

# URPE Newsletter

Union for Radical Political Economics

## URPE at ASSA Boston, Massachusetts January 5 - 8, 2006

The meetings of the Allied Social Science Associations (ASSA) are scheduled to take place from Friday January 6 to Sunday January 8, 2006. But as in previous years, URPE is organizing events on Thursday, January 5, and encourages all members to plan to come a day before the "official" start of the meetings.

Thursday begins with a Workshop in Heterodox Pedagogy, which will take place at Simmons College Boston from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. The workshop is cosponsored by the Association for Evolutionary Economics (AFEE) and the International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE). [See page 3 for a description, and page 19 for the registration form for the workshop.] This is followed by an URPE-sponsored panel discussion (in the Sheraton Hotel, Room Fairfax B) on Massachusetts Labor Movements.

An additional 17 URPE panels will take place over the following three days. Our cooperation with other heterodox

economists is particularly notable this year in the three panels cosponsored with IAFFE: "Border Crossings: Gender and Transnational Migration," "Questioning Paid Work: Benefits, Turnover, and Mobility of Low-Wage Women Workers," and "Gender, Growth and Inequality." In addition, a roundtable "In Celebration of John Kenneth Galbraith" is cosponsored with the American Economic Association (AEA).

The panels which we are presenting on our own continue to bring exciting developments in radical political economics to ASSA participants. People who cannot attend these meetings may still be interested in looking at the program and learning about the work being done by our members.

Members and non-members alike are invited to attend the URPE Cocktail party on Saturday January 7 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the Sheraton-Boston, room Independence East. This will be followed by an URPE party at the home of Julie Matthei; details will be provided soon!

## 2006 URPE SUMMER CONFERENCE

### Nationalism, Internationalism, and Nature

#### *Plenaries*

Wars and Natural Resources

Katrina: Race and Class

Latin America: Breaking the Mold

**NEW DATES: FRIDAY, AUG. 11 - MONDAY, AUG. 14.**

**NEW PLACE: CAMP DEER RUN**

Next year's Summer Conference will take place a week earlier than previous conferences and will take place at a new site, Camp Deer Run. The new site will provide improved facilities at a similar price. (See page 10 for Steering Committee explanation of these changes.)

## In This Issue

URPE at ASSA, January 7-9, 2005	3	Sumner Rosen - Obituary	14
URPE News and Announcements	10	Update on Economy Connection	17
The Costs of Africa's Wholesale Privatization	11	Conferences and Events	18

**2005-2006 STEERING COMMITTEE****Elected members**

Cyrus Bina (04-07) Dept of Economics/Management, University of Minnesota-Morris, 600 East 4th Street, Morris, MN 56267; (320) 589-6193; <binac@mrs.umn.edu>

David Brennan (05-08) Franklin & Marshall College, P.O. Box 3003, Lancaster, PA 17604-3003; (717) 291-3936; <david.brennan@fandm.edu >

Al Campbell (03-06), 1645 Campus Center Dr. Rm. 308, Salt Lake City, UT 84112-9300; (801) 585-3521; <Al@economics.utah.edu>

Graham Cassano (04-07), Sociology Department, Southern Connecticut State University, 501 Crescent St., New Haven, CT 06515; (203) 407-8300; <Graham@xrgb.com>

Bilge Erten (05-08) Prince Hall, 286 Sunset Ave., UMass/Amherst, Amherst MA 01002; (413) 695-8830 <berten@econs.umass.edu>

Doug Koritz (04-07), Dept of Economics & Finance, Buffalo State College, 1300 Elmwood Ave, Buffalo, New York 14222 (716) 878-6640; <koritzdg@buffalostate.edu>

Laurie Nisonoff (03-06) Social Science, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA 01002; 413-559-5397 (o); <lnisonoff@hampshire.edu>

Patty Lee Parmalee (05-06) 211 W. 102 #5B, NYC, NY 10025; 212-663-2911; <publiccleaningpost@earthlink.net>

Paddy Quick (04-07), Economics Department, St. Francis College, 180 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201; 631-286-5168 (h); <paddyquick@aol.com>

Alfredo Saad-Filho (04-06) Dept of Development Studies, SOAS, University of London, England; 44-20-7898-4504 <as59@soas.ac.uk>

Leanne Ussher (05-08) Economics Department, PH 300-0, Queens College, CUNY, 65-30 Kissena Blvd, Flushing NY 11375. <ussher@qc.edu>

**Women's Caucus Representative**

Jenny Brown (05-08) 1701 NE 75th St., Gainesville, FL 32641; 352-378-5655; <jbrown72073@cs.com>

**Ex-Officio****URPE National Office**

Germi Medhanie, URPE National Office, Gordon Hall, University of Massachusetts  
418 N. Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA 01002-1735. Tel. 413-577-0806. Fax 413-577-0261 E-mail: urpe@labornet.org

**Managing Editor of RRPE**

Hazel Dayton Gunn, Dept. of City and Regional Planning, 106 W. Sibley Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca NY 14853; E-mail: [hg18@cornell.edu](mailto:hg18@cornell.edu)

**Other URPE Positions****ASSA Coordinators**

Robin Hahnel and Kristen Sheeran  
Dept. of Economics, American University  
[rhahnel@starpower.net](mailto:rhahnel@starpower.net); [kasheeran@smcm.edu](mailto:kasheeran@smcm.edu)

**Newsletter Editor**

Paddy Quick, [paddyquick@aol.com](mailto:paddyquick@aol.com)

**Economy Connection Coordinator**

Ruthie Indeck; 201-792-7459; [soapbox@comcast.net](mailto:soapbox@comcast.net)

**Printing: Prompt Printing Press**

**URPE**

**The Union for Radical Political Economics (URPE) is a membership organization of academics and activists who share an interest in a radical analysis of political and economic topics. Founded in 1968, URPE's members use this analysis to advance various progressive political and social agendas. URPE publishes the *Review of Radical Political Economics*, runs a set of presentations at the academic professional meetings of the Allied Social Science Associations, sponsors a resource/speakers bureau called Economy Connection, and holds a Summer Conference on political and economic topics at a family-friendly summer camp. Its members are active in a wide array of professional and activist projects.**

**The URPE Newsletter**

The **URPE Newsletter** is published quarterly by the Union for Radical Political Economics. The Newsletter is a place for URPE members to publish shorter articles and speeches as well as make announcements of upcoming events that might be of interest to members. Articles and announcements can be sent to the Newsletter Editor in the body of an e-mail message, or as an attached file; send to [paddyquick@aol.com](mailto:paddyquick@aol.com), or by regular mail to: *Paddy Quick, Economics Department, St. Francis College, 180 Remsen Street, Brooklyn NY 11201.*

Permission to reprint material from the Newsletter is granted for non-commercial uses, provided that the Newsletter is credited as the source, and that two copies of the publication are sent to the URPE National Office. For permission to reprint for commercial purposes, contact the National Office.

The URPE Newsletter is a good place to publish advertisements for new books! Rates are \$300 per full page (7.5W x 9.3H); \$160 for a half page, and \$85 for a quarter page. Exchange ads are also considered. Please write or call the National Office for more information on this.

Deadlines for submission to Newsletter are January 7 for Winter issue; April 7 for Spring issue; July 1 for Summer issue, and October 7 for Fall issue.

**Reminder**

URPE members should check the membership expiration date on the upper right hand corner of the address label. If your membership has expired or is about to expire, this will be the last newsletter you will receive. Please renew your membership now. (See page 15 for membership form, or contact the URPE National Office.)

