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## History & Highlights

Established in the fall of 1997, Economy Connection has provided speakers for high school and university classes; union meetings; study groups; radio and cable TV programs; conferences; teach-ins; and events organized by political, environmental, labor, community, peace and faith-based groups. We have supplied reading lists and research suggestions to journalists, teachers, study groups and labor educators. EC members have helped individuals and groups find solutions to specific economic problems, such as determining an appropriate minimum wage, living wage, or tax policy for a campaign.

- Connecticut seniors were excited to hear an EC member present a proposal for a New New Deal; many had experienced FDR's original version!
- A Boston EC member defended Social Security against privatization in a debate sponsored by the Federalist Society.
- A New Jersey EC member participated in a panel on climate change held at an environmental center, and led discussions after several films.
- An EC member spoke to an NYC women's organization on "War – The Corporate Connection."
- Frustrated teachers and support staff gathered at a Massachusetts community college to hear an EC member explain the economics of budget cuts in higher education.
- Employee benefit administrators, angry about lost pension funds, made plans to fight back, supported by an EC expert on corporate financial manipulation.
- NYC college students in a class on Utopianism explored a variety of economic systems, guided by an EC member.



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## How to Contact Economy Connection

To arrange for a speaker, to find someone to help answer your questions, or to get more information, contact Economy Connection at:

(201) 792-7459  
soapbox@urpe.org  
www.urpe.org/echome.html



### About URPE

The Union for Radical Political Economics is an organization whose members are critical of our economic system and work to develop an alternative analysis of political and economic events. URPE members come from many academic disciplines, theoretical traditions, workplaces and political activities. They apply their analysis to social issues and advocate progressive policies, while seeking fundamental change.

URPE publishes a quarterly journal, the *Review of Radical Political Economics*, and a newsletter; holds a 4-day summer conference each year; and sponsors panels at the annual meetings of the Allied Social Science Associations, the Eastern Economic Association, and the Left Forum. URPE also has a website, a listserv, a blog and a Facebook page. Local chapters organize and participate in a variety of activities.

For more information about URPE, write to the URPE National Office, Gordon Hall, University of Massachusetts, 418 North Pleasant St., Amherst, MA 01002-1735; call (413) 577-0806; fax (413) 577-0261; or send an email to URPE@labornet.org. You can visit URPE's website at [www.urpe.org](http://www.urpe.org).

recession    globalization  
inequality  
war  
downsizing    Wall Street



*If the economy has been  
mystifying you lately, contact*

# Economy Connection

**Speakers & Resources on  
Political Economics**

*a project of the*  
**Union for Radical Political Economics  
(URPE)**

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## Do You Wonder Why...

- Congress wants to stimulate the economy to avoid recession, but won't increase unemployment benefits?
- many people you know were out of work or underpaid, even when the government was telling us our economy was doing great?
- corporations and the government are continually downsizing, but TANF recipients are supposed to find jobs anyway?
- the same people who want to balance the budget keep cutting taxes for the rich?



## Economy Connection

Economy Connection puts people who are knowledgeable in various areas of the economy in touch with people who want this information to further their political activities. The resulting exchange of ideas and experiences benefits both speakers and hosts.

If your community organization, union or activist group is planning a meeting, demonstration, or educational event; or if you are a student or teacher and want your high school or college class to hear another point of view, call us and we will provide a speaker.

If you are writing a flyer or article, determining a living wage for your city, or need information for your activist or educational project, we will find someone who can talk to you or recommend reading material or people and groups to contact.



## Hear All About It

War & the Global Economy

Unemployment & Recession

Race & Gender in the Workplace:  
Who Gets the Good Jobs?

What Mainstream Economists Won't Say

The Widening Gulf:  
Inequality of Income & Wealth

Wall Street & the Fed:  
How Much Power Do They *Really* Have?

“Free Trade” or Fair Trade?

Cross-border Labor Organizing

TANF:  
A Return to 19th Century Poor Laws

The Threat to Public Education

Third World Economic Development  
in an Age of Austerity

Health Care Deformed

Economics of Global Climate Change

Prisons – A Growth Industry?

## Who Needs Economics?

Members of Economy Connection speak and write about a wide range of domestic and international issues. They contribute the economic analysis needed to understand the forces shaping major events and public policy, and how the economy operates as a whole. Their insights can be valuable to people working toward social change, and to anyone seeking a deeper understanding of the economics behind the headlines.

Knowing about tax breaks and subsidies for big business, for example, makes it hard to believe that the government has no money for education, health care or public assistance. We are told that social services must be cut to avoid the dangers of “deficit spending” and “big government.” But these arguments lose their power when we learn that they don't apply to activities that benefit corporations and wealthy individuals – such as buying a new missile, awarding an uncontested oil contract, or creating an international trade organization.

Our members approach economic questions from different points of view, and their visions of the future are equally varied. Some feel that our current system would function well if some progressive reforms were instituted. Others advocate solutions involving coops, worker control, and community control. Still others want to find a way to create a democratic form of socialism.

*The views expressed by members of Economy Connection are their own; they do not necessarily reflect positions held by URPE or Economy Connection.*

