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ASE THE ASSOCIATION FOR
SOCIAL ECONOMICS

ASE Announcement

Welcome Back, Welcome Back, Welcome Back!

Dear ASE members

Happy new year to all of you!

Our recent membership meeting underscored to me the importance of ASE as an organization in these times. The energy many of us feel to help to shape economic thinking and policy in these times that are both troubled and full of potential for significant positive change was palpable.

This year's ASSA online conference witnessed a substantial increase in "attendance" over previous years. No doubt this was in part due to the ability of a virtual conference to bring in more people than in-person conferences.

It got many of us thinking about how ASE could embrace the technologies we have now become so familiar with to be a more intellectually visible organization by hosting webinars on topics of interest and to highlight the research of our members. In the coming weeks, I will be working with the ASE leadership team to develop a position(s) of seminar series coordinator. I am grateful to a number of members at the meeting who stimulated this discussion by sharing their excellent ideas with us.

Our journals, the *Forum for Social Economics* and *Review of Social Economy*, are also working on some plans for a series of webinars on how to publish, aimed at supporting PhD students and junior scholars.

An interrelated activity for this coming year is the work of the Equity and Inclusion Committee which is engaged in a self-study of our organization that will culminate in recommendations on how to promote these goals in ASE's

membership, leadership, and functioning. The committee will be coming to you as members to participate in this self-study, and I hope you will embrace their work and invitation to participate.

With warmest regards for 2021,

Stephanie

President, ASE

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1. ASSA 2022 Call for Papers/Sessions

The Multiple Facets of Inequality

The conservative revolution of the 1980s led to significant institutional changes that eroded public interventions in the economy. These changes led to an increase in inequality and both relative and absolute deprivation. Forty years after, no alternative has yet emerged to this conservative “consensus” of the late 20th century. The theme of the 2022 ASE sessions at the ASSA meetings that will take place from January 6 to January 9 will explore the multiple facets of inequality.

For the ASE sessions of the 2022 ASSA meetings, we welcome proposals for papers/sessions on all aspects of social economics, but preference will be given to papers that address the 2022 theme. Possible questions to consider but are not limited to:

- Political economy of inequality.
- Is there a link between inequality and the rise of populism?
- Inequality and the erosion of democracy
- Racial, gender or other identity-based discrimination and their impact on inequalities.
- Income and wealth inequality.
- The importance of inheritance on the life cycle financial outcomes.
- Non-monetary inequalities.

- Inequalities in the benefit/cost of environmental/ecological amenities
- Political philosophy and inequality. What and how much should we equalize?

Proposals for papers as well as complete sessions are welcome. **The submission deadline is May 7, 2021.**

Submission guidelines:

Paper proposals should include: 1) author name, affiliation, and contact information, and 2) title and abstract of proposed papers (250-word limit).

Session proposals should include: 1) session title and abstract (250-word limit), 2) name, affiliation, and contact information of session organizers, 3) titles and abstracts of proposed papers (250 word limit each).

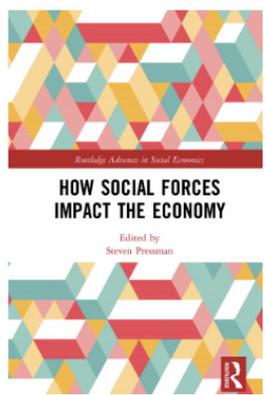
Questions, as well as paper and sessions submissions should be sent to Paul Makdissi (paul.makdissi@uottawa.ca) by May 7, 2021.

Individuals whose papers are accepted for presentation must either be or become members of the Association for Social Economics by July 1, 2021 in order for the paper to be included in the program. Membership information can be found at www.socialeconomics.org.

All papers presented at the ASSA meetings are eligible for the Warren Samuels Prize, awarded to the best paper that advances the goals of social economics and has widespread appeal. Papers can also be considered for a special issue of one of the association's journals, or for edited volumes.

