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## ASE Announcement

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

Dear ASE members,

I hope that your 2023 is off to a great start.

Despite the continued remnants of a global pandemic, this past ASE/ASSA annual meetings in New Orleans went very well. The theme of the sessions were the "Inseparability of economics, politics and social stratification in understanding moral, political economies [link](#)."

We pushed the boundaries of the profession to begin with the fundamental question, which unfortunately is too often not explicitly addressed in our political economy, "what is the purpose of an economy?" The answer to said question inevitably involves an intersection of economics, politics, and social stratifications. With clarity, the tenure of our sessions demonstrated that economics is never strictly positivists and more, economists should proudly state and own their value propositions.

With best wishes,

Darrick Hamilton

President, ASE

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#### 1. Call for Book Chapters

We are looking for book chapter proposals for a special edited book about gender discrimination and misogyny within economics. The preliminary title of the book is **Missing Voices in Economics: Women in Economics** and will be published by [Georgetown University Press](#). The book and each chapter will be blind peer reviewed.

Article summary or abstract of about 500 words in length with an accompanying biographical paragraph of about 150 words introducing the prospective contributor should be sent **by May 1, 2023** to Veronika Dolar via email [dolarv@oldwestbury.edu](mailto:dolarv@oldwestbury.edu). To read more about this call, please click this [link](#).

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

Please note that we have an active YouTube page. It is updated with various talks and panel sessions from many ASE members. We are live on YouTube [here](#).

You can check us out on our other social media platforms: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

#### 3. Zoom In: A Snapshot Focus on Sylvio Kappes



**Sylvio Antonio Kappes is an Assistant Professor of Economics at the Federal University of Ceará, Brazil. He has a Ph.D. in Development Economics from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. His main areas of research are Central Banking, Monetary Policy, Income Distribution and Stock-flow Consistent models. His work has been published in a number of peer-reviewed journals, such as**

*the Review of Political Economy, Journal of Post Keynesian Economics, and the Brazilian Keynesian Review. He is a co-editor of the "Elgar Series on Central Banking and Monetary Policy", together with Louis-Philippe Rochon and Guillaume Vallet. He is the Books Review Editor of the Review of Political Economy. He sits on the editorial boards of the Review of Political Economy, and the Bulletin of Political Economy. He is also a co-coordinator of the Keynesian Economics Working Group of the Young Scholars Initiative (YSI) of the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET).*

ASE NL: Can you please introduce yourself with respect to your work, and your research?

Sylvio Kappes: Thank you. My name is Sylvio Kappes, I'm an Assistant Professor at the Federal University of Ceará, Brazil and my fields of research are all around monetary policy, monetary theory, and Post-Keynesian theory. I am currently working with Louis-Philippe Rochon on a book series. It is called the Elgar series on central banking and monetary policy. In this series, we address issues such as income distribution, social responsibility, and the future of money. We have forthcoming books on dollarization and monetary policy implementation. My main focus right now is on monetary policy implementation.

ASE NL: Can you please explain more on the monetary policy series that you are currently working on?

Sylvio Kappes: Well, the series began in 2019 after the workshop that we organized in Talloires, France, and I was a part of this workshop, organizing the Young Scholars Initiative participation. On the train from Talloires to Paris, I was sitting with Rochon and we decided to publish a book based on the theme of conference, The Future of Central Banking. However, once we started to edit the book, we had the idea of making it a book series because there are so many topics that can be further developed around central banking and monetary policy. Then, we came with the first books which are "Central Banking, Monetary Policy and the Environment" and another on "Social Responsibility", and on "the future of money". There is also another book on "Income Distribution" which will be forthcoming in July of this year. We later invited more scholars to edit their own books on our series. We have many more books to come. Last time we counted, we had 19 books and counting - the already published, the ongoing, and the ideas of future books. So, like a trend, we push a string with an idea for one book, and then it became a book series of 5 books, and now, we have 19 books.

ASE NL: I like the global perspective but I am going to bring it closer home. Can you please speak to the Brazilian case with respect to central banking and the current political and economic situation in Brazil?

Sylvio Kappes: Well, here in Brazil, our central bank has made a really important contribution called PIX, which is an instant payment system. When I introduced that to Louis-Philippe Rochon and some other people, they said "Oh, this is just internet banking and we already have this in Canada" and I told them, "well, we didn't have this in Brazil before". Now, people can make transactions, make deposit transfers from among themselves without any fear and it is instant. This gave a real boost to the economy especially through informal sectors because now it is so much easier to make transactions because a person only needs their cellphone and an internet connection to make any kind of transaction, even if it is one cent. There is no lower boundary. It is instant, it is fast and it is free and has been helping the economy a lot. Now, the Central Bank, like in many other countries, has made lots of extensive monetary policies to help the economy during the Covid crisis, and the government has been doing the same with fiscal policy. Right now, I think that globally, if we want to tackle all these issues, what we need more of, is fiscal policy. Central Banks can work on these fields, it has important contributions to make. All Central Banks and monetary policy actions have impacts on income distribution, on gender, and on the environment, but we know it is not the main driver of all those changes. There is an actor that can change that, it is the government through fiscal policy and I think the reason that Central Banks are discussing all these issues and getting concerned about it, is because in the past years the governments were not paying enough attention to those topics. Since they are pressing needs - taking care of the environment, of income distribution, of inequality - Central Banks are stepping in but not with the best tools, but they're trying to work their way out. It will be nice if governments could give support to Central Banks.

ASE NL: Could one of the reasons for the Federal Government not stepping in be that it wants a re-election?

