

# URPE Newsletter

## URPE at ASSA New Orleans, Louisiana January 3-6, 2008

The meetings of the Allied Social Science Associations (ASSA) are scheduled to take place from Friday January 4 to Sunday January 6, 2008. As in previous years, URPE is organizing events on Thursday, January 3, and encourages all members to plan to come a day before the “official” start of the meetings.

Thursday events for URPE include our 40th anniversary celebration at the Sheraton in the Nottoway room from 4-6pm. There will be a roundtable discussion moderated by Frank Thompson of the University of Michigan (see box below for details). Audience participation is expected and encouraged. Also on Thursday evening URPE, ASE, NEA, and IAFFE will host a plenary session & reception featuring

John Davis, Dean Baker, William Darity, and Lourdes Beneria. This event is in the Sheraton in Rhythms II & III at 6:30pm.

An additional 17 URPE panels will take place over the following three days. These panels sponsored by URPE continue to bring exciting developments in radical political economics to ASSA participants. People who are not able to attend the 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 reception on Friday, January 4, 6-7:30pm at the Sheraton, room Bayside A.

### URPE/RRPE 40TH Anniversary Celebration

URPE and the *RRPE* turn 40 this year and you are invited to the 40th anniversary celebration!

Time and place: The New Orleans ASSA meetings  
Thursday, January 3 from 4-6 pm in the Nottoway room in the Sheraton

**There will be a panel discussion featuring some of those who where “present at the creation”.**

Panel Members: Lourdes Beneria, Cornell University; Laurie Nisonoff, Hampshire College; Arthur MacEwan, University of Massachusetts/Boston; and Howard Wachtel, American University  
Frank Thompson, University of Michigan will moderate.

There will be plenty of time for audience members to offer their own recollections of the “glorious days of yesteryear” and to think about URPE's accomplishments and future. If you have been part of URPE over the years, please do come and share your thoughts.

*-Lane Vanderslice*

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**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 in New York. 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 other 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 Frances Boyes; urpe@labornet.org, or by regular mail to: Frances Boyes, URPE National Office, Gordon Hall, University of Massachusetts, 418 N. Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA 01002-1735.

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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.

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

# ***URPE Panels at ASSA***

## **Thursday, January 3**

*4-6 p.m. Room: Sheraton/ Nottoway*

### **URPE/ RRPE 40th Anniversary Celebration**

#### *Roundtable Discussion*

Moderator: Frank Thompson, University of Michigan  
 Panel Members: Lourdes Beneria, Cornell University  
 Laurie Nisonoff, Hampshire College  
 Arthur MacEwan, University of Massachusetts/ Boston  
 Howard Wachtel, American University

*6:30 p.m. Rooms: Sheraton/ Rhythms II and III*

### **Inequality, Democracy, and the Economy**

#### *Plenary Session*

Co-Sponsored by: **Association for Social Economics (ASE), National Economic Association (NEA), International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE), Union for Radical Political Economics (URPE)**

Presiding: John B. Davis, University of Amsterdam and Marquette University  
 Participants: Dean Baker, Center for Economic Research  
 Lourdes Beneria, Cornell University  
 William J. Darity, Jr., Duke University

## **Friday, January 4**

*8 a.m. (Session A) Room: Sheraton/Oakley*

### **Recent Research on Economic Inequality in the Third World**

Presiding: Melissa Mahoney, New School for Social Research and Levy Economics Institute of Bard College  
 Presenters: Merrilee Mardon, Connecticut College, *Land Rights, Lone Mothers and the Educational Attainment of Adolescents in Brazil's Agrarian Reform*  
 Tom Masterson, Levy Economics Institute of Bard College, *Female Land Rights and Household Consumption in Paraguay, 2001*  
 Vamsi Vakulabharanam, Queens College, City University of New York and  
 Ajit Zacharias, Levy Economics Institute of Bard College, *Economic Reforms, Caste and Economic Inequality in India, 1991-2004*  
 Bob Reinauer, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, *A Living Wage in Guatemala: An Estimate Using LSMS Data*  
 Discussants: Stephanie Seguino, University of Vermont  
 Arjun Jayadev, University of Massachusetts-Boston

**8 a.m. (Session B) Room: Sheraton/Bayside A**  
**Gender Bending: Expanding Feminist Political Economy**

Co-sponsored by: **Union for Radical Political Economics (URPE)**

Presiding: Ellen Mutari, Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

Presenters: Elissa Braunstein, Colorado State University, Caren Grown, Levy Institute and Diane Elson, University Of Essex, *Gender And Corporate Taxation In The US: An Analysis Of Trends 1970-2005*

Michael Brun, Illinois State University and Marianne A Ferber, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, *How do Women-Friendly Policies Affect Men?*

Paddy Quick, St. Francis College, *Unpaid, reproductive, caring labor? The production of labor power? The theoretical implications of terms used to describe women's work*

