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ASE THE ASSOCIATION FOR
SOCIAL ECONOMICS

ASE Announcement

Welcome Back, Welcome Back, Welcome Back!

Dear Colleagues,

I hope everyone is safe during this horrible Covid-19 pandemic.

It has been 4 years since the last Association for Social Economics (ASE) Newsletter. With lots of people staying at home due to Covid-19, I thought that this would be a good time to revive our Newsletter. It is one more way for us all to try to stay in touch.

We are very fortunate that the energetic and enthusiastic Salewa Olawoye has agreed to edit the newsletter. Salewa has lots of good ideas for increasing communication among ASE members and helping get news about ASE members to a wider audience. If you have ideas for the newsletter or want to discuss possibilities, please feel free to contact Salewa [here](#). Finally, if you would like to sign up or renew your ASE membership, please do so [here](#). Thank you and stay safe.

Steven Pressman, President, ASE

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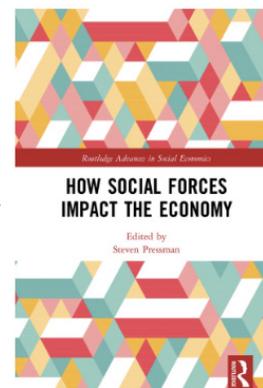
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1) ASSA 2021

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the 2021 ASSA Annual meeting will be virtual. It will hold from the 3rd to the 5th of January, 2021. More information about this conference will be made available in the next newsletter. For now, please check [here](#).

2) ASE Conference Book

Please check out our book, [How Social Forces Impact the Economy](#). It is a compilation of papers presented at the ASE World Congress in Fort Collins that was held during the summer of 2018. The book was just published by Taylor & Francis. This is particularly noteworthy because it is an in-house project that was born out of an ASE conference. There is so much to read up on the social economy in this book.



It is divided into three parts. Part I focuses on microeconomics, bringing individual behaviours and individual entrepreneurs into a more social context. Part II focuses on macroeconomic topics, such as how money and quasi-monomies (like Bitcoins) are social, how money developed as a social institution, and how social forces matter for economic development. Finally, Part III looks at the consequences of considering social factors when it comes to policy: environmental policy, industrial policy, and policies promoting greater equality.

This book is useful to anyone interested in the relationship between economics and sociology, how social forces affect policy effectiveness, human behavior, and the overall economy. Please check it out and get it for your library.

3) Thomas Devine Award Recipient



Evelyn L. Forget is the 2020 Thomas Devine Award Recipient. She is an economist and professor in Community Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba, an adjunct scientist at the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, and academic director of the Manitoba Research Data Centre. Her research has addressed a single question from multiple perspectives: "How can we ensure that everyone has access to the tools and resources they require to live a full life?" Her

policy research has focused on the social determinants of health, and on the role that social policy can play in improving social wellbeing.

She has published many articles, policy reports, book reviews and a couple of books, including most recently *Basic Income for Canadians*. The key to a happier, healthier, more secure life for all. James Lorimer and Sons. (2018) – the second edition is due out in September 2020.

4) Mai Award Recipient

Christine Ngo is the 2020 Mai Award Recipient.

She is an Assistant Professor at Bucknell University. Her research focuses on the political economy approach to development analysis, technological change, and the role of institutions in development processes. She has been a visiting scholar at the United Nations University, World

Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) and a fellow of the Southeast Asia Research Group (SEAREG). She has also consulted for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ).



5) Zoom In: A Snapshot Focus on Caroline Hossein



Caroline Shenaz Hossein is Associate Professor of Business & Society in the Department of Social Science at York University in Toronto, Canada. She is the Founder of the Diverse Solidarity Economies (DiSE) Collective and Tweets @carolinehossein

1. Congratulations on your new film, [The Banker Ladies](#). What motivated the research for this film?

Caroline: The film is based on an 11 years of research on Rotating Savings and Credit

Association (ROSCAs) in the Caribbean and among the African diaspora in Toronto and Montreal, Canada and it was funded by SSHRC and the Ontario Early Researcher Award. The Waters grant at ASE assisted in early focus groups in Toronto, Canada.