# URPE at ASSA

January 5-8, 2006

(Unless otherwise stated all sessions are sponsored only by URPE; jointly sponsored sessions are so noted..)

## Thursday, January 5

*8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.*

*Place: Simmons College, Boston*

### **Heterodox Pedagogy Workshop:**

**HETERODOX CONTENT:**

**IDEAS FOR INTEGRATING, INCLUDING AND INNOVATING  
IN THE ECONOMICS CLASSROOM**

Sponsored by: **Association for Evolutionary Economics (AFEE)**  
**International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE)**  
**Union for Radical Political Economics (URPE)**

Please register for the pedagogy workshop scheduled prior to the ASSA meetings in Boston in January 2006. Several heterodox economics organizations are supporting this initiative designed to focus on course design and content and implementing active learning strategies in economics classrooms. Economics instructors participating in the workshop are sharing ideas to incorporate active learning and critical thinking strategies and to effectively develop and use exercises, games, videos, the internet and readings to complement traditional materials and help students better understand and critique economic theory, policy and actions. The purpose of the workshop is to provide tools and skills that improve economic knowledge and critical thinking skills.

Workshop participants will receive materials that they may adapt for classes, as well as a list of sources and a bibliography of teaching resources. Each participant is asked to bring a current or planned syllabus to adapt during the workshop and will have the opportunity to discuss ideas developed in the workshop, with the workshop staff and other participants.

#### Workshop Leaders

Julie Matthaei - Wellesley College  
Shyamala Raman - Saint Joseph College  
Gil Skillman - Wesleyan University  
Geoff Schneider & Jean Shackelford - Bucknell University

For more information see: <http://l.web.umkc.edu/leefs/htn.htm> or <http://www.orgs.bucknell.edu/afee>.

Cost: \$50 For Members of Sponsoring Associations; \$35 students; \$65 All others (includes a boxed lunch, bagel, cookie and coffee breaks and materials.) Enrolment for the workshop is limited. Please register in advance online or by using the form on page 19 of this Newsletter.

*4:00 - 5:30 p.m. Room: Sheraton/Fairfax B*

Session Title: **In the Commonwealth of Toil: A Roundtable on Massachusetts Labor Movements**

Presiding: Randy Albelda, University of Massachusetts Boston

Presenters: Jim Green, University of Massachusetts Boston

Thea Lee, AFL-CIO

Susan Moir, Director, University of Massachusetts Boston Labor Resource Center

Chuck Turner, Boston City Councilor

## Friday, January 6

### **8 a.m. (Session A) Room: Sheraton/Dalton Border Crossings: Gender and Transnational Migration**

- Sponsored by: **Union of Radical Political Economics (URPE) and  
International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE)**
- Presiding: Radhika Balakrishnan, Marymount Manhattan College (J61)
- Presenters: Mary King, Leopoldo Rodriguez, and Carrie Cobb, Portland State University, *Women's Work: Explaining Mexican Women's Differential Work Strategies in Mexico and in the U.S.*  
Candace Howes, Connecticut College, *Transnational Homecare Givers: Breaking the Domestic Mold*  
Arthur MacEwan, University of Massachusetts Boston, *Liberalization, Migration and Gender: Lessons from the Mexican Experience*  
Karin Astrid Siegmann, Sustainable Policy Institute, Pakistan and Abu Turab Khan, COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Pakistan, *Transnational Migration and Local Gender Roles in Rural Pakistan*
- Discussants: Radhika Balakrishnan, Marymount Manhattan College  
Ramon Borges-Mendez, University of Massachusetts Boston

### **8 a.m. (Session B) Room: Sheraton/Exeter Labor in the Age of Neoliberal Globalization**

- Presiding: Tom Michl, Colgate University or Ozlem Onaran, Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration
- Presenters: Engelbert Stockhammer, Vienna University of Economics and B.A., *Still Unemployed ..., After All These Wage Cuts. Labor in Europe*  
Mark Setterfield, Trinity College, *Worker Insecurity and the Anatomy of Contemporary US Macroeconomic Performance*  
Ozlem Onaran, Vienna University of Economics and B.A., *Who Is Paying the Cost of Adjustment? Labor in Developing Countries*  
Robert Pollin, University of Massachusetts Amherst, *Inflation Targeting Vs. Employment Targeting in South Africa*
- Discussants: Dean Baker, Center for Economic Policy Research  
Larry Mishel, Economic Policy Institute  
Robert Pollin, University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Tom Michl, Colgate University

### **10:15 a.m. (Session A) Room: Sheraton/Exeter The Black Worker and Early Black Economic Thought**

- Presiding: Julie Matthaei, Wellesley College
- Presenters: Curtis Haynes, Buffalo State College, *W.E.B. DuBois*  
James Stewart, Pennsylvania State College, *George Edmund Haynes*  
Nina Banks, Bucknell University, *Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander*  
Julian Ellison, *The Radical Abram L. Harris, Jr.*
- Discussants: Cecilia Conrad, Pomona College  
William Darity Jr., University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

**10:15 a.m. (Session B) Room: Sheraton/Dalton**  
**Economics for Health and Environment**

- Presiding: Frank Ackerman, Global Development and Environment Institute, Tufts University
- Presenters: Frank Ackerman and Rachel Massey, Global Development and Environment Institute, Tufts University, *The Unbearable Lightness of Regulatory Costs: Interpreting the Economic Impacts of REACH*  
 Marilyn Power, Sarah Lawrence College, *Toward a Feminist Political Economics of the Environment: Applying a Social Provisioning Approach to Environmental Policy*  
 Kevin P. Gallagher, Boston University, *Free Trade and the Environment: Mexico, NAFTA, and Beyond*  
 James Boyce, University of Massachusetts Amherst, *From the Right to Know to the Right to Clean Air: The Corporate Toxics Information Project*
- Discussants: Fred Curtis, Drew University  
 Kristen A. Sheeran, St. Mary's College of Maryland

**2:30 p.m. (Session A) Room: Sheraton/Dalton**  
**Questioning Paid Work: Benefits, Turnover, and Mobility of Low-wage Women Workers**

- Sponsored by: **Union of Radical Political Economics (URPE) and International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE)**
- Presiding: Carole Biewener, Simmons College
- Presenters: Teresa Ghilarducci, University of Notre Dame, *When I'm 64? Women Workers and Employee Benefits*  
 Lynn A. Hatch, University of Massachusetts Amherst, *Why is my teacher gone? Exit and Voice: Labor Turnover in Child-care Programs*  
 Randy Albelda, University of Massachusetts Boston, *Time Out? Paid Time off for Family and Medical Leaves for Low Income Women Workers*  
 Heather Boushey, Center for Economic and Policy Research, *Moving on Up? Movement of Prime-Age Workers Out of Minimum Wage Jobs*
- Discussants: Carole Biewener, Simmons College  
 Chris Tilly, University of Massachusetts Lowell

**2:30 p.m. (Session B) Room: Sheraton/Exeter**  
**Rethinking Economic Theory**

- Presiding: Frederic Lee, University of Missouri, Kansas City
- Presenters: Jonathan M. Harris, Global Development and Environment Institute, Tufts University, *Reconciling Radical and Ecological Perspectives on Macroeconomic Policy*  
 Frederic Lee, University of Missouri, Kansas City, *Teaching Graduate Neoclassical Microeconomics from a Heterodox Perspective*  
 James G. Devine, Loyola Marymount, *Class Matters: Microtheory of Aggregate Consumption Function*  
 Frank Thompson, University of Michigan, *Utilitarianism Demolished*
- Discussants: John Willoughby, American University  
 Tae-Hee Jo, University of Missouri, Kansas City