Jane E. Miller, and Yana van der Meulen Rodgers, Rutgers University, *'Significance' versus 'Importance': Substantive and Statistical Considerations in Empirical Research*

Discussants: Drusilla K. Barker, University of South Carolina

Ellen Mutari, Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

**10:15 a.m. (Session A) Room: Sheraton/Oakley**  
**Economic Policies in Venezuela**

Presiding: Al Campbell, University of Utah

Presenters: Rose Maria Marques, Pontifica Universidade Catolica de Sao Paulo, *Social Policies and Inequalities in Venezuela*

Paulo Nakatani, Federal University of Espirito Santo, Brazil, *Structures, Changes, and Planning of the Economy of Revolutionary Venezuela*

Mauricio Sabadini, University of Paris I, *Oil, Money and Finance in the Bolivarian Revolution of Venezuela*

Felix Rivas, Central Bank of Venezuela, Caracas, *The Monetary and Financial Policy of Venezuela*

Discussants: Al Campbell, University of Utah

Remy Herrera, University of Paris I

**10:15 a.m. (Session B) Room: Sheraton/Bayside A**  
**Toward a Political Economy of Stratification**

Presiding: Ajit Zacharias, Levy Economics Institute of Bard College

Presenters: William Darity Jr., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, *Stratification Economics: the Role of Intergroup Inequality*

Melissa Mahoney, Levy Economics Institute of Bard College and New School for Social Research and Ajit Zacharias, Levy Economics Institute of Bard College, *Gender Disparities in Employment and Aggregate Profitability in the United States*

Patrick Mason, Florida State University, *Social Capital and Intergenerational Mobility*

Stephanie Seguino, University of Vermont, *The Threads that Bind: Race and Gender Stratification and the Macroeconomics of Inequality*

Discussants: Edward Wolff, Levy Economics Institute of Bard College and New York University

Dimitri Papadimitriou, Levy Economics Institute of Bard College

Korkut Erturk, University of Utah

**12:30 p.m. Room: Sheraton/Bayside A**

**Whither the US Economy in 2008 and Beyond? (Roundtable discussion)**

Presiding: Fred Moseley, Mount Holyoke College

Presenters: Dean Baker, Center for Economic and Policy Research, *Housing and the Sub-Prime Bust*  
 Tom Palley, Economics for Democratic and Open Societies, *The Dollar and International Imbalances*  
 William Briggs, Howard University, *Current Conditions for African-Americans*  
 Robert Pollin, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, *Government Policies*  
 Doreen Isenberg, University of Redlands, *Housing Crisis in California*

**2:30 p.m. (Session A) Room: Sheraton/Bayside A**

**Debate over Microeconomics**

Co-sponsored by: **Union for Radical Political Economics (URPE)**

Presiding: Fred Moseley, Mount Holyoke College

Presenters: Bernard Guerrien and Emmanuelle Benicourt, Université Paris-Sorbonne, *Is There Anything Worth Keeping in Standard Microeconomics?*  
 Karl Case, Wellesley College, *Reply to Guerrien-Benicourt and Defense of Microeconomics*  
 Donald Katzner, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, *Reply to Guerrien-Benicourt and Defense of Microeconomics*

Discussants: Deirdre McCloskey, University of Illinois-Chicago  
 Duncan Foley, New School for Social Research

**2:30 p.m. (Session B) Room: Sheraton/Oakley**

**Issues in Development, Finance and Institutional Economics**

Presiding: Edward Nell, New School for Social Research

Presenters: Phil O'Hara, Curtin University, *Social Structures of Accumulation Theory and Empirics: Reassessment, Reconstruction, and Future Research*  
 Cameron M. Weber, New School of Social Research, *Questioning Development Orthodoxy*  
 Ramaa Vasudevan, Colorado State University, *From the Gold Standard to the Floating Dollar Standard: The Relevance of Marx's Conception of World Money*  
 Matias Vernengo, and Yongbok Jeon, University of Utah, *Verdoorn Effects in the U.S. Economy*

Discussants: Edward Nell, New School for Social Research  
 Elias Khalil, Monash University

## Join Us for the Annual URPE Reception

Friday, Jan 4, 6-7:30pm Sheraton /Bayside A.

URPE members and non-members are invited to join us for our annual reception to socialize with colleagues both old and new.

