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## ASE Announcement

***Welcome Back, Welcome Back, Welcome Back!***

Dear fellow ASE members

As we navigate the pandemic, climate change, and the growth of inequality and political extremism wherever we are in the world, the work of ASE continues.

Due to the pandemic, our panels at ASSA again in 2022 will be online. Many if not most of us miss in-person contact. That said, the silver lining of last year's ASSA meeting, which was also online, is that the online conference allowed for much greater participation than in-person ASSA meetings typically do. I am hopeful that will be the case this year as well and encourage you all to participate to the extent possible. With that, here are a few highlights from this year's sessions, organized by President-elect Paul Makdissi, who identified this year's theme as "The Multiple Facets of Inequality."

- Plenary Speaker: Francisco H.G. Ferreira (Amartya Sen Professor of Inequality Studies and Director of the International Inequality Institute, LSE), "The Intergenerational Transmission of Opportunity Around the World."
- Presidential Address: Stephanie Seguino, "The Macroeconomics of Stratification."
- Seven ASE Panels:
  - Exploitation and Race (co-sponsored with AFEE)
  - Inequality in the Middle East (co-sponsored with MEEA)
  - Health Inequality
  - Gender Inequality I (co-sponsored with IAFEE)
  - Gender Inequality II (co-sponsored with IAFEE)
  - Topics on Inequality

- o Topics on Stratification, Inequality, and Poverty

More information on the preliminary program can be found [here](#).

ASE's new Equity and Inclusion Committee (EIC) is in the process of finalizing a self-study for review by the EC, which will also be disseminated to all members. I want to thank and applaud that committee, comprised of Belinda Roman (Chair), Jessica Gordon-Nembhard, Zoe Sherman, and Chris Jeffords for the immense amount of work that they have taken on. Having worked on these issues for many years, I recognize that reforms to promote equity and inclusion are exciting and can also sometimes cause consternation because they require us to think differently about how we interact, adopting an equity lens in every aspect of our organization. I hope you will join me in embracing the spirit of transformation that will help to reshape the lens through which we interact and conduct our work—and the dialogue that is needed to ensure we all understand why and how these changes will occur.

A few other things to keep in mind.

Please submit your research achievements by December 1, 2021. Do not be shy about listing all of your achievements. It is important for ASE members to be aware of the themes of the research of our fellow ASE members, building a sense of cohesion and community among us. To submit your achievements, log in to the [Members Area](#) and navigate to “Submit Research Achievements.” There ASE members can submit information about recent publications, presentations, awards, and/or secured grants from the 2021 calendar year.

And finally, ASE has a Youtube page. There, you will see that our journals have created a bank of videos in which authors of recently published, or accepted papers briefly explain the content of their articles. Have a look. Also, our seminar coordinator Iris Buder has posted videos of seminars that have taken place thus far this year. In addition, there is much more content there, including last year's plenary talk by Darrick Hamilton, ASSA presentations from 2021, and much more.

With that, I wish my colleagues and ASE members the best for a healthy and productive fall of 2021.

Warmly, Stephanie Seguino  
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 20<sup>th</sup> century. The theme of the 2022 ASE sessions at the ASSA meetings will explore the multiple facets of inequality.

Please note that due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the 2022 Annual Meeting will be **fully virtual** on January 7-9, 2022 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday). The ASE Plenary Session would take place online on Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022 from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (EST) and the ASE Presidential Address would be online on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (EST).

**2. The ASE YouTube Page is Live!**

Please note that we now have an active YouTube page. It is updated with various talks and panel sessions from many ASE members, including the plenary session and 6 of the panel sessions from the 2021 ASSA Conference. We are live on YouTube [here](#).

**3. Zoom In: A Snapshot Focus on Marcin Czachor**



***Marcin Czachor is Attorney-at-law, the founder of Heterodox Publishing House, and co-founder of the Edward Lipiński Foundation for promoting pluralism in economics.***

***ASE Newsletter: Good day, Marcin. Thank you so much for making up the time to be here today. Please can you introduce yourself?***

**MC:** Yes, first of all thank you for your invitation. My name is Marcin Czachor. I am a lawyer, attorney at law in Poznań, Poland and I am also, in my free time, a publisher. I am a founder of the publishing house called Heterodox Publishing House. From the name of the publishing house, you can say that we are publishing heterodox economists and translating their works to polish. We like to remind Polish readers also that there were some few very important heterodox economists in Poland, Michał Kalecki, Rosa Luxemburg Oskar Lange and Edward Lipiński to name just a few.