## Saturday, January 7

### 8 a.m. (Session A) Room: Sheraton/Dalton Globalization, Investment, and Inequality

- Presiding: Tim Koechlin, Vassar College
- Presenters: Maria Floro, American University, and Rania Antonopoulos, New York University and The Levy Institute, *Asset Pawning, Homebased Work and Gender: The Case of Bangkok Low Income Households*  
Mehrene Larudee, DePaul University, *The Political Economy of NAFTA: What's oil got to do with it?*  
Stephanie Seguino, University of Vermont, *Evidence of Threat Effect of Firm Mobility on Wage Growth and Inequality in Developing Countries: VAR Tests of Causality*  
Tim Koechlin, Vassar College, *The Geography of U.S. Investment: An Empirical Assessment*
- Discussants: Mehrene Larudee, DePaul University  
Tim Koechlin, Vassar College

### 8 a.m. (Session B) Room: Sheraton/Exeter When the Market Fails

- Presiding: Christopher Gunn, Hobart and William Smith Colleges
- Presenters: Ron Baiman, University of Illinois Chicago, *The Estimated Impact of a Chicago "Big Box" Living Wage Ordinance*  
Savvina A. Chowdhury, California State University Bakersfield, *Revisiting ROSCAs: Can They Further the Project of Non-Capitalist Centered Ways of Re-conceptualizing the Economy?*  
Christopher Gunn, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, *Workers' Cooperatives: Overcoming Problems of Finance*  
Robert M. LaJeunesse, University of Newcastle, *Effects of Labor Force Participation on Health in Australia*
- Discussants: Robin Hahnel, American University  
Richard Vogel, State University of New York Farmingdale

### 10:15 a.m. (Session A) Room: Sheraton/Exeter Gender, Growth and Inequality

- Sponsored by: **Union of Radical Political Economics (URPE) and  
International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE)**
- Presiding: Caren Grown, Levy Institute of Economics
- Presenters: Stephanie Seguino, University of Vermont, *Inequality, Pressures on Unpaid Labor, and Growth: VAR Tests of Causality*  
Linda Lucas, Eckerd College, *The Work of Women in Uganda: The Ties of Home*  
Arjun Jayadev, University of Massachusetts Boston, *Female Labor Share and Financial Openness*  
Günseli Berik, University of Utah, and Yana V. Rodgers, Rutgers University, *International Capital Mobility and Labor Standards: Female Workers in Textiles and Garments in Asia*
- Discussants: Martha MacDonald, Saint Mary's University

**10:15 a.m. (Session B) Room: Sheraton/Dalton**  
**Social Security and Employer-Pension Reform**

- Presiding: Teresa Ghilarducci, University of Notre Dame
- Presenters: Doug Orr, University of Washington, *Rhetoric of the Social Security Debate*  
 Ellen Frank, Rhode Island College and Martin H. Wolfson, University of Notre Dame, *Neoliberalism and Social Security*  
 Christian Weller, Center for American Progress, *Social Security and Labor Market Risk*  
 Stephanie Kelton and L. Randall Wray, University of Missouri Kansas City, *Brokers, Bubbles and Beggars: The Likely Consequences of Bush's Privatization Scheme*
- Discussants: Beth Almeida, International Machinists Union  
 Dean Baker, Center for Economic Policy Research  
 Teresa Ghilarducci, University of Notre Dame

**2:30 p.m. (Session A) Room: Hynes Convention Center, Room 202**  
**In Celebration of John Kenneth Galbraith: A Roundtable Discussion**

Sponsored by: **Union for Radical Political Economics (URPE) and American Economics Association (AEA)**

- Presiding: Robin Hahnel, American University
- Presenters: James K. Galbraith, University of Texas Austin  
 James Ron Stanfield, Colorado State University  
 Richard Parker, Harvard University  
 Juliet Schor, Boston College

**2:30 p.m. (Session B) Room: Sheraton/Dalton**  
**Critiques of Neoliberal Globalization**

- Presiding: Cyrus Bina, University of Minnesota Morris
- Presenters: Robert Blecker, American University, and Arslan Razmi, University of Massachusetts Amherst, *Does the Fallacy of Composition Inhibit Export-Led Growth? Estimated Effects of Intra-Developing Competition on Output*  
 Cyrus Bina, University of Minnesota Morris, *The Epoch of Globalization or Corporate Globalism: What is Missing From the Left Analysis?*  
 Jim Crotty, University of Massachusetts Amherst, *Was the IMF's Imposition of Economic Regime Change in Korea Justified?*  
 Remy Herrera, National Center for Scientific Research, University of Paris, *Critical Assessment of Endogenous Growth Theory and its Empirical Tests: Applications to the United States and to Latin America*
- Discussants: Reza Fazeli, California State University Fullerton  
 Stephanie Seguino, University of Vermont

**URPE Cocktail Party**  
**Saturday, January 7, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**  
**Sheraton Boston, room Independence East**

**URPE Evening Party 8:30 - 11:00 p.m.**

[More information on the evening party will be provided on the URPE website and at the Conference]

## Sunday, January 8

### **8:00 a.m. (Session A) Room: Sheraton/Dalton** **China and the Global Economy**

Presiding: Phillip Anthony O'Hara, Curtin University

Presenters: Sidney J. Gluck, US-China Society of Friends, *China's State Capacity to Intervene in the Economy to Avoid or Cushion the Threat of Recession*  
 Andrew John Brennan, Curtin University, *The Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare and Unequal Exchange: A Reconstructed and Fairer Index of Well-Being in the Developed Core*  
 Yan Liang, University of Missouri Kansas City, *The Employment Effects of U.S. Foreign Direct Investment on China: A Theoretical and Empirical Analysis*  
 Phillip Anthony O'Hara, Curtin University, *A Chinese Social Structure of Accumulation for Capitalist Long Wave Upswing?*

Discussants: Jim Crotty, University of Massachusetts Amherst  
 Paul Zarembka, State University of New York at Buffalo

### **8:00 a.m. (Session B) Room: Sheraton/Exeter** **False Promises and Recurrent Crises**

Presiding: Al Campbell, University of Utah

Presenters: Abelardo Marina Flores, Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana, Mexico, *From the Tequila Crises to a New Intoxication?*  
 Claudio Katz, Universidad de Buenos Aires, *Argentina, Ruling Classes Confront the FTAA and the Debt*  
 Gerard Dumenil, Universidad de Paris X-Nauterne, France, *Latin America in the 1990s: Macroeconomics Out of Control?*  
 Al Campbell, University of Utah, *Neoliberalism in Venezuela Before Chavez*

Discussants: Robert Blecker, American University  
 Luis F. Brunstein, Rowan University

### **10:15 a.m. (Session A) Room: Sheraton/Dalton** **Class, Distribution and Social Policy**

Presiding: Diane Elson, Levy Institute of Bard College and University of Essex

Presenters: Edward Wolf, Levy Institute of Bard College and New York University and Ajit Zacharias, Levy Institute of Bard College, *Class and Economic Well-Being in the United States, 1989-2002*  
 William Darity Jr., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, *Class-Based versus Race-Based Policies*  
 Heather Boushey, Center for Economic Policy Research, *U.S. Social Policy: Where is the Social Insurance for Women and Caretakers?*  
 Martin Scott Carter, Borough of Manhattan Community College and Rollins College, *The Strength of Organized Labor and Functional Income Distribution In Developed Market Economies*