## Saturday, January 5

8 a.m. (Session A) Room: Sheraton/Oakley

### Heterodox Macroeconomics: Crotty's Integration of Keynes, Marx and Institutionalism

Presiding: Jonathan Goldstein, Bowdoin College

Presenters: Jonathan Goldstein, Bowdoin College, *Heterodox Macroeconomics: The Integration of Keynes and Marx*  
Martin Wolfson, University of Notre Dame, *Methodology and Radical Political Economics: Marx, Keynes, Mitchell and Crotty*

Gerald Epstein, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, *Marx, Keynes and Crotty: The Case for Capital Controls Revisited*

Michael Hillard, University of Southern Maine, *Historically Specific, Institutionally Contingent: Labor Movements, Class Struggles and Capitalisms*

Özgür Orhangazi, Roosevelt University, *Macroeconomic Fragility in the Age of Financialization*

Discussants: Michele Naples, College of New Jersey

Bob Pollin, University of Massachusetts-Amherst

8 a.m. (Session B) Room: Sheraton/Evergreen

### Between Work and Family: Examinations of US Women's Well-being

Presiding: Mary King, Portland State University

Presenters: Elaine McCrate, University of Vermont, *Flexibility for Whom? Control Over the Variability of Work Schedules*

Ellen Mutari, and Deborah M. Figart, Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, *Between 'the House' and Home: Casino Workers' Schedules in a 24/7 Economy?*

Randy Albelda, University of Massachusetts Boston, *'My Ends Ain't Meeting': Single Mothers' Earnings and Public Work Supports in 'Post-welfare' United States*

Susan Williams McElroy, University of Texas at Dallas and William Spriggs, Howard University, *Testing the Safety Net, Is it Adequate for African American Women?*

Discussants: Mary King, Portland State University

Ulla Grapard, Colgate University

**10:15 a.m. (Session A) Room: Sheraton/Oakley****Alternative Approaches to the Economics of the Elderly**

- Presiding: Ajit Zacharias, Levy Economics Institute of Bard College
- Presenters: Teresa Ghilarducci, University of Notre Dame, *Guaranteed Retirement Accounts: Towards Retirement Income Security*
- Sunhwa Lee, Institute for Women's Policy Research, *Race/Ethnicity, Living Arrangements, and Retirement Security Among Older Women*
- Christian Weller, Center for American Progress, *Navigating the Perfect Storm: How Have Public Sector Pension Plans Handled the Funding Crisis?*
- Edward N. Wolff, Levy Economics Institute of Bard College and New York University and Ajit Zacharias, Levy Economics Institute of Bard College, *How Well-Off are America's Elderly? A New Perspective*
- Michelle Naples, The College of New Jersey, Gerald Jogerst and Jeanette Daly, University of Iowa, *Elder Abuse: Economic and Feminist Factors*
- Discussants: Ajit Zacharias, Levy Economics Institute of Bard College
- Thomas Masterson, Levy Economics Institute of Bard College

**10:15 a.m. (Session B) Room: Sheraton/Evergreen****Topics in Heterodox Economics**

- Presiding: James Devine, Loyola Marymount University
- Presenters: Frederic Lee, University of Missouri-Kansas City, *The Emergence of Heterodox Economics in a Contested Landscape, 1990-2006*
- Michael Perelman, California State University-Chico. *The Confiscation of American Prosperity: From Right Wing Extremism & Economic Ideology to the Next Great Depression*
- Ellen Russell, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, *Domestic Financial Reform and Bargaining Power: The New Deal Financial Architecture*
- Ian McGregor, University of Technology-Sydney, *Warming as Usual – Radical International Political Economy Required to Address Climate Change*
- Daniel Saros, Valparaiso University. *An Application of Social Structure of Accumulation Theory to American Industry During the Progressive Era*
- Discussants: David Kotz, University of Massachusetts-Amherst
- Gil Skillman, Wesleyan University

**2:30 p.m. (Session A) Room: Sheraton/Oakley****E.K. Hunt's Contribution to Radical Economics (Roundtable discussion)**

- Presiding: Justin Elardo, Ohio State University
- Presenters: Mark Lautzenheiser, Earlham College
- Gary Dymski, University of California-Riverside
- Bob Pollin, University of Massachusetts-Amherst
- Al Campbell, University of Utah
- Korkut Erturk, University of Utah
- Ingrid Rima, Temple University

**2:30 p.m. (Session B) Room: Sheraton/Evergreen**

### **Heterodox Macroeconomics**

Presiding: Ellen Frank, Rhode Island College

Presenters: Simon Mohun and Roberto Veneziani, Queen Mary University of London, *Goodwin Cycles in the U.S. and U.K. Economies, 1948-2004*

Erik Olsen, University of Missouri-Kansas City, *Marxian Social Accounting and Modeling: A Social Accounting Matrix Approach*

Ron Baiman, Loyola University Chicago, *Down the Tubes We Go: A Detailed Analysis of the 2001-2006 Economic Expansion in Illinois and What it Portends for the Future of the U.S. Economy*

Terrence McDonough, University of Ireland-Galway and David M. Kotz, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, *National Global Neoliberalism and the Contemporary Social Structure of Accumulation*