I am also one of the founders of the Lipiński Foundation which was created last year. Since 2020, the publishing house, Heterodox Publishing House, has been part of the Lipiński Foundation. We are not only publishing projects but we are also organising summer schools, conferences and right now we are working also on e-learning platform for economists, heterodox economists. It is called Exploring Economics.

***ASE: I noticed you said you are a lawyer. Do you have any economics training? What was your interest in heterodox economics?***

**MC:** First, I have some training in economics because in Poland if you want to be a lawyer, you have to do the basic macro and micro. I have some training in neoclassical economics in Poland. I also finished studies in Campinas, Brazil. And the university in Campinas is one of the few universities in Latin America with a Heterodox Economics department. However, you are right, I am a lawyer by profession so the reason why I am engaged in Economics is not for the scientific reasons because I am not a professional academician. My motivation is political. I was always very connected to labour trade unions. I was working

for Confédération des syndicats chrétiens in Belgium for six years. Now I am connected with Polish trade union called Workers' Initiative (Polish: Inicjatywa Pracownicza or IP). The reason why I am engaged in heterodox economics is that I would like to see in Polish public debate, a more pluralistic vision of Economics of place of the trade unions in this economy. So, this is my motivation behind opening the publishing house, apart from that I really like the history of Economic thought. However, I am doing this purely as an amateur. I am not in any how a professional academician. So, to answer your question, my motivation is basically political.

***ASE: In your introduction, you talked about being one of the founders of the Lipiński Foundation. What is the foundation about?***

**MC:** Edward Lipiński was a very famous Polish Marxist-economist. He was one of the teachers of Michał Kalecki. This is the reason why we choose him to be a patron of our Foundation. The full name of our foundation is Edward Lipiński Foundation for Promoting Pluralism in Economic Science. So, the name says it all. Our aim as a foundation is to promote economic pluralism in Poland and we are doing this by first of all publishing heterodox economists whether foreign or Polish. We also organize conferences. Last year we organised Poznan conference, an online conference on Kalecki and Kaleckian economics. It was a great success. We are also organising summer schools, we organise three summer schools in heterodox economics and now this year we had one MMT summer school, Modern Monetary summer school. We had this in September, this year. This is basically what we are doing. We have two projects that we are working on right now. Except for the publishing projects of course. We are working from few groups in the summertime. We want to construct a Michał Kalecki Monument in the center of Warsaw. Just like Adam Smith has his in Edinburgh, Scotland. We want to do the same in Poland because we think that Michał Kalecki is somebody that we should be proud of. Poland does not have many famous economists. I mean there was Maria Skłodowska-Curie in Physics and Chemistry there was Nicolaus Copernicus. We had very few great mathematicians before the Second World War. Michał Kalecki is a very famous person, he is famous everywhere in the world in economic science except for Poland. In Poland, for some reason, he is completely forgotten and this why last year we organised (together with prof. Louis-Philippe Rochon) a conference on Kalecki and Kaleckian Economics. It was the first step in our aim to remind Polish economists and also the Polish public, Polish readers that we had a very famous economist, Michał Kalecki that he did a great contribution to the theory of affecting demand to Post-

Keynesian Economics. Not only will we construct his monument but we also want to republish his collected works. It is a very big project because the collected works of Michał Kalecki is like six volumes of books. We also intend to publish other books about Kalecki and Kaleckian Economics.

***ASE: Finally, can you please speak more about the project to construct a monument of Kalecki?***

**MC:** We started to collect money for this project because we need a lot of financial means to raise a monument. We already have local support from the Polish Economic Association. This is the important thing. We have support from Professor Jerzy Osiatyński, I think he is the last living student of Kalecki. He is like a guardian of the memory of Kalecki. We are working very closely with Professor Elżbieta Mączyńska. To make it clear: for us, to construct the monument is not so important by itself because it will be just a cherry on the top of the long process. And this long process should be publishing books, organising prizes in honour of Kalecki and so on. It is a big project and construction of the monument is just the last step in this process.

***ASE: Is there anything else you would like to add about what you are working on?***

**MC:** Maybe I will add a few words about our upcoming project. We are building right now an e-learning platform called “Exploring Economics” for Polish heterodox economists. It was already done by our friends from Rethinking Economics and Exploring Economics in Germany. There are French-speaking, German-speaking and English-speaking versions of this website and now we are doing the Polish version. And it will enable everybody to have a basic concept of main heterodox school of thought. Like Post-Keynesian, Marxist, feminist, ecological economics and so on. I think this e-learning platform will be ready maybe in December. I cross my fingers that we will be able to finish this in December.