Note: Due to limited session slots, we unfortunately cannot accept all submissions. Papers and sessions not accepted for the ASE program will be automatically considered for the ASE portion of the **ICAPE conference**, which will be held right before the ASSA meetings on January 6. See icape.org for details.

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-moneys (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. New Issue of the Forum for Social Economics Edition

Please note that issue 4/2021 of the Forum for Social Economics is now available online. It can be accessed [here](#)

The featured paper for this issue is:

An Identity-Based Matching Theory Approach to Integration

Merve Burnazoglu

Pages: 108-123

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/07360932.2017.1406387>

The paper will be free to view for six months.

4. Zoom In: A Snapshot Focus on Deb Figart



Deb Figart (Stockton University) is a long-standing ASE member, past president (2006), and previous recipient of two ASE Awards: Divine Award (2015) and Mai Award (2010). She recently received the 2021 Veblen-Commons Award from the Association for Evolution Economics (AFEE) on January 3, 2021. The Veblen-Commons Award is the highest honor given annually by AFEE, in recognition of significant contributions to evolutionary institutional economics.

NL: Congratulations on receiving the 2021 Veblen-Commons Award from the Association for Evolution Economics (AFEE). Please can you give us a bit of information about yourself – life experiences in relation to your research?

DF: Because I support storytelling as an economic methodology. I got a really good question in the Q&A session of the Veblen-Commons address about this. The question was to talk about my story and how it is relevant to my work. Yes, of course, I replied because we all have identities. I talked about being a daughter in a union household. My grandfather was a coal miner and I had uncles who were teamsters. My father was a member of the American Federation of Teachers and my mother was a nurse. Growing up in a union household, unions made a living wage and salary for my family. That got us into the middle class, unlike my grandparents, who were struggling, working-class people in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania. But then I lost my mother. She died when I was 11. So our family income was slashed in half. So immediately, I grew to know of this later, my father was a recipient of Social Security Survivor Benefits for his two children. We were able to receive that until the age of 18.

So immediately, we were supported by a social safety net and that was important to me. I also mentioned that my first television memory was the funeral of President John F. Kennedy; I'm a child of that generation. And a lot of my work in my career, my research, seeks to help my country and help the world be a better place. I talked about that. That gives you a sense of who I am, and how standpoint and identity can affect and shape what we choose to work on in our careers.

NL: We are currently going through a pandemic. I'd like to know your opinion on how we should handle the Covid-19 pandemic, especially in the US.

DF: Well, we should have handled the pandemic better with testing and tracing, a national mask policy and taking lockdowns seriously to try and control the virus like other countries have. We might have had a second wave or a third wave, but they would have been really waves and not this secular increase in the US virus positivity cases and deaths, unfortunately. So testing and tracing is important, masking and social distancing is important. Also, thank goodness there seems to be vaccines coming into markets supported by government policy in the United States and in other countries, either through direct investment or through indirect investment in Big Pharma by guaranteeing that we buy a certain supply. This is not the only medicine or drug where the government has played a role in an industrial policy fashion to try and support advances in Big Pharma or in health care or in other areas. We need a better distribution plan for the vaccine because the companies say the vaccine is rolling out and is being shipped places, but we're having a difficult time getting it into people's arms. So, we need all hands on deck. We need a national strategy, just like we had when we were fighting World War I or World War II. We need to come together, we need volunteers who can put shots in the arm. These can include retired dentists, current dentists, retired phlebotomists, possibly veterinarians, people who know how to give shots, we need to vaccinate them and then they need to vaccinate the rest of us.

NL: That is a pretty good idea, especially with the retired people. Back to something you said earlier about when your mom died and how you got some form of social assistance. What would you say regarding social assistance for the people, during the pandemic?