Discussants: Ellen Frank, Rhode Island College

Howard Petith, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

## **Sunday, January 6**

**8 a.m. (Session A) Room: Sheraton/Pakley**

### **Heterodox Development Economics**

Presiding: Cameron Weber, New School for Social Research

Presenters: T. Krishna Kumar, Indian Institute of Management, Balgalore, India and Sushanta Mallick, Queen Mary, University of London, *Estimating Consumption Deprivation in India Using Survey Data*

Omar Dahi, Hampshire College, and Firat Demir, University of Oklahoma, *Asymmetric Effects of Financial Sector Development on North-South and South-South Trade: Evidence from South American Countries*

Tim Koechlin, Vassar College and Mehrene Larudee, DePaul University, *Wages, Productivity and Foreign Direct Investment Flows: An Empirical Assessment of the 'Pauper Labor Argument'*

Leanne Ussher, Queens College, CUNY, *International Price Stability, Full Employment and Global Balances: The Case for A Commodity Reserve Currency*

Fadhel Kaboub, Drew University, *Elements of a Radical Counter-Movement to Neoliberalism*

Discussants: Cameron Weber, New School for Social Research

Mwangi wa Tithinji, University of Massachusetts-Amherst

**8 a.m. (Session B) Room: Sheraton/Oakley**

### **The Economy and Planning in Cuba Today**

Presiding: Frank Thompson, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

Presenters: Al Campbell, University of Utah, *The Cuban Economy: Continuity, Change and Performance*

Remy Herrera, University of Paris I, *Contemporary Planning in Cuba*

Sinan Koont, Dickinson College, *A Cuban Success Story: Urban Agriculture*

Isaac Saney, Dalhousie University and Saint Mary's University, Canada, *Race, Inequality & Revolution: Lessons from Cuba*

Discussants: Rose Maria Marquez, Pontificia Universidade Catolica de Sao Paulo

Frank Thompson, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

**10:15 a.m. Room: Sheraton/Estherwood**

### **Heterodox Microeconomics**

- Presiding: Frederic Lee, University of Missouri-Kansas City
- Presenters: Gilbert Skillman, Wesleyan University, *The Evolutionary Robustness of Strategic Cooperation*  
 Frank Thompson and Blake Heller, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, *Intergenerational Equity and Sustainability*  
 Cyrus Bina, University of Minnesota-Morris and Chuck Davis, Indiana University, *Technology, Skill Formation, and Universality of Labor Contingency*  
 William Ganley, Buffalo State College, *Micro-enterprises and Heterodox Economic Theories*
- Discussants: Frederic Lee, University of Missouri-Kansas City  
 Ann Davis, Marist College

**12:30 pm. Room: Sheraton/Oakley**

### **Gender and Development (O15)**

Co-sponsored by: **International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE)**

- Presiding: Lourdes Beneria, Cornell University
- Presenters: Ramya M. Vijaya, Richard Stockton University, *Health Care Outsourcing: Implications for the Host Economy*  
 Alys Willman-Navarro, The New School University, *Safety First, Then Condoms: Commercial Sex, Risky Behavior and the Spread of HIV/AIDS in Managua, Nicaragua*  
 Mwangi wa Tithinji, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, *Are Poverty Processes the Same? The Determinants of Poverty Among Female Headed Households in Rural Kenya*  
 Janet Spitz, Alison Konrad, and Adam Cresko, The College of St. Rose, *Gender Development Consequences of Business Globalization*
- Discussants: Stephanie Seguino, University of Vermont  
 Linda Lucas, University of South Florida

## **WANTED: URPE Memorabilia**

### **The Union for Radical Political Economics is turning 40!**

To mark this milestone for URPE, we are planning a history project to include photos, recollections, event flyers and programs, and other general memorabilia.

So go through your closets, basement boxes, and corners of your mind and send in your contributions to the National Office. We welcome any essays or stories that you want to write down in order to preserve the rich history of this important organization.

We also encourage you to send in any old journals and newsletters that may be cluttering up your office. Instead of throwing those things out, send them on to us!

We would like to present the bulk of this material at the January 2008 ASSA's and a finished product at the 2008 URPE Summer Conference, so please contact Frances at the National Office as soon as possible at 413.577.0806 or [urpe@labornet.org](mailto:urpe@labornet.org).

# 2007 URPE SUMMER CONFERENCE

## Reflections on the Summer Conference

The following excerpt is from Jenna Allard's blog. To read the rest of Jenna's blog, go to [www.transformationcentral.org](http://www.transformationcentral.org)

... I traveled to Pine Bush, New York, for my first URPE Summer Conference. This three-day conference was located at Camp Deer Run, and we all discussed economics around campfires and swimming pools as well as in workshops and plenaries. It was a small and relaxed conference – there were about 90 participants, and many of them had been coming for years, if not decades, and saw their old friends every year. I was presenting with Julie Matthaei and Germai Medhanie, and was initially nervous about presenting without a PhD, but I found a nice mix of practitioners and theorists, and some non-economists. Of course, the old “new left” was well-represented, but there were also

members of the new “new left”, and this younger generation of radicals was predominantly involved in grassroots action (and the classically radical leftist activity of union organizing) rather than high theory. Of course there were not as many young women as young men, as I have found before, and I wonder again about the circumstances in our society that might make women less likely to travel alone to a conference they had only heard of second-hand, or more likely to be intimidated at the potential of a gathering that promises to be mostly economists with serious academic credentials.