***ASE: Thank you so much for honouring the interview.***

**MC:** Thank you for the invitation.

#### **4. Call for Papers for the Western Economics Association International Conference**

The Association for Social Economics invites papers for an in-person session at the 2022 Western Economics Association International (WEAI) conference in Portland, Oregon June 29th-July 3rd, 2022. We welcome individual papers on any aspects of social economics as well as proposals for complete sessions centered around a common theme, pedagogical discussions, or panel discussions.

For individual paper submissions, please submit the title, JEL code, and an abstract (250 words) along with your contact information to Jacki Strenio [jstrenio@norwich.edu]. For complete sessions, please submit that information for all papers and authors. Some ASE funding may be available to support graduate student travel for those presenting. Please indicate whether you are a graduate student, and if so, if you're requesting funding consideration. Please see the WEAI website for further information about their 2022 conference.

***Submission Deadline: February 1, 2022***

## **5. Dialogos: A Corner for Dialogue and Change**



***Taking a moment for (self-)reflection...***

***Asimina Christoforou, Assistant professor at Panteion University (Greece) and ASE Council Trustee.***

When we think of dialogue, we often underestimate the importance of the dialogue we have with ourselves: who we are; who we would like to be; and how we can get there. Many authors in the social sciences have stressed that self-reflection is key to our development in every aspect of our life. As researchers we need to consistently question our ideas, actions, methods, and policies and reflect on their implications for scientific and social progress.

Our monomania with homo economicus, which identifies with a natural,

universal, and inevitable truth, prevents us from unravelling the truths of the more complex and dynamic real world, where the economy is socially embedded and value laden. Shedding the skin of the egotistic and unrealistic construct of the homo economicus means that we should be reflecting about the social impact of our behavior in the economy when we act not only as researchers, but also as teachers and citizens. We can only become a better person when we are willing to discuss with and learn from others: those with whom we share a home, a classroom, an office, a community. For example, our concerns about the pandemic should be informed by the struggles of all those who fought for human life, including those who worked in health care, or became ill, or lost their job, or experienced discrimination and violence. By participating in these social networks, where experiences are shared, voices are heard, and solutions are collectively discussed, we can reflect on and redefine our social duties, apart from our individual rights, and therefore restore the “social” within economies and economics – and within economists. We can recall the hybrid research networks discussed in the work of J.K. Gibson-Graham, where researchers and communities can develop egalitarian and democratic values and jointly discuss problems and solutions, rather than relying solely on “expert” data, simulations, and predictions. Hence, self-reflection is a process that is inextricably connected to processes of dialogue with one another, where the “self” depends on the “other”, far from what the artificial concoction of homo economicus would imply.

Of course, many questions remain: How do we cooperate? How do we think and act beyond ourselves, particularly within a market society, which teaches us from the moment we learn how to crawl that the primary goal and value in our lives is the individual? These questions have been at the heart of social economic research. And they may become even more difficult to confront considering the dire conditions imposed by the current health and economic crises. These crises have often been seen as opportunities for reflection and self-reflection, for unravelling the deeper illnesses of our societies, rooted in policies and institutions that showed too much trust in markets and much less trust in our humanity. Yet they create conditions of uncertainty and anxiety that may become too debilitating, so much so that we might reach the point where we think “I am not myself” ... Or is there another “self” emerging? Moulded from current events we may become more active and react to violence against freedom of speech, racial discrimination, or climate change. But in our compelling need to return to what we had considered a normality, no matter how superficial it was, are we at risk of going back to where we were and what we were?

Perhaps the answer lies in maintaining the dialogue, in continuing to engage with processes of reflection and self-reflection. The newsletter and the Association for Social Economics provides us with ways to understand the importance of these processes; to share experiences and voice social needs and concerns; and to serve social objectives of equality and justice. With this opportunity, I would like to express my gratitude to all those who offered their time and insights to take part in the “Dialogue” interviews. Most of them have been wonderful colleagues and friends for years. I was happy to have had the chance to discuss their ideas and research, especially during a time which has kept us apart, yet has brought us together in unravelling Ariadne’s thread in the maze of our economy and society today. I look forward to reaching out to the many scholars in the field of social economics and sharing their insights on the ways to confront the inequalities and injustices brought about by the unfettered functioning of markets.

## 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.