DF: In my Veblen-Commons address, I had a top 10 list of labour market policies we need to do right now. They are labour market-related policies in that I called for a universal child allowance. Most families do not have enough money for child care, which is a really high expense or to take care of emergencies. We also need things like paid sick leave. I mean in a pandemic

we need paid sick leave. We need paid family and medical leave, which we do not have federally in the United States. I called for a universal free kindergarten because investing in our in a pre K environment helps with childcare costs and helps with child care infrastructural problems because we have a gap with high-quality child care. And it allows children age 3 or so to thrive with other children in a learning environment. I come shy, in my Veblen-Commons address, of a universal basic income. Although I'm not really opposed to a small universal basic income that could be augmented to be topped up in any economic crises like the one we are in, a recession. We need to revise unemployment insurance to help those who are in the gig economy, help those who have gig jobs. There is a lot of things we need to do to support people because what it the role for an economy anyway; without people there would be no economy.

NL: Okay, thank you. Recently, I saw that you are retiring from teaching. How true is this?

DF: That is true I am retiring from teaching only. I am not retiring from writing and researching, I am not retiring from being a public intellectual, I am not retiring from using my research as activism. For example, right now I am working with coalitions to get a public bank supported and passed in the city of Philadelphia, where I live, and also the state of New Jersey where I am currently a distinguished professor at Stockton. So, I will be busy. I just won't be in the full-time classroom and I am open to lectures here and there. Just a different face of being an academic and being a professional.

NL: So that answers my next question. What are the plans for your research post-teaching?

DF: Well, right now Ellen Mutari and I are retiring together. We are engaged in a book project. A large book project, that has taken our 30 years or so experience, teaching economics to social workers and other human services professionals. We are writing a textbook for social work students, non-business majors and non-economics majors. When we go into our social work classroom with a traditional textbook, it talks about self-interest, utility maximization, motives, perfect competition, and how raising the minimum wage causes unemployment. Our social work students say "What?" That is completely foreign to a profession that has heart and seeks to help people. There is a call to fill the need in terms of educating the next the generation of social workers and other human services professionals about the economy, not about the science of economics and not about how to think like an economist, but about the economy, the macro economy and the kitchen table economy.

NL: Thank you.

5. Dialogos: A Corner for Dialogue and Change



This is a brief interview with Silvia Sacchetti. Silvia received her PhD from the University of Birmingham (UK). After ten years of academic experience in UK universities, she joined the Department of Sociology and Social Research at the University of Trento (Italy) as Associate Professor of Political Economy. She also collaborates with EURICSE, the European Research Center on Cooperatives and Social Enterprise. Her research focuses on social economy organizations, as well as the role of creativity, social capital and individual motivations within organizations and local economies. She acts as Co-Chief Editor of the Journal of Entrepreneurial and Organizational Diversity at EURICSE, and as Board member of the European Management Journal. She is a member of EMES and the European Research Board of the International Cooperative Alliance. Her publications include many journal articles and books. Recently, she took part in the special issue of the Review of Social Economy on workplace democracy (2020, Vol. 28, Issue 3) by authoring an article on “The ‘protective function’ of social enterprises” along with colleagues Ermanno Tortia and Vladislav Valentinov.

The interview was taken by Asimina Christoforou, Assistant professor at Panteion University (Greece) and ASE Council Trustee.

Asimina: Researchers and policy-makers are discussing solutions to recovery from the current economic and health crises. Do you think that the social and solidarity economy (SSE) could offer such a solution?

Silvia: The SSE identifies with organizations such as, among others, foundations, voluntary associations, cooperatives and social enterprises. But it actually comprises a variety of organizational forms and even goes beyond formal organizing if we think about it as a movement or as a transformative, inclusive and participatory culture that supports a different way of understanding relations, the use of resources and people's motives. SSE organizations aim at the production of public goods, and more generally at the enhancement of people's wellbeing, by combining formal and informal relations, inclusive forms of organizing and deliberative practices, and multi-stakeholder governance. I discuss further why inclusive organizing is needed in a paper with Carlo Borzaga ("The foundations of the 'public organization'", *Journal of Management and Governance*), and in a paper with Johnston Birchall ("The comparative advantages of single and multi-stakeholder cooperatives", *Journal of Entrepreneurial and Organizational Diversity*). Of course, SSE organizations do not carry out their activities in isolation, but by collaborating with other public and private actors and contributing to a variety of sectors and community services, including health, education, culture, sports and recreation. All these areas have been especially hit by the Covid-19 health emergency, while at the same time supporting the public sector where a centralized health or welfare system cannot handle such a critical situation. An understanding of how these organizations respond to this massive contextual change has the potential of identifying new patterns and paradigms in resource coordination modalities.