*Brent Kramer, Ayanna Bledsoe, Marie Duggan and Tami Ohler in a workshop*



*Alex Julca, Manny Ness, Salimah Valiani during a plenary*



*Jim Stanford delivers the David Gordon Lecture*



*Germai Medhanie and Susan Metz look on as Julie Matthaei contributes to discussion*



*Plenary speakers Gwen Mills, Brian Callaci, and Mark Brenner*



*And the hands go up during a plenary*

## Update on Economy Connection, URPE's Resource/Speakers Bureau

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

### Economy Connection: Celebrating 10 Years!

"You mean you are going to turn URPE speakers loose on the public?" asked a skeptical observer in the fall of 1997. Since that time EC has received over 400 requests for speakers, consultations and resources. Sometimes our callers don't follow through, and sometimes we are not able to meet their needs. Nevertheless, these requests have resulted in around 120 speaking or radio events, numerous lists of possible speakers, additional lists of reading suggestions, and many personal consultations with URPE economists on such issues as living wage or tax campaigns. *To help EC expand, please send suggestions of grantwriters and funders.*

### "Gendering War," Rock Hill, South Carolina

On September 24 the Winthrop University Socialist Student Union sponsored an event called "Gendering War," at which Economy Connection member Stan Goff spoke on the theme of his new book, *Sex and War*. Stan, a former Special Forces sergeant, became a Marxist after personally experiencing what the US military was doing to Latin American countries like Haiti. Strongly influenced by feminist authors, Stan argues in his book that "rather than being born that way, men are made into killers by governments, corporations, and systems of power."

Stan reports that he started with "the difference between 'inequality' and structural domination, made a connection between racism and sexism in practice, then looked at gender domination as the model for colonization and ecological destruction." He illustrated his talk with a flash video that he and Audrey Mantey created, called "Conquest: Dimensions of Domination," which can be seen on YouTube. The video shows both classical and modern images of colonization, domination of women, destruction of forests and animals, etc., and concludes that "Masculinity defined as conquest is what links patriarchy, colonization and ecocide."

One student organizer commented: "Stan is a very engaging speaker who is able to break down complex theoretical concepts in a way that is easily understandable. After the event, one young lady told me that she had never felt more like a feminist. Judging from the audible reactions of the audience throughout the event, I'd say that Stan's lecture challenged many other students

as well. I came away making connections between imperialism, racism, gender, and the environment that I had never thought of before."

The W.U. Socialist Student Union discovered URPE through a brochure and conversation with Frances Boyes at this summer's US Social Forum.

### *Reining in the Competition for Capital*

What should a job-hungry state or city do when a giant corporation promises to move there in return for big tax breaks? Long-time URPE member Ann Markusen drove three hours to explore local development strategies at a well-attended public talk hosted by the St. Croix County (Wisconsin) Democratic Party. Ann edited, and contributed a chapter to, a new book on these questions: *Reining in the Competition for Capital*.

Ann has found that in many instances the giant companies getting the giant tax breaks demand secrecy about their deals, might have moved there anyway, create only a small number of jobs, weaken the local tax base, hurt small businesses, and relocate after a short stay. Two factors have made the problem worse in recent years: development policies that were once made by the Federal government or regions have now become the responsibility of states and cities; and an important new industry has emerged: consultants who try to get the best deals for companies.

Ann has some suggestions: Never give tax breaks to large retailers – they would move there anyway, hurt local businesses, and the locality never wins. Level the playing field by insisting on more information and more openness about deals, and don't do the deal unless it is a good one. Ann recommends putting more development effort into nurturing smaller local businesses and cultural projects, and that communities get together so that they can operate on a broader scale.

Event organizer Jerry McAllister felt that this talk generated a lot of energy, gave people much new information, and was the best-received talk of the year.

Another organizer, Cindy Jahnke, would like to put these ideas into practice by following up with more specific information. "What would be tremendously helpful in future talks are hand-outs, talking points, a list of things that we can ask our city council members before a company comes into a community, what we can do, how we can set up our own tax committee."

Ann commented, "They were an amazing group – fun, upbeat, welcoming of newcomers, and really wanting to learn – so we had a rousing discussion for an hour or more."

### Immigration and the Republican Policy Crisis

On June 28 URPE member George Reiter, host of "Thresholds" on Houston Pacifica radio station KPFT, talked about immigration with Greg DeFreitas, URPE member and Staff Director of Hofstra University's Center for the Study of Labor and Democracy. Greg has edited a book that will come out this winter, *Young Workers in the Global Economy*.