The Banker Ladies in Toronto, Canada were the ones who insisted on having a movie because of the stigmatization they experience from society and specifically from the police. They wanted it to “change mindsets” about the ways that the African diaspora contribute to the solidarity economics. The way

Black women – and many racialized women cope under crisis and exclusion- is through these various forms of money pooling from various African, Caribbean and Black Canadian cultures to pilot cooperative systems known in their own languages as *Ajo*, *Hagbad*, *Partnerhand*, *Sol*, *Box*, *Susus*, etc.

The Banker Ladies revealed to me that they feel stigmatized when they participate in these ROSCAs – which are cooperatives – in Toronto and Montreal – two big cities with many Black diaspora women. As a result, the women wanted a documentary film to educate people about mutual aid and money pooling as a way to uplift society. Some of the women wanted to change minds in terms of educating people on ROSCAs as a contribution to civic life so that the Toronto Police stop confiscating their monies when arbitrary raids take place in their apartment buildings.

These women wanted to show that collectively they can come together to help one another by pooling funds. This is a Canadian story about how Black women are contributing to Canada's solidarity economy. So, the goal is to change mindsets and to support and brace ROSCAs in Canada.

2. What is the goal of this film?

Caroline: Together with Haitian-Canadian Esery Mondesir, the Director of the film, we are trying to focus on cooperatives by Black women in Canada. We want to ensure that the concept of mutual aid and group cooperation is part of the Black Canadian experience, as it is often overlooked. We are making this form of cooperative economics better known.

3. How long did it take to make this film?

Caroline: We will carry out a soft launch of the film this summer. This film was scheduled for 2021 but because of the Black protests taking place we wanted to make sure Black cooperative economics is part of this period. The film took two years to cover the life stories of the three Banker Ladies. We wanted a short film that students and society could engage in without taking up too much time. It is government funded and everyone has free public access on YouTube.

4. What has making the film taught you?

Caroline: The film reminds me that the African diaspora – in the Caribbean and Canada have a very long history and expertise in cooperativism. For far too long the formal cooperative sector has ignored ROSCAs and mutual aid groups

such as Susus because of the informality of these institutions. It is the exact informality of these institutions rooted in self-help, politics and goodness that makes these institutions so valuable. The formal cooperative sector should writing into its story the ROSCA story otherwise it is missing the ways in Black people participate in coops in Canada. The women in this film make in pretty clear that they are lifting up Canadian society through a collective model based on comradery, finance and care – and they deserve to be included in any mention of cooperatives in Canada.

6. Dialogos: A Corner for Dialogue and Change



This is a brief interview with Wolfram Elsner. Wolfram is Professor emeritus of Economics at the University of Bremen, Germany. His research focuses on evolutionary and institutional economics, complex socio-economic systems, and regional and industrial applications (clusters and networks). He was

Managing Editor of the Forum for Social Economics (2012-2018), and President of the European Association for Evolutionary Political Economy (EAEPE) (2012-2016). He is now Editor-in-Chief of EAEPE's new journal, the [Review of Evolutionary Political Economy \(REPE\) \(Springer\)](#). Along with Torsten Heinrich and Henning Schwardt, Wolfram has authored the textbook "[The Microeconomics of Complex Economies. Evolutionary, Institutional, Neoclassical, and Complexity Perspectives](#)" (Elsevier/Academic Press). As of the year 2020, he is a trustee of the ASE Council.

The interview was taken by Asimina Christoforou. Asimina is adjunct professor at the Athens University of Economics and Business, Greece. She works on social capital, human development, European integration, the social and solidarity economy, and the role of social values and institutions in the economy. She is a trustee of the ASE Council.

Asimina: We have been living in some challenging times since the 2008 US financial crisis and the current health crisis with the COVID-19 pandemic. How

do you think these crises will change the economy as we know it?