Discussants: TBA

**10:15 a.m. (Session B) Room: Sheraton/Dalton**  
**Macroeconomic Performance**

- Presiding: David M. Kotz, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- Presenters: Rafat Fazeli, University of Redlands and Reza Fazeli, California State University Fullerton, *Globalization and U.S. Macroeconomic Performance: The Prospects for Future Growth*  
 Ted P. Schmidt, Buffalo State College, *It's the End of the Dollar as We Know It... And I Feel Fine*  
 Erdogan Bakir and Al Campbell, University of Utah, *Profit Rate in the Non-Financial Corporate Sector in the U.S. Economy: Further Inquiry Into the Role of Finance Capital in the Neoliberal Era*  
 David M. Kotz, University of Massachusetts Amherst, *The U.S. Economic Recovery Since 2001: Contradictions of Profit-Led Growth*
- Discussants: Dorene Isenberg, University of Redlands  
 Arslan Razmi, University of Massachusetts Amherst

**1:00 p.m. Room: Sheraton/Dalton**  
**Studies in Capitalist Dynamics**

- Presiding: John Willoughby, American University
- Presenters: John Willoughby, American University, *Towards a Comparative Political Economy of World Domination*  
 Paul Zarembka, State University of New York at Buffalo, *Late Marx and Luxemburg: Opening a Development Within Political Economy*  
 Riccardo Bellofiore, University of Bergamo, *Rosa Luxemburg on Capitalist Dynamics, Distribution, and Effective Demand Crises*  
 Yavuz Yasar, University of Denver, and Mark Lautzenhesier, Earlham College, *The 'Technical Monetary Detail' of Effective Demand*
- Discussants: Michael Perelman, California State University Chico  
 James G. Devine, Loyola Marymount

---

Thanks to Robin Hahnel and Kristen Sheeran for their work in organizing the program.

URPE members can see the entire ASSA schedule online and get registration and hotel information at:  
<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/AEA/>

## URPE News and Announcements

### URPE STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

#### **Steering Committee Election Results: Mail Ballot a Big Success!**

This year's election was uncontested, but was notable for taking place, in response to membership concern, through a mail ballot, rather than through balloting at the Summer Conference. Despite the lack of a contest, there was greater participation than could have taken place at the Summer Conference. Ninety-five members voted to elect four at-large Steering Committee members: David Brennan, Bilge Erlen and Leanne Ussher joined the Steering Committee for the first time, and Patty Lee Parmalee was re-elected. They join Jenny Brown who was elected at the Summer Conference as the Women's Caucus representative. [For a full list of Steering Committee members and their contact information, see page 2 of this Newsletter.]

#### **Summer Conference: New Time and New Place**

The Steering Committee took advantage of the election ballot to poll members on their concerns about the timing of the Summer Conference. The results confirmed the Steering Committee's understanding of the seriousness of this problem. Of the 90 responses, 20 members said that the early start of their semester would make it impossible to attend a conference from August 19 - 22, 2006; 41 said the date was not a problem; 34 people did not respond. The Steering Committee was already actively seeking an alternative site since Camp Chinqueka, our site for many years, could not offer us its facilities earlier in August, and the poll results led to an intensification of the search. And then Camp Chinqueka informed us that there would be a very substantial increase in the fees that they charge beginning in 2006.

Thanks to the work of Leanne Ussher (newly elected Steering Committee member) and Patty Lee Parmalee (re-elected member), the Steering Committee was able to move quickly to sign a contract with a new conference center, Camp Deer Run, that we believe will solve our most serious problems. The Summer Conference that will take place from August 11 to 14, a week earlier than our past conferences. The sleeping facilities are in regular buildings, rather than cabins, and are very much better than those in our past camps; we believe they will be more than acceptable to people who have expressed concern in the past about lack of comfort. The conference rooms are also excellent. And, last but not least, the costs are approximately the same as those at Camp Chinqueka.. We look forward to providing members with more information in the Spring 2006 Newsletter. with you soon.)

#### **Summer Conference Business Meeting (August 2005)**

A full set of minutes from the Summer Conference Business Meeting will be posted on line shortly, and will be available from the National Office on request. The proposed amendment to the URPE By-Laws was defeated by a majority of the votes cast. Budget information was presented to members by the National Officer Coordinator, but the Steering Committee recommended that discussion be limited until it could make a comprehensive presentation to the membership. [This report will be made in the next (Winter 2006) Newsletter, together with a 2-year budget projection, following comprehensive discussion of current and projected revenues and expenses at the Fall 2005 Steering Committee meeting.]

### **REPORT FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR OF *THE REVIEW OF RADICAL POLITICAL ECONOMICS***

#### **Editorial Board Election Results**

This year's election was uncontested, and we were able to add three eminently qualified board members to our ranks: Bill Dugger of the University of Tulsa, Marie Kennedy (emerita) of the University of Massachusetts at Boston, and Shaienne Osterreich of Ithaca College. Bruce Pietrykowski, happily, remains with us. I would especially like to thank retiring long-term board members Kamran Nayeri and Behzad Yaghmaian who have chosen to move on, and Isabella Bakker, who has served one term. These people have spent considerable personal time and energy in keeping the RRPE functioning and improving. We had to ask Chris Rude to leave the board due to his inability to perform the duties of a board member at this time.

#### **Boston Labor Tour Canceled**

Due to a scheduling conflict with the day-long pedagogy workshop, the Boston Labor Tour will not be held on January 5, 2006. The panel, *In the Commonwealth of Toil: A Roundtable on Massachusetts Labor Movements*, will be held from 4-5:30 p.m. as previously announced.

Hazel Dayton Gunn, Managing Editor, RRPE

## The Costs of Africa's Wholesale Privatization

*Tying its aid package to fostering a private sector (privatization) in Africa is critical to G8 plans to assist Africa to meet its Millenium Development Goals. Many development theorists, including those in the UN, accept this proposal, albeit with minor reservations. Yet conditioning Africa's development on privatization is theoretically flawed and incongruent with facts on the ground.*

*Drawing on at least 15 years of experience with privatization in Africa, this essay shows that Africa's wholesale privatization will be costly. Contrary to market fundamentalists who premise their arguments for privatization on 'supply-side' reasoning, this essay warns how subjecting access to essential services to market rules could subvert achieving the MDGs. Access to essential services based on the economics of democratic planning presents an alternative to failing markets and state bureaucrats. Social movements and trade unions across Africa, actively combating the attacks of privatization on the poor, are searching for alternatives and have thus joined the World Social Forum in its quest for such alternatives.*

### Introduction

G8 leaders at their recent summit in Scotland made a fresh commitment to meet the UN Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) to halve poverty and meet basic needs by 2015. Since all indicators show that Africa is lagging far behind the rest of the world in meeting the MDGs, the G8 leaders granted the most indebted African countries US\$50bn in debt relief and aid.

People aware of the depth of misery in which Africa is trapped have exposed this G8 aid package as too little to lift the poorest in Africa out of poverty. It is a drop in the ocean. This is correct, if we consider that the continent's debt bill to foreign creditors already exceeds US\$300bn, and is set to increase with every up tick in world interest rates. Furthermore, the value of oil that Shell, a single oil multinational corporation, has extracted from Nigeria is far in excess of the US\$ 50bn, before even counting the environmental destruction.