The interview took place as Bush's immigration bill was being defeated in Congress, and Greg agreed with most unions that Bush's guestworker proposal is a terrible idea for American workers and a path to further exploitation of migrants. Besides the specifics of the bill, the discussion covered general controversies about immigration, as well as the broader economic context in which current immigration debates are taking place.

In response to a question about whether job displacement is a serious problem, Greg said that on the whole the positive effects of immigration outweigh the negatives. Some jobs are replaced, but immigration increases the job pool – there is more self-employment and immigrants pay taxes and are spending money on clothes, food, etc. Our economy is handling current levels of immigration, but if immigration doubled or tripled, "who knows?" He qualified his response by saying that separately from the ques-

tion of immigration, low-income workers in particular have good reason to be concerned about having a job. We are in a health care crisis, wages have been flat since the early 70's, pensions have eroded, and there is a crisis in the quality of jobs. Workers are concerned about anything that contributes to the dismal job market.

Both Greg and George see immigration in a broader context. Greg feels that trade laws like NAFTA have depressed wages in Mexico and hurt local corn farmers, and have been harmful to workers in both the US and Mexico. Policies that increased standards of living for workers in both countries, and reduced income differences, would also reduce the level of hostility in the US toward immigrants. Focusing on immigration is a distraction from the real issues.

George closed the interview by warning us not to blame the victim for what the system does. "We need to take a look at the system. It's a class system, intended to dominate, and it does."

### Calls for Resources

EC sent reading and speaker suggestions to a high school teacher in Chicago seeking an article on the rules of capitalism; supplied the Institute for Public Accuracy with names of URPE people working on poverty and on corporate taxation; and sent reading and contact suggestions to a California educator fighting school privatization. Members of the Freedom Socialist Party were looking for information on the recent UAW contract negotiations – Rick Wolff, Mark Brenner and Mike Zweig sent articles and ideas.

## 2008 Left Forum: CALL FOR PANELS

March 14-16, Cooper Union, NYC • [www.leftforum.org](http://www.leftforum.org)

URPE will be able to sponsor two panels at the 2008 Left Forum. Individuals can sometimes be placed on panels sponsored by other groups.

Each panel pays \$120 to the Forum. We usually raise this fee by dividing the cost of the panel among the panelists and chair (3-5 people); this panel fee entitles all members of the panel to attend the entire conference without paying individual registration fees.

People who attend the LF 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 2008 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 2008 LF; 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 deciding which panels are accepted.

Please e-mail panel suggestions by December 1 to: [soapbox@comcast.net](mailto:soapbox@comcast.net).

# URPE News and Announcements

## URPE Steering Committee Election Results

The results are in for the 2007 Steering Committee elections. Ballots went out to every member in URPE and 63 ballots were mailed back to the National Office postmarked by the deadline of September 29, 2007. The ballots were counted by Laurie Nosonoff and Frances Boyes on October 14. The following people were elected or re-elected for a three year term ending in 2010: Graham Cassano was re-elected with 52 votes. Marie Duggan was elected with 55 votes, Doug Koritz was re-elected with 50 votes, and Paddy Quick was re-elected with 51 votes. URPE would like to extend a warm thank you to Cyrus Bina who has completed his term with the Steering Committee. Cyrus was a valued member of the committee and his contributions to URPE have been numerous. We wish him luck in his future projects.

Another change to the Steering Committee this year is the resignation of Bilge Erten. Bilge's term is set to expire in 2008 and the Steering Committee has appointed Ayanna Bledsoe as a non-voting replacement for Bilge until the term is over. Ayanna A. Bledsoe is a third year student in the Sociology department at the University of Connecticut. Ayanna is a welcome addition to the Steering Committee and we look forward to working with her this coming year.

If you did not receive an election ballot then your membership may not be current or the National Office may not have your current address. To check on this, please contact Frances Boyes at the National Office, [urpe@labornet.org](mailto:urpe@labornet.org) or 413.577.0806.

## RRPE Editorial Board Election Results

Ninety-two ballots were cast for the RRPE 2007 editorial board elections. Ballots were counted by Alan Day Haight and Hazel Dayton Gunn on September 1. Those re-elected to the RRPE editorial board are Ron Baiman, Al Campbell, Christopher Gunn, Victor Lippit, and Gil Skillman. Those newly elected are: Marlene Kim, University of Massachusetts-Boston; David Kotz, University of Massachusetts-Amherst; Ramaa Vasudevan, Colorado State; John Weeks, Professor Emeritus, University of London.

Our special thanks to those leaving the board: Ann Jennings, Marie Kennedy, Terry McDonough, and Howard Sherman. They served their terms with diligence and humor. We will miss them.