Asimina: Apart from the current crises, do you think the participatory and democratic spirit of the SSE can withstand the pressures imposed by the competitive and profit-oriented environment of the global economy?

Silvia: Ideas of inclusivity, solidarity and people's self-actualization are strong in the context of the SSE. But their logic can be extended to other collective experiences and at the level of communities more broadly. When organizing implies the construction of cooperative and practical attitudes that allow a participatory and dialogic approach to choices, we can imagine that this can scale up to the collective sphere. However, the step from individual and organizational experiences to the collectivity is not straightforward. Creating a virtuous circle that can promote a change in people's preferences in favor of inclusion, deliberation and participation can find obstacles within the context of the prevailing economic incentives, which assume high risk of opportunism

rather than goodwill, as well as the absence or irrelevance of pro-social motives. I discuss this issue in a recent article with Ermanno Tortia (“Governing cooperatives in the context of individual motives”, [International Journal of Social Economics](#)). The SSE has an important role in this respect by transcending the production of specific services or goods, and transforming societal preferences toward democratic values, especially in times when these values are under strain.

Asimina: Economics, as it is usually taught in universities nowadays, fail to acknowledge the presence and role of the SSE. What can researchers do to address these “failures”?

Silvia: The interest of students and scholars for issues and organizational modes related to the SSE has increased in recent years. Post-graduate programs and research initiatives have escalated in number. Furthermore, over the last 20-30 years a number of consolidated networks of scholars and practitioners have been established – networks such as EMES, CIRIEC, ASE, the same ICA regional research committees to mention a few, as well as research centers such as EURICSE – and over the years they have identified what elements distinguish the SSE from other modes of coordination. However, I think the time is ripe to work on changing economic theory as well, to revisit well-established concepts and see them under a new light and logic. For example, we should return to questions like what is a firm, what are its boundaries and who should own it, if at all; what is innovation and why does it occur; what is human motivation in undertaking activities and labor. Moreover, it is time to further connect economics and business with the study of social movements, from which some of the SSE experiences are inspired.

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

Silvia: Currently, in my research I am interested in forms of organizing and networking for the creation of public value. I investigate the way in which different modes of organizing in the SSE can contribute to enhance the “vitality” of people, organizations and places within the cultural sector. I am developing this idea of vitality, appraised alongside dimensions of inclusion, participation and the use of creativity. I have just started a biennial project (funded by Fondazione Caritro) to apply these concerns in music education and in particular in the music school system in Trentino Alto-Adige, Italy. The aim is to lay stable foundations for the study of the music schools system in the region through the analysis of formal and informal collaborations and networks that bring together private music schools; public actors (provinces and

municipalities); public training institutes (conservatories, music high schools, compulsory schools, social and health services); private companies in the music, cultural, commercial and leisure industries; foundations and other nonprofit actors. Specifically, the project examines the nature of the activities of the music schools and their ability to generate value (artistic, educational, social and economic) in a context where organizations, musicians, students, and the whole community face important challenges (also following the global health contingency). It also delves into the erosion of the vitality of the music system and of the community. The idea is to map a potentially multi-centric system where diversity and complementarities between organizations and skills can activate unexplored resources and dynamics of community empowerment development, affecting the vitality of people and organizations (private and public).

6. Please Renew Your Membership.

This is a reminder to please renew your membership, if you have not done so. Also, please feel free to circulate this newsletter as a way of spreading the word about ASE globally. 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. Other benefits include permission to present at ASE-sponsored conferences, vote on ASE governance issues, suggest announcements for the ASE Announcements list, and to (optionally) subscribe to ASE journals in print at a special members-only rate. Annual memberships run for twelve months, starting with the date a person joins. Thank you!

A New Hope. 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 Winter!





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