

# IIPPE IN BRIEF

ISSUE 1

NOVEMBER 2008

## WHAT IS 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, interdisciplinarity, and activism

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## IIPPE's 2nd International Research Workshop

The Second International IIPPE research workshop was held in Italy in September 2008. This was organised by L'Orientale University of Naples and brought together more than 70 participants based in 10 countries but originating from many more. Over 40 papers were presented, including 30 by research students and other young colleagues. 12 parallel sessions were held, of which six were closely associated with longer standing IIPPE working groups (three for finance, two for neoliberalism, and one for commodity studies) and three were related to newly formed working groups (developmental state, heterodoxy, and work). The other three sessions covered the state, Marx and macroeconomics, each of which has strong synergies with continuing IIPPE activity. The work-

shop brought together young heterodox and Marxist researchers including academics and activists from the UK, Greece, Italy and Turkey. The workshop highlighted both diversity and common interests among young researchers, demonstrating the enthusiasm and need for IIPPE among

scholars across the social sciences. The workshop was not only hard work and fruitful in discussions but also a chance to develop social relations and get to know each other better over the culinary and touristic highlights offered by the stunning island setting.



Just some of the 70 workshop participants arriving in Procida

## IIPPE launches at HM

Following the initial inception of IIPPE in 2006, momentum behind the initiative has steadily built over the last 18 months with numerous new working groups forming across the social sciences. As a culmination of these efforts we are delighted to launch IIPPE formally at the Historical Materialism Annual Conference, 7-9th November 2008 at SOAS, University of

London. The official launch will take place at **4pm on the 7th November in the Khalili Lecture Theatre** and will be followed by a joint reception with the Isaac Deutscher Memorial Prize. The launch session will act as an opportunity to inform about and advertise IIPPE among conference participants. It is also a chance to broadcast IIPPE's founding

tenets and showcase some of the working groups and their activities. For those interested in finding out more about individual working groups and their activities there will be more information available at the reception. **Continued on p.2**

## Cont. from p.1 IIPPE Panels at HM

Following the success of the IIPPE panels at the Historical Materialism conference 2007, IIPPE has organised three panels for this year's conference. These panels are based on three of IIPPE's working groups that have been established in the last year. The session organised by the newly established Socialism Working Group is entitled "Socialism in Search of an Economic System". The panel features papers by Dimitris Milonakis, Al Campbell and Pat Devine. The Commodity Studies Working Group continues from previ-

ous panels at HM 2006 and 2007 in presenting theoretical and empirical work that goes beyond the Global Value Chain analysis. Speakers will include Guido Starosta, Ben Richardson, Susan Newman and Nicolas Pons-Vignon. The International Financial Institutions (IFI) Working Group delves into the relationships between the research, the rhetoric and the policies of the IFIs. Elisa van Waeyenberge, Kate Bayliss and Ben Fine will discuss the position of the World Bank as a knowledge bank as well as assessing its research for devel-

opment policy. Whilst not exclusively IIPPE panels, the HM conference will also host two related sessions, one on Financialised Capitalism with Costas Lapavistas, Paulo Dos Santos and Juan Pablo Paineira. The second associated session is a roundtable discussion of two recent publications, "From Political Economy to Economics" and "From Economics Imperialism to Freakonomics" both co-authored by Ben Fine and Dimitris Milonakis.

The Seminars are free and open to the public.

Go to <http://www.soas.ac.uk/cdpr/seminars/index.php> for more information.

## The Deaton Seminar Series at SOAS

Over the last six months the Centre for Development Policy Research (CDPR) has brought together academics across development departments within SOAS to assess critically the current state and future direction of World Bank scholarship, advocacy and policy in the wake of the 2006 Deaton Report. This report, led by Angus Deaton, formed an

assessment of the World Bank's research activities over the previous seven years. The seminar series has acted as one of the first opportunities for this report to be critically assessed and for some of the implications to be debated. Seminars include topics ranging from World Bank research on HIV/ AIDS and assessments of World Bank Poverty Measures to

forthcoming seminars on Banking Systems Liberalisation (11th November,) and Privatisation (25th November). A number of IIPPE scholars and activists have been involved with this seminar series and will present some of the ideas and discussions arising from the seminars during the international financial institution's session at Historical Materialism.

## Contribute to the Newsletter!

Get your creative juices flowing and contribute to the next IIPPE IN BRIEF!



We are looking for comments, articles, cartoons, announcements of publications and other contributions to future issues of IIPPE IN BRIEF. If you have ideas and want to get involved please contact the current editorial team through [iippe@soas.ac.uk](mailto:iippe@soas.ac.uk).

## Working Groups Page

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 18 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 and each running itself subject to conforming 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](mailto:iippe@soas.ac.uk).

Note that, whilst the IIPPE website is already available, it is still under construction and is being modified in response to the rapidly evolving expansion of IIPPE activity.