*Hazel Dayton Gunn, Managing Editor*

## Graduate Student Representatives for URPE

This year, URPE, is pleased to announce that we have representatives at three universities. Ryan Dodd is the student representative at UMKC, Michelle Holder will represent URPE at the New School beginning in January 2008, and Hasan Comert is representing URPE at UMass Amherst. These students have expressed interest in various events and projects such as speakers, film series, and discussion groups.

Student representatives are asked to coordinate events at their campus sponsored by URPE in order to generate more interest in the organization. If you or someone you know is interested in representing URPE at your campus, please contact Frances Boyes at the National Office, [urpe@labornet.org](mailto:urpe@labornet.org), 413.577.0806.

## URPE at EEA

As we know, the recent cutbacks of heterodox-oriented sessions at the ASSA conference threaten theoretical diversity in the study of economics. The heterodoxy must stand its ground and to that effect URPE is organizing sessions at the Eastern Economics Association Annual Conference. Deadline for proposals for the URPE panels at the EEA was October 31, 2007 and were submitted to Scott Carter at [URPE\\_at\\_EEA@yahoo.com](mailto:URPE_at_EEA@yahoo.com).

The EEA conference is scheduled for March 7-9, 2008 in Boston, MA. Let's show how a strong presence at the EEA can send a powerful message to the profession!

## Summer Conference Business Meeting Minutes – August 12, 2007

Chair: Paddy Quick

Secretary: Laurie Nisonoff

Meeting called to order at 1 pm. Agenda announced and modified.

### 1. National Office Report –

Frances Boyes, *staff*, Al Campbell, *treasurer*

Budget data was distributed for fiscal year 2007, accurate and complete through July 2007. Profit share from SAGE went up. It was estimated at \$5500 but we received \$25,000. We have found that we are not in compliance with workers' compensation in NY State and we are under review and may have a fine levied against us. Since we only have one employee in that state they seem to believe that we honestly didn't realize the policy change. (Editor's note: This issue has since been resolved for a fine of \$250.)

The current assets total \$136,093.08 and are up from last year (in part due to larger SAGE payment). Mostly in long term CDs.

Only 30 institutions are subscribers through the NO but many others through the journal. There are 290 subscribers and 58 through the national office (without the journal).

Our expenses are higher for the conference this year and our fees are level so we will not be clearing money but more data will be available after the conference.

### 2. Elections

There are four vacancies on the Steering Committee. Graham Cassano and Paddy Quick are running for reelection; we are not sure if Doug Koritz is running for reelection. Marie Duggan is running for the first time. A mail ballot will be sent after the summer conference.

(Later info: Doug is running.) *see page 10 for results*

### 3. Report on the RRPE

Al Campbell, Paddy Quick and Gil Skillman made a brief oral report. The circulation continues to be good. Submission flow continues to be good; the quality may be higher according to Al Campbell. The nature of publishing is changing; we used to sell a subscription directly. Now being sold through bundles; more institutional subscriptions and therefore our profit share has gone up. We do not know if this will continue to be true in the future. We are also interested in more readers and we are hoping that this means that more people have access to the journal. The journal is electronically connected which has led to more "readers" and placed us on J-Stor. We are paid fees for usage. If you are a current journal subscriber you now have access to electronically scanned back issues. The next newsletter will contain information that addresses the question of to whom and how the back issues are electronically accessible.

### 4. Economy Connection

Ruthie Indeck, director of Economy Connection, presented a written report. The audience celebrated EC's 10th anniversary, which Ruthie marked with the preparation of a notebook summarizing the ten years' activity. Members total more than 200, about one-third in the New York area. Many calls for assistance, not all of which result in an activity. Many do, however. Also leads to speakers for panels in New York at the Left Forum and the Brecht Forum. Some are now available via the airwaves and preserved (and can be reached through the website); when the new website is ready more will be available via links. The full report of the past year's activities will be available on the website. Disappointments: members not responding to emails and phone messages which mean that requests cannot be addressed. Other disappointing aspect is the finances of EC. Ruthie would like to hear from anyone who has grant contacts and suggestions about how to fund raise. There was a question about the syllabus project and updating it. There was a suggestion about advertising widely to high school teachers to utilize EC resources. There was also a suggestion that members respond to general requests to appear on local radio stations.

### 5. Announcements

Julie Matthaei announced the formation of the Solidarity Economy Network, US (SEN US) soon and requested that URPE consider becoming a charter member.

Laurie Nisonoff announced the URPE at ASSA program for New Orleans January 2008 and the beginning of planning for San Francisco January 2009. She (Hampshire College) and Fred Moseley (Mt Holyoke College) are the coordinators for the next five years representing the valley. There will also be activities in New Orleans connecting the participants to the community, a panel celebrating URPE's 40th anniversary, and the party.