Wolfram: In these times, we can “feel” and “grasp” history, indeed. 2020 is the year of a global “tidal change”. The economic and financial crises have in fact lingered since 2008, if not longer. “Corona” (COVID-19) is making obvious now how much the global structure of powers has changed in the last 15 years or so. There is a new norm, one which had actually taken place 3,000 years ago, and in which China will again represent a third of the world GDP in 2030. (No reason for the West to be scared, in fact.) But “Corona” not only interrupted the global value chains (VACs) of the “old” globalization, it also proved them to be unsustainable. It revealed an endogenous process of De-Globalization that had begun “pre-Corona”, in the 2000s. But NOW Re-Globalization has already taken effect, and thus VACs will have to be rebuilt and restructured. This should be seen as a huge opportunity to combine “health recovery” with environmental and climate recovery in our economies.

Asimina: Do you think these crises will change economics as we know them?

Wolfram: There will now be a huge role for critical economists to accompany this future Re-Globalization, and to mobilize forces for creating a better world. Rather than giving way to any nationalistic reshoring and international fragmentation, as some politicians seem to envisage, we should care for structures of diversification, regionalization, localization, sustainability, along with more agreements of multinational cooperation. But also our domestic economies and public services have proved to be highly vulnerable, after decades of neoliberal economic, social, infrastructural, and organizational degradation. The “markets” proved to be incompetent in delivering inclusive development and equity. At the same time, we are all surprised now how much central bank and fiscal money suddenly seems to be “there” to flood both the financial sector and industrial corporations. We social economists need to prevent a new “Keynesianism” just for the rich by putting just and sustainable value and distribution structures center stage, and by qualifying public, collective, and societal planning and action in the recovery process.

Asimina: What is your view on the expansion of digital technology not only for our research and communication, but also for our academic lectures and our annual conferences, especially due to social distancing during the pandemic?

Wolfram: I personally have enjoyed the new technologies in lecturing, meetings, mini-conferences, or interviews in the last months. At the moment,

we are preparing the annual conference of EAEPE as an online event in September, and the ASSA meetings next January will probably be held online as well. These initiatives will become critical experiments and experiences. Although everyone was able to catch up a bit on her/his writing duties during the early weeks of that “decelerated” time of social distancing, after months of self-quarantine (which for me started as soon as February), I feel a bit “undersocialized”, indeed. For me, one of the “social experiments” was how we could manage to maintain our levels of friendship, commitment, and closeness just by emailing and video meeting. I think we made it. Nevertheless, I always look forward to seeing all friends again in person. Professional associations do have a heavy job now in conceptualizing and organizing the future conference format, perhaps alternating physical and online or always hybrid digital/analog etc., without discounting on meaningful and fulfilling social and professional relations.

Asimina: In closing, please tell us a few words about your current research interests and projects.

Wolfram: Well, I have been doing pluralist PhD summer schools in China for six years, along with western colleagues, whom I brought into this. This experience received some coverage in German media (through talks and interviews) and subsequently turned into a 400pp-book on China that just came out in March ([“Das chinesische Jahrhundert”, Westend publisher](#)) – the first piece of work I wrote in German in the past 20 years. Now I have taken the opportunity of the quarantine to write a second one on the larger field covering US—China relations in the past, present and future of the “post Corona” era. In my research field proper, I have papers forthcoming in various journals on models and applications of informal institutions of cooperation, and on a very topical field, namely institutional collapse. In the latter I develop a theoretical framework to investigate how institutions may collapse endogenously and how this will be symmetric, and then very sudden, compared to their earlier emergence. Finally, the first issue of REPE has just been published, while the next three issues are ready to go.

7) Please Renew Your Membership.

This is a reminder to please renew your membership, if you have not done so. If you are not a member of ASE, please consider joining. Your membership package comes with access to two journals - the Review of Social Economy

and the Forum for Social Economics. Members are provided with online links to past issues of these journals and specific articles can be downloaded for free. Thank you!

Like the Jedi, we have returned. We have revived our newsletter and hope to publish it quarterly. If you would like to submit contents, please contact Salewa Olawoye. Please check us out on [Facebook](#). Be safe out there. We hope to see you on the other side of the Covid-19 pandemic. Enjoy the rest of your summer!



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