While this derisory aid package is unlikely to get Africa closer to its MDGs, the continent did not get this US\$ 50bn without strings attached. African countries will qualify for this support in exchange for 'good governance and allowing the private sector to flourish'— euphemisms for laws that will safeguard the interests of capitalist investors. This idea of aid in exchange for wholesale privatization has the full backing of those NEPAD supporters, the Davos based World Economic Forum and other neo-liberals. Tony

Blair's 'Commission for Africa' report places great emphasis on such conditions, little different from the structural adjustment loans that have crippled an entire continent since the 1970s.

### Privatization: selling state assets

Many of the state owned enterprises that are now being privatized were constructed after successful national liberation struggles in the 1960s and 1970s. New state administrations at that time developed a holistic approach to national economic development, setting up state corporations to deliver services that remained out of the reach of the majority of people under colonial regimes. Over time, however, many factors (among others: economic isolation, counter-revolutions, civil wars and mismanagement), subverted the sustainability of these national developmental efforts. Infrastructure deteriorated to the extent that 80%-90% of the people in some countries are without access to essential basic services. It is in this context then that privatization, defended by means of the market fundamentalist logic, has been offered as a fix to Africa's misery.

A good starting point to gain a better picture of the cost of privatization to Africa is to start from the meaning and measurement of privatization. World Bank and other market fundamentalists usually limit the meaning of privatization to the transfer of assets from state owned companies to private shareholders. They have used this to calculate the number and value of state

owned companies sold to private investors. IMF and World Bank experts use such indicators to monitor compliance with privatization conditions in debt contracts. Zambia, for instance, privatized its electricity utility as the main condition to reduce the country's debt from US\$ 6.5bn to US\$ 3bn. Thus African countries are coerced into privation either to borrow more or beg for debt relief.

Privatization in terms of the standard description in Sub-Saharan Africa has accelerated since the mid-1990s. From 1988 to 1996 the value of deals amounted to US\$ 2.7bn, reaching US\$ 2.3bn for 1997 alone! According to available data, the total value of privatization had climbed to US\$ 9bn by 2002. This figure would be equivalent to the combined gross national incomes of Uganda and Zambia at that time.

Sales of state owned enterprises are unevenly spread across the continent. For example, until 2002, Zambia had 253 deals with a total value of US\$ 828 million. South Africa, on the other hand, had only about 8 deals with a value exceeding US\$ 3bn!

Another important trend of privatization in Africa has been the shift in the sectors put up for sale. In the 1980s and early 1990s, privatization involved primarily the break-up and sale of the old state owned enterprises in mining, agriculture and 'infant secondary industries'. Since then this has swiftly branched out to public utilities: like water and sanitation services; electricity and the energy sector.

Market fundamentalists, at least in theory, repeat that a key reason for privatization is to improve investment in better infrastructure. But in the real world this rarely happens. In Tanzania for instance, Biwater from Britain headed the multinationals that took over City Water in Dar es Salaam. After 2 years into this contract Biwater failed to invest in a better pipe water network simply because it was not profitable for them, forcing the Tanzanian government to cancel their contract. Similarly, AES, an American electricity utility that bought Cameroon's national electricity company (SONEL) failed to invest in power generating capacity, thus power cuts persist and demonstrators are chanting "AES go home!" In Ghana, an estimated \$70 million annual investment was needed for improvement of water infrastructure per company, yet the two

favoured bidders were willing to invest only \$30 million each. There is a need for an alternative economic plan to ensure that an estimated US\$ 26bn annual investment occurs to improve Africa's water and sanitation and meet basic needs.

Multinationals often buy state owned corporations through secret and corrupt deals. In Africa, corporate corruption in privatization in Lesotho is perhaps on par with the ENRON scandal. Corruption in the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, built to supply SA industries and cities with water, forced this cash strapped government into a drawn out and costly prosecution of Canadian, German, British and French corporations.

### **Privatization: Costs to Africa's poor**

These costs of privatization to Africa are well known, yet largely ignored by the G8 and their neo-liberal experts. Moreover, to get a more complete picture of the cost of privatization to society, it has to be viewed as a mechanism whereby access to every necessity of life gets subjected to market rules. In the market place everything, be it water, bread or diamonds, has a price set by big firms to recover costs and make a handsome profit. Any person without the ability to pay for (or afford) water and sanitation, electricity, healthcare or education just has to go without it. Commercializing water access in greater Johannesburg (under the ownership of Suez from France) has made it harder for poor residents in Alexandra and Soweto get an adequate amount of clean water.

Indeed, across Africa, privatization of public utilities has excluded the poor from access to safe and reliable essential services. Water access through the market is now regulated through sophisticated devices that restrict access for the poor to a tiny free water quota. This scheme operates in Senegal, Nigeria and South Africa. When a household has exhausted its 'free quota', it must pay high tariffs that invariably lead to cut-offs due to the inability to pay. Diseases are reemerging in poor regions due to lack of access to water and sanitation—like guinea worm in Ghana and cholera and typhoid in SA. These social costs of privatization, compounding the impact of unemployment or displacement of peasant farmers—as in the Lesotho highlands project—have either been neglected or

obscured in the economic models of free market fundamentalists.

On the whole, more privatization in Africa will subvert the achievement of the mediocre targets set-out in the MDGs. In contrast to this, Africa needs democratically planned, efficient and sustainable public services to meet the needs of the every human being. User charges can be minimal and cross-subsidized by other industries. Under such a system the objective will be human needs and not the greed of private corporations.

Trade unions across the continent have played a crucial role in awareness raising and mobilization against privatization to protect their members' jobs. It is in retaliation to such attacks on their members that the General Confederation of the Workers of Burkina, The Public Utilities Workers Union (PUWU-Ghana) and South Africa Municipal Workers Union (SAMWU) resist privatization. SAMWU brought together unions from Namibia, Swaziland, Mozambique and Zambia in 2001 to forge solidarity and a common platform against privatization.

Today, partly due to the campaigns of these trade unions, anti-privatization social movements have emerged that are beginning to spearhead broader anti-capitalist struggles in Africa. Thus we have witnessed the rise of the National Coalition Against Water Privatization in Ghana. SAMWU has extended its links with this Ghanaian movement and participates in the Anti-Privatization Forum in South Africa. There are signs that these movements are converging with others under the banner of the African Social Forum which is part of the World Social Forum, with its rallying cry "Another World is Possible".