### 6. Tribute to Jim Garst

Dave Laibman gave a tribute to Jim Garst. Dave spoke about Jim's participation in the plenaries and workshops. He was the institutional memory of the history of URPE and an active participant in the business meetings. His work on housing activism was essential and he was a widely respected expert on Mitchell-Lama law on behalf of cooperators and tenants. Jim was a major lover of the music we do at the summer conferences. Jim's spirit and devotion to the ideals we all hold was lauded and celebrated in the singing of the "Diggers' Song".

The meeting was adjourned promptly at 2pm.

# Union for Radical Political Economics

## ASSA 2009 Annual Meeting- Call for Papers

### San Francisco, January 3-5, 2009

URPE invites proposals for individual papers and complete sessions for the URPE at ASSA annual meeting. URPE welcomes proposals on radical political economic theory and applied analysis from a wide variety of theoretical traditions.

#### **The deadline for proposed papers and sessions is May 1, 2008.**

Proposals for complete sessions are encouraged and should include the session title, a brief description of each paper, and the names, institutional affiliations, and email addresses of the chair, discussants, and presenters. Proposals for sessions should contain four papers. If you are proposing a complete session, please arrange to have discussants for your papers and a chair for your session. As the organizer of this session, you are responsible for conveying administrative information to session members, including confirmation that the session has been accepted, the time and location, and deadlines.

Proposals for individual papers should include the title, the abstract, and the author's name, institutional affiliation, and email. Individuals whose papers are accepted may also be expected to serve as a discussant for a different paper at the meetings. If you list the areas you prefer to discuss, all attempts will be made to match your preferences. Individual papers that are accepted will be assigned to sessions and each session will have an assigned organizer. It is the organizer's job to convey administrative information to session members, including confirmation that the session has been accepted, the time and location, and deadlines. URPE has no paid ASSA staff, so those presenting papers must share the burden of organizing.

We regret that high quality individual papers may be turned down due to the inability to place them in a session with papers with similar themes. For this reason, we strongly encourage proposals for full sessions. The number of sessions we can accept is limited by ASSA, and we regret that high quality sessions may be turned down as well.

Please note that the date, time, and location of sessions is assigned by ASSA, not URPE. You should receive

word from URPE that your paper/session was accepted by mid-June. ASSA will not assign dates and times until much later in the summer.

Please note that anyone who presents a paper (but not the chairs or discussants) must be a member of URPE (except at joint sessions with other groups, in which case they can be a member of the other organization) at the time of submission of the paper or panel proposal. Contact [urpe@labornet.org](mailto:urpe@labornet.org) or 413-577-0806 for membership information. We will confirm membership prior to accepting proposals.

A completed copy of the Program Registration Form is required with your submission. The Program Registration Form can be found at [www.urpe.org](http://www.urpe.org). Submissions will NOT BE ACCEPTED BY EMAIL. Only applications received by the May 1 deadline will be considered.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the URPE at ASSA coordinators:

Fred Moseley, Mount Holyoke College  
[fmoseley@mtholyoke.edu](mailto:fmoseley@mtholyoke.edu)

Laurie Nisonoff, Hampshire College  
[lnisonoff@hampshire.edu](mailto:lnisonoff@hampshire.edu)

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

The URPE website is a valuable resource for heterodox economics teachers and students, economics professionals and the general public.

### Use the website for:

Job Announcements/email Listserv

Teaching tools such as course syllabi

News about our journal, *The Review of Radical Political Economics*

Speakers and Resources from Economy Connection

Back issues of the URPE Newsletter

*and so much more...*

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# URPE Fund Raisers

## T-Shirts

The URPE National Office is currently selling our always popular “Dancing Marx” t-shirts! (pictured in photo) The shirts come in various colors and sizes and are only \$15!

## Red Shadow CD's

No need to adjust your glasses, you read correctly! URPE has copies of the Red Shadow CD from the greatest economics rock & roll band of all time, in our humble opinion. You can rock out once again to old favorites like “Ass with the Class”. These make great holiday gifts at only \$14!

*To order shirts and CD's please contact the National Office at 413.577.0806 or [urpe@labornet.org](mailto:urpe@labornet.org)*

## Join URPE

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

Full membership with the RRPE journal and newsletter subscription: .The cost for an annual subscription is \$30 (Low-income/student) or \$55 all others.

OR

Limited membership with the newsletter subscription only:

The cost for an annual subscription is \$20.

Both types of membership carry EQUAL voting rights in URPE. Membership is renewed on an annual basis. To participate in the URPE sessions at the Allied Social Sciences Associations and EEA meetings, one must be a paid member of URPE.

***Send requests for limited membership and the payment to:***

*URPE National Office, Gordon Hall,  
University of Massachusetts  
418 N Pleasant St., Amherst, MA 01002-1735.  
413.577.0806 or [urpe@labornet.org](mailto:urpe@labornet.org)*

***Send requests for full membership and the payment to:***

*Hazel Dayton Gunn, RRPE Managing Editor  
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