical view of the economic approaches to social capital. Panel presenters come from different social science disciplines, and represent institutions from various parts of the world. The panels have featured some interesting works that provoked stimulating discussions, and, most importantly, have established research networks that span across countries and disciplines and launch collaborations for exchanging views, publishing collective volumes, and preparing special issues.

Last year's panel theme in Naples was: "The Dark Side of Social Capital: Alternative Ways of Understanding and Confronting Corruption, Distrust and Conflicts". The idea was to challenge the traditional Putnamian view that networks and norms of trust and reciprocity have a positive impact on individual and collective well-being by studying the so-called 'dark side of social capital': forms of association that serve particularized interests against public welfare, and spread corruption, distrust and conflict, especially during the current crises as a result of the worsening of socioeconomic conditions and the reshuffling of power relations. Lots of intriguing presentations took place and demonstrated the appropriation and monopolization of resources by certain powerful oligarchies. But they also stressed the 'brighter side' of social capital that lies in the potential of networks and norms of cooperation to mobilize communities and peoples in reclaiming their welfare.

This year's panel theme in Leeds is: "Social Capital: Re-capturing the Collective Dimensions of the Economy for a More Pluralist and Interdisciplinary Economics". The aim was to gather contributions that re-address concepts and measures of social capital in a way that will enable us to incorporate the complex reality of social relations, as a dynamic space where people interact, define and pursue, individually and collectively, principles and objectives, means and ends for well-being. This will help us rethink the ways we see social relations, but also the way we see the economy and economics, outside of mainstream approaches that pertain to an unrealistic and monolithic perception of society. Despite the grave financial constraints imposed on individual participants and institutions this year we yet again look forward to having a very stimulating panel.

This gives us incentives for future activity and networking through resources provided by the internet and social media. Of course in times of crisis, particularly in Greece where I am posted, to support our research we rely on personal resources and efforts that have been severely mauled. However, these are also the times we must collaborate and mobilize. Regardless of the perspective one takes on "social capital", the message is clear: networks and norms of solidarity are the key to social change and welfare.

Asimina Christoforou
Co-ordinator of the Social Capital Working Group

Political Economy and Religions Working Group

During its first year of activity, the Working Group has realized the following points. In January 2015, at the University of Messina, has promoted an Workshop of presentation of the activities and of the research topics of the WG, with an discussion on the role of the Christianity and Islam for a new project of economic development in the mediterranean area, in reference at the revolts of the "Arab Spring" and at the ISIS threat in the West. With interventions of Salvatore Drago (Coordinator WG) and invited speakers.

For the Annual Conference of Leeds, has organized a Panel on "Crisis of Capitalism and alternative solutions. Re-thinking Economics through Humanities: Ethics, History, Philosophy, Religions and Sociology in dialogue". This Panel aims to understand how actually the recent economic crisis is also a crisis of religious and ethical values that have been excluded from the economic science all over the centuries. The Panel analyses the ethical values of religious origin, and how these values can correct, lead and support the element the has been distorted by the traditional conventional economy of positivistic and marginal tendency. As necessary approach to understand the direction of the world in the 21th century and to consider the economy as a result of the societies and of the cultures occurred over the history.

The WG, moreover, through its coordinator has supported the "Centre Studies Pio La Torre on Economy, Law and Society" of Palermo in some projects of research and initiatives on the contrast at the new poverty and at the criminality through different forms of social and ethical economy.

For the next months, is also expected the publication of an Journal (or a special session of an Journal) where to insert the Papers more representative of the WG Members.

Finally, through the Call for Paper of the last Panel, the WG has increased its Members of various nationalities.

Salvatore Drago

Co-ordinator of the Political Economy and Religions Working Group

Financialisation Working Group

The IIPPE Financialisation Working Group (FWG) started its 2014/15 activities eager to strengthen the network of researchers working with several aspects of political economy with a common emphasis on finance. Additionally, and certainly as the result of the many dimensions addressing financialisation, the FGW felt compelled to discuss why financialisation is crucial for addressing the nature of contemporary capitalism highlighting the need for an answer for what financialisation is. The successful Social Hub organised on 17th September 2014 in Naples at the Università degli studi di Napoli L'Orientale, and the extensive effort to re-active the FGW email group list so the scholars can get familiarized with each other's works, share thoughts, debate and be aware of events happening locally and internationally reflected the initial concretisation of our plans. Following this, the FWG organised two well-attended round table discussions at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. The first one took place on the 27th November 2014 with Ben Fine discussing "Financialisation from a Marxist perspective". The second one was held on the 20th January 2015 with Thomas Marois on "Financialisation, state theory, class, and alternatives to financial capitalism". The FWG final activity was the result of strengthening our network, and emerged out of the need that the society has had to discuss a number of issues on finance, debt and currency on which Marxist political economy has much to say. The FWG, together with the IIPPE Training Workshop, collaborated with the Aberdeen Political Economy Group (APEG) for the organisation of a two-day workshop supported by the Aberdeen Radical Independence Campaign (RIC). The workshop, which took place on the 25th and 26th of June 2015, aimed to address fundamental questions on the nature of money and the role of finance in contemporary capitalism, relating specifically to Scotland and the rest of the UK. The speakers were Simon Mohun, John Weeks, Joseph Choonora, James Foley and Neil Davidson. The workshop was a great success and brought together several different segments of society, such as political activists, trade unionists, students and scholars. Last, but not least, as a direct result of the dynamic and importance that financialisation as a phenomenon has gained in the last a few years, we have once more received a significant number of papers for the upcoming 6th IIPPE Conference that will take place at the University of Leeds in September 2015. The FWG call for papers was announced early this year in various academic Newsletters, blogs and websites across the globe aiming at attracting scholars and young researchers from different disciplines and universities who are

working on issues of financialisation at the moment. Some of the highlights for the conference include panels on shadow banking, financial instability, central bank independence and alternatives regulations for international finances.