Peter T. Jacobs  
Economics Department  
University of the Western Cape  
Bellville, South Africa

### Selected references

- Amenga-Etego, Rudolf. No date. Water Privatization in Ghana: Stillborn or born deformed? Status Report. <http://www.africafiles.org>
- Bamenjo, Jaff Napoleon. 2002. Energy Privatization in Africa: What Perspectives for Rural Electrification. Paper presented to the Second International Conference: Energy for Sustainable Societies, Bogota, Colombia, 25-27 July.
- Bowles, William. 2005. "Jive 8" and Poverty in Africa: Bob Geldof does Damage Control for a War Criminal. July 7. <http://www.globalresearch.ca/>
- Buchs, Thierry D. 2003. Privatization Sub-Saharan Africa: Some Lessons from Experiences to Date. IFC Working Paper.
- Harsch, Ernest, 2000. Privatization shifts gears in Africa. *Africa Recovery* (April): 8-17.
- Karekezi, Stephen and Donella Mutiso. 2004. Restructuring of the Power Sector in Africa. Working Paper 203. <http://www.afrepren.org/Pubs>
- Situmbeko, Lishala C, and Jack, Jones. 2004. Zambia: Condemned to debt. World Development Movement (April), <http://www.wdm.org.uk/>
- The Center for Public Integrity, 2003. Promoting Privatization, Canada ICIJ
- World Bank, 2005. G8 Summit Statements- Africa. *Open Source Professional Portal System*. <http://www.harolddoan.com/modules> (Friday, July 8 @ 13:49 PDT)

## Sumner M. Rosen

### Professor and Social Activist

Sumner Maurice Rosen, 82, died peacefully at home surrounded by his family on August 17th 2005 after a brief but valiant battle with cancer.

As a professor at Columbia University's School of Social Work, and as a lifelong activist, his long and distinguished career was marked by an unwavering devotion to fighting for the rights of working people everywhere.

Born to Ethel and Edward Rosen in 1923 in Boston Massachusetts, he attended Tufts College briefly before World War II, with an engineering career in mind. During the War he served in the infantry in the European theater, receiving a Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts after being hit in the mouth by shrapnel during the Battle of the Bulge. He often credited that wound with saving his life, since many of his comrades were killed shortly after he was taken out of action.

Based upon his experiences in the war, his perspective and priorities shifted. After his exit from service he switched majors from engineering to economics in order to understand the larger forces that led to the Great Depression and the war. Thanks to a grant from the GI Bill of Rights he was able to transfer from Tufts to Harvard, where he graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa.

He then married, and pursued graduate work in labor economics at MIT where he received a Ph.D. in 1959. His first work assignments brought him to Washington DC and then to Turkey, where he lived for three years working to develop trade union support on behalf of the U.S. foreign aid program.

Upon moving to New York in 1965 he served in the research department of the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Department and became research director of the New Careers Development Center at NYU. He also directed an innovative manpower program at the Institute of Public Administration.

As a teacher, he has been on the faculties of Northeastern University, Simmons College, SUNY, Rutgers and Brooklyn College. He became a full tenured professor at Columbia University's School of Social Work, where he taught from 1975 to 1993.

After retiring from Columbia, he became a founding member of The Five Borough Institute, a research and educational organization focusing on economic and political issues that threaten the jobs and livelihood of working people. He also became a very outspoken member of Veterans for Peace, an organization working for peace and justice through nonviolence.

He was also a Vice Chair and co-founder of the National Jobs for All Coalition, an organization which

is dedicated to the propositions that meaningful employment is a precondition for a fulfilling life and that every person capable of working should have the right to a job.

His writings deal with manpower, collective bargaining, health care policy, education, the economics of disarmament, the global economy, and many other topics.

Sumner is survived by his wife, Judith Davidoff, a distinguished performer on the cello and viola da gamba, his son Max Rosen of New York City, and his daughter Rebekah Rosen-Gomez who lives with her husband and two children in Jamestown Rhode Island

*(Obituary written by members of Sumner Rosen's family)*

\*\*\*\*\*

Mark J. Kesselman, Professor of Political Science at Columbia University, writes:

What animated Sumner's teaching, research, and extracurricular activity was a fierce desire to promote the cause of social justice, especially to improve the lives of working people. This quest was reflected in his scholarly publications, including *Economic Power Failure: The Current American Crisis* (McGraw-Hill, 1975) and the volume, coedited with Aaron W. Warner, *Commitment to Full Employment: The Economics and Social Policy of William S. Vickrey* (M.E. Sharpe, 2000).

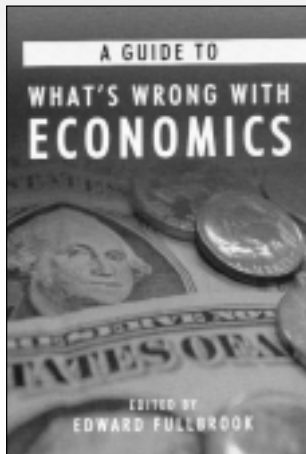
Sumner's involvement in Columbia was intense. He helped found and direct the University Seminar on Full Employment and the University Seminar on Globalization, Labor, and Popular Struggles. He drew on his worldwide network of scholars, administrators, and labor union leaders to recruit speakers for the seminars. His contributions to seminar discussions reflected wide erudition, extensive experience, and unflinching dedication to truth and social justice.

His professional involvements ranged well beyond Columbia. He was founder and vice chair of the National Jobs for All Coalition, an organization that champions the causes of full employment, good jobs, and living wages. He also founded and was a board member of the Five Borough Institute, a New York City-based organization that analyzes the impact of urban economy on working people.

Sumner's scholarly and professional activities reflected his unflinching dedication to truth and social justice. The Columbia community cherishes his contribution and mourns his loss.

Full obituary by Mark Kesselman is available at: [www.professorsemeritus.columbia.edu/news.htm](http://www.professorsemeritus.columbia.edu/news.htm)

# New Thinking in Political Economy





## A GUIDE TO WHAT'S WRONG WITH ECONOMICS

EDITED BY EDWARD FULLBROOK

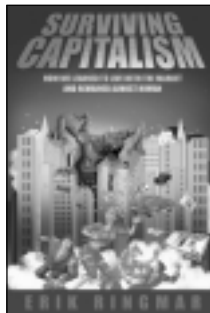
**"An arsenal of arguments against neoclassical ideas."—*Future Survey***

In clear and engaging prose, *A Guide to What's Wrong with Economics* shows how interesting, relevant, and exciting economics can be when it is pursued, not as the defense of an antiquated and close-minded system of belief, but as a no-holds barred inquiry looking for real-world truths. It comprehensively examines the shortcomings of neoclassical economics and considers a number of alternative formulations.

A must-read for all economists and their students—as well as for the general reader.

 PB, 1 84331 148 8, \$29.95  ANTHEM PRESS

**20% discount for URPE readers. Use Code URPE55. Offer valid through December 31, 2005.**





**FORTHCOMING**

## SURVIVING CAPITALISM

*How We Learned to Live with the Market and Remained Almost Human*

ERIK RINGMAR

Is economic globalization leading to full convergence between political models and ways of life? Will individuals and social groups be able to protect themselves against encroachments by market forces? The author speculates on the alternative kinds of protective responses that might appear and what society would be like without any kinds of protection at all.



 PB, 1 84331 176 3, \$29.95  ANTHEM PRESS

## A CHANCE FOR THE WORLD BANK

JOZEF RITZEN

FOREWORD BY JOSEPH P. STIGLITZ

Even as the World Bank functions as the nerve center of development cooperation, the gulf between poor and rich countries continues to widen. Providing a thorough overview of the challenges, Ritzen explores how the World Bank has organized itself to deal with its mission and what radical steps must be taken for it to succeed.

 PB, 1 84331 162 3, \$25.00  ANTHEM PRESS




## PROMOTING INCOME SECURITY AS A RIGHT

*Revised edition*

EDITED BY GUY STANDING

Comprehensively examines one of the most fundamental issues facing Western society in the 21st century—the proposal that basic income security should be a guaranteed right, similar to the right to clean water, fresh air, and a good education.