### Current Working Groups

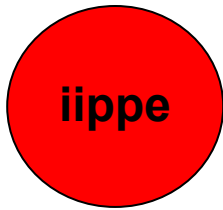
Agrarian Change	D. Johnston ( <a href="mailto:dj3@soas.ac.uk">dj3@soas.ac.uk</a> )
Commodity Studies	L. Campling ( <a href="mailto:cswg@soas.ac.uk">cswg@soas.ac.uk</a> )
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Transition as Development	J. Marangos ( <a href="mailto:marangos@econ.soc.uoc.gr">marangos@econ.soc.uoc.gr</a> )
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Heterodoxy	J. Toporowski ( <a href="mailto:jt29@soas.ac.uk">jt29@soas.ac.uk</a> )
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Marx	H. Jeon ( <a href="mailto:hidarang@gmail.com">hidarang@gmail.com</a> )
Minerals-Energy Complex	N. Pons-Vignon ( <a href="mailto:Nicolas.Pons-Vignon@wits.ac.za">Nicolas.Pons-Vignon@wits.ac.za</a> )
Neo-liberalism	A. Saad-Filho ( <a href="mailto:as59@soas.ac.uk">as59@soas.ac.uk</a> ) & K. Birch ( <a href="mailto:kean.birch@lbs.gla.ac.uk">kean.birch@lbs.gla.ac.uk</a> )
Political Economy of Conflict and Violence	C. Cramer ( <a href="mailto:cc10@soas.ac.uk">cc10@soas.ac.uk</a> )
Political Economy of Institutions	D. Milonakis ( <a href="mailto:milonakis@econ.soc.uoc.gr">milonakis@econ.soc.uoc.gr</a> ) & D. Ankarloo ( <a href="mailto:Daniel.Ankarloo@mah.se">Daniel.Ankarloo@mah.se</a> )
Political Economy of Work	A. Brown ( <a href="mailto:A.Brown@lubs.leeds.ac.uk">A.Brown@lubs.leeds.ac.uk</a> ) & D. Spencer ( <a href="mailto:das@lubs.leeds.ac.uk">das@lubs.leeds.ac.uk</a> )
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Social Capital	A. Christoforou ( <a href="mailto:asimina@aueb.gr">asimina@aueb.gr</a> )
Socialism	A. Campbell ( <a href="mailto:al@economics.utah.edu">al@economics.utah.edu</a> ) G. Lambrinidis ( <a href="mailto:geolabros@yahoo.gr">geolabros@yahoo.gr</a> )

### Featured Working Group: Commodity Studies (CSWG)

A one day workshop titled "Methods in Contemporary Commodity Studies" was held at SOAS, on 8 March 2008 by the IIPPE Commodity Studies Working Group (CSWG). The workshop brought together researchers from across disciplines in discussions on labour, production systems, methods of enquiry and theoretical founda-

tions for commodity studies. In so doing, the CSWG has launched itself towards the achievement of its aim to bring together researchers from both Marxist and heterodox analytical traditions interested in developing and critically applying new methodologies and frameworks in the analysis of commodity production, exchange and con-

sumption in the contemporary world economy. Other activities planned for 2009 include a tentative workshop for scholars to present and compare the empirical findings of their research, and a number of joint publication agendas that fall under the aegis of the CSWG.



**INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR  
PROMOTING POLITICAL ECONOMY**

Email: [iippe@soas.ac.uk](mailto:iippe@soas.ac.uk)

Website: <http://www.soas.ac.uk/iippe>

**Please contact individual working  
group coordinators for more  
information on specific working group  
activities and events.**

**IIPPE** was founded in 2006 with the following aims:

- Promote Marxist political economy
- Command and criticise mainstream economics
- Critically and constructively engage with heterodox alternatives
- Assess and advance political economy across other social sciences
- Engage with activism through formulation of progressive policy and support for progressive movements.

## Forthcoming Activities

**CALL FOR PAPERS:**

IIPPE, in association with the journal Forum for Social Economics is planning a special issue. Contributions are based on the recent IIPPE International workshop in Procida, although other submissions are invited. All articles falling within the scope of political economy broadly conceived, whether theoretical or applied, are welcome. Those interested should submit an abstract by the **30<sup>th</sup> November**, and the full paper by **31 May 2009**. Articles submitted should not exceed a maximum of 8,000 words including references. All papers submitted will go through the normal refereeing procedure. Papers should be submitted as a word attachment to [milonakis@econ.soc.uoc.gr](mailto:milonakis@econ.soc.uoc.gr). For author guidelines please look at

[http://www.springer.com/  
economics/journal/12143?  
detail-  
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ounter=499709](http://www.springer.com/economics/journal/12143?detail-<br/>sPage=contentItemPage&CIPageCounter=499709)

**IIPPE WORKSHOPS ON  
THE FINANCIAL CRISIS  
AND DEVELOPING COUN-  
TRIES:**

The IIPPE Financialisation Working Group has put together a series of workshops which will discuss the possible effect of the recent financial crisis on developing countries. These workshops are based on country studies presented by researchers, including PHD students of the University of London. The workshops will be held at SOAS and are free to attend. Those interested in presenting, contributing or attending the workshops can contact Jan

Toporowski on [jt29@soas.ac.uk](mailto:jt29@soas.ac.uk) for more information.

For more information regarding past, ongoing and future IIPPE events please contact individual Working Groups and consult the IIPPE website via: <http://www.soas.ac.uk/iippe>

## Publications and IIPPE Working Papers

For future editions of IIPPE in Brief we are looking for Working Groups to contribute and advertise relevant publications and papers in this section. If you would like to make readers aware of any such work please get in touch with the relevant Working Group coordinator.