Carolina Alves – SOAS

Maria Dafnomili – University of Crete
Serap Saritas – SOAS\

6. IIPPE Formal Status and Finances

IIPPE moved closer to establishing a formal status in September 2014 following elections of Council Members. The Constitution was approved by the eleven elected Members of the Council on 16th September 2014. The IIPPE bank account was opened with the Cooperative Bank in January 2015. The accounting year-end is 31st December, and the first accounting period will be for 15 rather than 12 months, with the first official year-end on 31 December, 2015.

Until now, IIPPE finances have been on a very small scale. Fees for the annual IIPPE conferences have been paid to and managed by the host institution and so have not been part of IIPPE's own finances. The training workshops have been self-financing. The 2015 conference at Leeds in September will be the first annual conference where fees will have been paid to IIPPE directly. It is, therefore, the first year in which we have had income on a scale that has required us to register formally as a charity. In August 2015 we will submit an application to the Charity Commission to register IIPPE as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

At this stage, then, it is not possible to know in full the revenue and expenses for the current financial year, and there are none for the previous year. In future, financial reports will be presented at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the previous accounting period. Thus, the AGM in 2016 will receive the Report for the accounts prepared up to 31st December, 2015. This will include the income and expenditure associated with the 2015 Annual Conference. The conference in Naples in 2014 was managed by the host institution, The University of Naples. IIPPE was not involved in the financing. The University made a surplus on the conference of 4600 Euro (£3,171) which has been transferred to the IIPPE bank account. If anyone requires further information on the 2015 finances to date, please email Kate Bayliss, kb6@soas.ac.uk.

7. External relations

The external relations activities for the past year mainly addressed (1) reaching out to our membership base to collect details of sister organisations, (2) intensifying our web presence through the establishment of a Twitter account, (3) linking up existing external resources more effectively.

(1) In late March a letter have been sent to the IIPPE membership base and all subscribers to the IIPPE email list, enquiring about potential sister organisations,

which would be interested in strengthening cooperative ties with IIPPE in the future. We have received ca. 15 organisational contacts and details. A full list of organisations and contacts will be provided for the next Council meeting.

The interest in strengthening cooperation is substantial. Many of the respondents enquired how such a strengthened cooperation could look like. Thus, going forward the IIPPE Council should discuss in what ways cooperation should be taken forward. In this context, it would be useful to clarify for what purposes the established email list can be used.

- (2) A Twitter account for IIPPE has been set up (@_IIPPE_). So far IIPPE only has 24 followers, while following 38 accounts. Hence, the account should be put to more active use in future. So far, conference calls and training workshop announcements have been tweeted as well as occasional re-tweets of messages by individuals close to IIPPE. Susan Newman and Heesang Jeon are in possession of the Twitter details, which can be easily shared with other Council members. The Council should advice on what content should be shared on Twitter given that this is potentially a powerful tool for external relations.
- (3) Conference calls and training workshop announcements have been shared via email list, website and Twitter. However, these are the only events and the only content shared through all three channels. When discussing how to coordinate more effectively with other organisations it should be clarified how the email list, the website and potentially the Twitter account can fit it.

8. Newsletter

We continue to issue two Newsletters per year. One in advance of the conference and another in the winter. Historically, we have timed the Newsletters so that they are issued in time for a distribution of a print copy at the IIPPE annual conference and Historical Materialism. Given that the IIPPE conference has been held in the Autumn for the last two years, the issues are not evenly spaced in the year. The costs if printing has been between £100 and £200 per issue. Susan Newman is investigating cheaper options for the upcoming Newsletter.

The Newsletter is edited and produced by Susan Newman and Florian Schaefer. Without additions to the editorial team, we will not be able to increase the number of issues per year. It would be useful for the Council to discuss whether two issues per year are sufficient.

The quality of the articles in the Newsletter has been improving over the years. About a quarter of the articles printed are submitted in response to the call and the rest are the result of recommendations from Council members and commissions made by the editorial team. In summer 2014, we produced our first themed issue on 'Teaching Political Economy' and we received some positive feedback on it. We have also introduced a new regular column on 'Teaching Political Economy'.

There was some discussion of working with 'Red Pepper' at the last conference. This is still a possibility and will be followed up by the editorial team.

9. IIPPE Membership

By August 6th, IIPPE had 1,365 members on our mailing list, of which about 200 are full members (the rest are associate members). The full member list will be updated once we have finalised the registration list for the conference. We have sent out 25 announcements this year.

10. IIPPE Website

In 2015, there have been 9,166 visitors to the IIPPE web sites and 25,515 page views. We have visitors from all around the world. Top 10 countries in terms of visitors are: UK, US, Brazil, Turkey, Italy, Germany, India, Greece, France and South Africa.