PB, 1 84331 174 7, \$45.00  ANTHEM PRESS

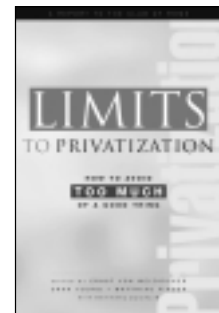
## LIMITS TO PRIVATIZATION

*How to Avoid Too Much of a Good Thing: A Report to the Club of Rome*

ERNST VON WEIZSÄCKER, MATTHIAS FINGER, AND ORAN YOUNG

A major analysis of—and challenge to—the accepted wisdom that the private sector is good, while the public sector is bad. Driven by this ideology, governments have been privatizing services. This book shows how and where privatization has worked well, and where it hasn't—with serious impacts.

CL, 1 84407 177 4, \$45.00 



 Look for this icon to identify titles especially suited for textbook use.

**Also Available**

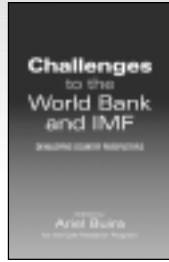


**JOSEPH STIGLITZ AND THE WORLD BANK: THE REBEL WITHIN**

EDITED BY HA-JOON CHANG

Presents the most important and controversial speeches of a World Bank intellectual heavyweight and firebrand with clear and incisive analysis from a leading economist.

PB, 1 898855 53 6, \$24.95  
 ANTHEM PRESS



**CHALLENGES TO THE WORLD BANK AND IMF**

*Developing Country Perspectives*

EDITED BY ARIEL BUIRA

Examines some of the most burning economic issues facing the World Bank and IMF today and offers proposals for developing countries struggling to effectively participate in these institutions.

PB, 1 84331 141 0, \$24.95  
 ANTHEM PRESS



**BESTSELLER**  
**KICKING AWAY THE LADDER?**

*Policies and Institutions for Economic Development in Historical Perspective*

HA-JOON CHANG

“A scholarly tour-de-force” —Lance Taylor, Professor of Economics, New School University

Are developed countries “kicking away the ladder” by which they have climbed to the top? Chang argues these countries are pressuring developing countries into “good policies,” and denying them the tools that they themselves used to grow their economies. A provocative must-read.

PB, 1 84331 027 9, \$22.50  
 ANTHEM PRESS

**Examination Copy Request**

All of these titles are available on 90-day approval. At the end of 90 days, you must show proof of adoption, return the book in sell-able condition, or buy it for personal use. You can request an examination by completing the information listed below and completing the order form. Or, go online and review other economic titles and request examination copies via our Web form.

I am considering the texts listed below for:

Course name \_\_\_\_\_

Start date \_\_\_\_\_ Anticipated enrollment \_\_\_\_\_

**Please be sure to complete the shipping information below and specify the institution with which you are affiliated.**

**Order Form** *Order via phone, fax, e-mail or online.*

*Please prepay in U.S. dollars. We accept American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Checks payable to “Stylus Publishing.”*

Name / Attn: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company / Inst.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Country: \_\_\_\_\_

**I enclose payment by (check box):**

- US Dollar Check to “Stylus Publishing”
- American Express  Visa  MasterCard

Card#: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exp.Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime tel: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



PO Box 605, Herndon, VA 20172-0605  
**Tel:** 800 232 0223 • 703 661 1581  
**Fax:** 703 661 1501  
**E-mail:** Stylus@PressWarehouse.com  
**Visit us on the Web:** www.styluspub.com

**I wish to order the following:**

TITLE	BINDING	ISBN	PRICE	20% OFF	QTY	TOTAL
Challenges to the World Bank and IMF	PB	1 84331 141 0	\$24.95			
A Chance for the World Bank	PB	1 84331 162 3	\$25.00			
A Guide to What's Wrong with Economics	PB	1 84331 148 8	\$29.95			
Joseph Stiglitz and the World Bank: The Rebel Within	PB	1 898855 53 6	\$24.95			
Kicking Away the Ladder?	PB	1 84331 027 9	\$22.50			
Limits to Privatization	CL	1 84407 177 4	\$45.00			
Promoting Income Security as a Right	PB	1 84331 174 7	\$45.00			
Surviving Capitalism	PB	1 84331 176 3	\$29.95			

*Prices and descriptions subject to change without notice*

VA residents add 5% sales tax \_\_\_\_\_

Add shipping: Surface mail U.S., Canada & Mexico \$5.00 1st copy; \$1.00 ea. addl. \_\_\_\_\_

Source Code: URPE55

**Total Payment** \_\_\_\_\_

**20% discount for URPE readers. Use Code URPE55. Offer valid through December 31, 2005.**

## UPDATE ON ECONOMY CONNECTION (URPE'S RESOURCE/SPEAKERS BUREAU)

by Ruthie Indeck, Coordinator (201-792-7459 or soapbox@comcast.net)

### In the Works

Max Fraad Wolff is scheduled to give a few classes on "Investment 101" in the context of globalization, to members of an NYC Legal Services union. Doug Henwood and possibly an additional person will speak to students at St. Francis College this fall. Liza Featherstone will participate in a panel on Wal-Mart at a college in NJ. Several other talks are in the planning stages: An NYC radical journalist would like an economist to talk to his editorial board about capitalism and socialism, and a number of URPE members have agreed to write for the paper. A senior in eastern PA would like URPE suggestions for a senior speaker series at a local college. An activist, also in eastern PA would like URPE suggestions for a senior speaker series at a local college. An activist, also in eastern PA, would like a speaker on globalization and military spending. And a CA high school student has asked for a speaker who can connect the economy to ecology.

### Talks That Might Have Been

***Hooray for our Side!*** It's more fun to write EC reports on talks that actually happened, but in the broader scheme of things I'm happy to say that we haven't been doing Social Security talks lately because Bush seems to have given up on privatization for the moment. Last year, in addition to talks they did on their own, EC members spoke about Social Security on several radio shows and at a church forum, a town meeting, city council hearings, the Brecht Forum, and the 2005 Left Forum. We created a web page on Social Security. This fall we will continue to work with Students for Social Security in their campaign to arrange classroom talks on campuses all over the country.

***Capitalism got in the way.*** A student in Arkansas wanted to bring URPE speakers to a conference but was unable to obtain funding. An URPE speaker in Florida was prepared to travel three hours each way to speak to a group of seniors in Florida if he received minimal compensation, but they also were unable to raise the funds.

***More Speakers Needed!!*** We recently received requests for speakers in Cleveland and in Eastern Pennsylvania which we were unable to fill. **You can help by suggesting to your colleagues that they join EC!**

### Requests for Resources

A Brooklyn URPE member wanted the names of URPE people working on education, and a CT URPE member wanted contacts and resources on military spending. A man changing careers wanted help finding a research job. A professor wanted names of people who might critique her work. A tenant attorney in NYC wanted suggestions on how to value a housing voucher – we passed this request on to an experienced tenant attorney close to URPE. A man wanted a clear text that would explain the economics of currency fluctuations; EC recommended a few of the textbooks written by URPE members. The NYC reporter mentioned above received reading suggestions on macroeconomics. A Texas journalist received names of URPE people to consult on globalization and labor. A woman in Maine is helping a home-schooled 15-year-old find resources for a project on U.S. history. EC recommended several websites, including our own High School page, Rethinking Schools, the American Social History Project, Teaching for Change, as well as a number of history books focusing on race, ethnicity, labor, etc.

### Sumner Rosen Remembered (see page 14)

EC member Sumner Rosen passed away in August. In addition to his many other activist affiliations, he made a major contribution to URPE's part of the fight to preserve and improve Social Security. He gave a wonderful interview on Morton Mecklosky's Stony Brook radio show, and outshone his AARP and conservative co-panelists at a town meeting in Staten Island. (See [www.urpe.org/URPESSTalks.pdf](http://www.urpe.org/URPESSTalks.pdf) for summaries of his talks.)

### Brecht Forum

The Brecht Forum has initiated a new series this fall called "Anti-War Wednesdays," and NYC URPE is co-sponsoring ***The Economics of War and Disaster***, with Frida Berrigan of the World Policy Institute's Arms Trade Resource Center and Martin Melkonian of Hofstra University. The talk will be Wednesday, November 16 at 7:30 pm at the Brecht Forum, 451 West Street, New York, NY 10014. See details on page 18, and at <http://www.brechtforum.org/>.

## Conferences and Events

### CALL FOR PAPERS

**2006 Left Forum, March 10-12, Cooper Union, NYC\  
www.leftforum.org**

Last year URPE and *Dollars and Sense* co-sponsored two panels at the 2006 Left Forum (offshoot of the Socialist Scholars Conference, where we sponsored many panels in the past). In recent years, because of space limitations, the number of panels URPE can sponsor or cosponsor has been limited. Between URPE and D&S we can definitely have 2 panels, and possible influence on a third. We can share two panels, or each group can have one panel. And individuals can sometimes be placed on panels sponsored by other groups.

In the past each panel has paid \$100. Usually this fee has been raised by dividing the cost of the panel among the panelists and chair (usually 3-5 people); once this panel fee is paid, however, all members of the panel have been entitled to attend the entire conference without paying individual registration fees. They are still in the process of deciding the policy for this year, but probably the situation will be similar this year as well.

People who attend the SSC are well-informed but most are not economists. Panels should be on topics of general interest. Please be prepared to make a major contribution toward organizing your panel, but be open to the possibility of accepting additional suggestions of panelists from URPE or the 2006 LF organizers.

The factors involved in determining which panels will be sponsored by URPE include: how many panels apply; whether your panel is of general interest; whether a panel on the same topic has already been accepted by the 2006 Left Forum; whether URPE decides to co-sponsor panels with other organizations; how much effort you are able to contribute toward organizing your panel; whether it is possible to form a complete panel from your suggestion; and whether you have been in an URPE panel recently. The organizers of the conferences work closely with panel organizers, and may have some voice in which panels are accepted. They also may be able to find you a place on another panel.

It has not been definitely decided who will be organizing this for URPE, but for now please e-mail panel suggestions to soapbox@comcast.net by December 1. The URPE Steering Committee will make final decisions if we receive more panel suggestions than we can use, and will try to find a place in another conference for panels that are left out.

### **URPE at the Brecht Forum The Economics of War and Disaster (Part of "Anti-War Wednesdays" Series)**

**Wednesday, November 16, 7:30 pm  
Brecht Forum: 451 West Street, New York, NY 10014  
Email: mail@brechtforum.org • Web: www.brechtforum.org/**

The Brecht Forum has initiated a new series this fall called "Anti-War Wednesdays," and NYC URPE is co-sponsoring *The Economics of War and Disaster*, with Frida Berrigan and Martin Melkonian.

**Frida Berrigan** is a Senior Research Associate at the World Policy Institute's Arms Trade Resource Center. She is the co-author of the widely-cited *Weapons at War 2005: Promoting Freedom or Fueling Conflict?* and tracks the economics of war and militarism.

**Martin Melkonian** teaches economics at Hofstra and is a Research Associate at the Center for the Study of Labor and Democracy. His publications include: *Cutbacks in Defense Spending: Outlook and Options for the Long Island Economy*, *The Energy Picture Entering the 21st Century*, and *Reinvest in Long Island*. He is the coordinator of the Harvey Levin Public Policy Workshop at Hofstra, and a board member of the Long Island Alliance for Peaceful Alternatives and the Citizens' Advisory Panel.

The mainstream press carried harrowing stories of people unable to escape Hurricane Katrina because much of Louisiana's National Guard, along with vital rescue equipment, was in Iraq. And funding for "homeland security" had replaced funding for levees. At the same time, though, many U.S. companies decimated by the bursting of the telecom bubble were revived by huge military contracts.

In recent years, expenditures on the military and homeland security have increased tremendously, while taxes for the rich have been sharply cut. Our panelists will explore the effects of these policies on output, employment, inflation, the budget deficit, the trade deficit, interest rates, the housing market and our standard of living. Do more guns mean less butter? Can capitalism thrive without largescale military expenditures?

**Registration form for Heterodox Pedagogy Workshop**

Please send the registration form (below) to: Barbara Krohn, AFEE, Department of Economics, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA 17837

Please register me for the HETERODOX CONTENT: IDEAS FOR INTEGRATING, INCLUDING AND INNOVATING IN THE ECONOMICS CLASSROOM, workshop on January 5, 2006. (Enrollment for the workshop is limited.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phones: (O) \_\_\_\_\_; (F) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop Registration: \$35 students; \$40 IAFFE/AFEE/URPE Members; \$65 All others

Check enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_, Visa/Mastercard # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please send registration to: Barbara Krohn, AFEE, Department of Economics, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA 17837, USA Tel: (O) 570-577-3648 Fax: 570-577-2372

**URPE Membership**

There are two types of membership in the Union for Radical Political Economics:

- Full Membership** with *RRPE* journal and Newsletter subscription
- Limited Membership** with Newsletter subscription only.

Both types of membership carry equal voting rights in URPE. (To participate in the URPE sessions at the Allied Social Science Association meetings, you must be a member of URPE.)

Circle option chosen, and make checks payable to URPE.

**Full Membership** (includes one-year subscription to the *Review of Radical Political Economics* and the quarterly URPE Newsletter. Please note that *RRPE* subscriptions are entered on a calendar year basis.)

- Low-income/student \$30
- All other individuals \$55

Send **Full Membership** dues to:  
 Hazel Dayton Gunn,  
 Dept. of City and Regional Planning,  
 106 W. Sibley Hall,  
 Cornell University,  
 Ithaca NY 14853

**Limited Membership** (Includes subscription to the quarterly URPE Newsletter)

- All individuals \$20

Send **Limited Membership** dues to:  
 URPE National Office,  
 Gordon Hall  
 U. Mass/Amherst  
 418 N. Pleasant Street  
 Amherst, MA 01002-1735

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Institutional Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like your name and address to be listed in a Directory of URPE members? Yes/No

## Visit the URPE WEB SITE

[www.urpe.org](http://www.urpe.org)

Check out recent articles published in the *Review of Radical Political Economics (RRPE)*.

Explore “Economy Connection” for references to materials on major issues, and information on how to get speakers to events.

Find out what papers will be presented by URPE at ASSA (Boston 2006).

See recent issues of the URPE Newsletter.

Get in touch with other organizations promoting heterodox economics.

Look for job listings for heterodox economists.

Keep up to date with plans for the 2006 URPE Summer Conference.

Contact us at: [urpe@labornet.org](mailto:urpe@labornet.org)

### URPE Newsletter

c/o URPE National Office  
Gordon Hall, U.Mass/Amherst  
418 N. Pleasant Street  
Amherst, MA 01002-1735



Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Bellmawr, NJ  
Permit No. 240