Sylvio Kappes: Yes, that is one explanation. Here in Brazil, things are even more complicated because with the past President, Jair Bolsonaro, his main intention was to perpetuate himself in power and he even attempted a coup. His supporters attempted a coup 2 weeks ago and so right now our concerns are not exactly economic and what the Central Bank should do. We Brazilians here are more concerned about restoring our democracy and making all the coup attempters pay for their crimes and hopefully imprison Jair Bolsonaro because he really tried to do something that Trump tried to do with the United States.

ASE NL: Regarding the Young Scholars Initiative, what does it offer students, and how it can help the field of economics as a whole?

Sylvio Kappes: Well, The Young Scholars Initiative, YSI for short, is part of the INET, which is, the Institute for New Economic Thinking. It was organized after the sub-prime crisis and all the lack of answers that mainstream economics gave to the crisis, and in an attempt to create a community of critically minded researchers, and also to fund or give money to researchers who usually do not get funded by Banks or research institutions or big think tanks because they are unrelated to the usual status quo which led to the crisis. So, it has a more heterodox perspective. I will say not really radical, but heterodox or open-minded approach. Regarding the Young Scholars Initiative, it is organized on several working groups. I am the coordinator of the Keynesian Economics working group, but we have several other working groups like the Latin American working group, African Economics working group, Political Economy of Europe, Political Economy of East Asia, income distribution, financial stability, law, etc. We have many working groups and what the graduate student or young Professor can do to benefit from the YSI is to first create a profile on the website and with the profile, he or she can see all the projects that are coming along. In the projects, we have webinars, we have reading groups, we have discussion groups, and most important of all in my perspective is that we have participation in main events like the Eastern Economic Association, or the American Economic Association or the FMM Conference in Europe in which we have panels or sessions where young scholars present their work and invited senior scholars make comments on their work, and we also fund students to go to these conferences. We pay travel stipends and accommodation stipends. So, we really foster and fund young scholars' participation in big conferences and bring young scholars together and reach them with senior scholars.

Sylvio Kappes: I want to say thank you for the opportunity to share a little bit of my thoughts.

#### 4. Forum for Social Economics Vol 52, Issue 1 is out

Issue 1/2023 of the Forum for Social Economics is now available online. It can be accessed [here](#).

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



*Karol Gil-Vasquez was born and raised in Mexico City and obtained her Bachelor of Science in Economics and Master of Arts in Sociology from the University of Central Missouri, U.S. In 2013, she graduated from the University of Missouri-Kansas City with a PhD. in Economics. Currently, she is an Associate Professor at the Department of Economics at Nichols College and a Lecturer of International Economics and Research Methods at Boston University. Entering her tenth year of teaching and researching, Karol's work has been presented around the globe and published in peer-review journals and newspapers' articles. An anthropologist at heart, her research reflects an interdisciplinary and postcolonial perspective, which encompasses a variety of interests including Solidarity Economics, History of Monetary Systems, Feminist Economics, Biopolitics, and the Political Economy of Violence.*

*The interview was taken by Asimina Christoforou, Assistant professor at Panteion University (Greece).*

**Asimina:** Do you think the current financial, health, environmental, energy and political crises have questioned the legitimacy of the neoliberal market doctrine?

**Karol:** I do not think that contemporary crises are generating the needed institutional backlash to question neoliberalism's legitimacy. The social sectors able to trigger comprehensive and coordinated movements from the Global North and South seem to be suffocated, unable to challenge the unprecedented inequality and violence embedded in the market doctrine. These social spheres inadvertently contribute to neoliberalism's institutional malleability and start to embrace self-destructive ideologies that question the notion of humanism, as we know it. However, their critiques do not dive into the bourgeoisie nature of the latter as stated by Karl Marx and Michel Foucault. Institutional changes have severely deteriorated the social fabric over decades. Reconfigured societies find solace in the market (through conspicuous consumption) and/or bizarre discourses that try to make sense of the complex everyday living of pauperized existences. I argue that these narratives replace the countervailing forces that used to provide concrete criticisms to capitalism. When societies experience severe ruptures—such as the 2008 Global Financial Crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and Ukraine's geopolitical conflict—the triumph of imbecile institution strengthens, coining Thorstein Veblen's notion on the victory of the unthinkable over life and culture. More than questioning neoliberalism's legitimacy, unfolding narratives of social rupture reinterpret social, political and cultural changes with extremist rhetoric. Before any meaningful institutional change takes place, I strongly believe that we are moving into radicalism and extremism, a tendency that corners individuals into the dark spaces of dehumanizing processes. These processes are assisted by the unstoppable direction of digitalization and financialization, which expand the scope of unregulated social interaction, and thus change the meaning of social relationships and open venues to produce the subjectivity of neoliberalism, as opposed to pushing against it.

**Asimina:** In your opinion, how have these crises affected our perceptions and experience of gender identity and gender inequality?

**Karol:** Over the last decades, my perception is that the agenda of gender inequality experienced waves of commodification. Women's liberation has been predicated in the Global North and primarily in the labor market arena. In a sense, the rights of so-called privileged-professional-non-racialized females are more friendly to mold by the market doctrine by translating them, for example, into breaching the salary gap for women. In this wave, the private sphere has been forgotten, and issues of domestic violence and severe deteriorations of the care economy, especially among African, Hispanic and Native American women in addition to migrant women, have been placed under the rug by policy makers. In countries of the Global South like Mexico, one observes the contradiction between the private and public spheres brought by contemporary crises: while accomplishing a mild degree of economic independence via meager earnings, *maquiladoras*' women find no support to sustain the care economy, which has fallen entirely on their shoulders. In addition to working endless hours, women experience abuse in their homes. The endemic neoliberal violence of the bifurcated labor market combined with economic austerity resurfaces with the infamous case of the *Muertas de Juarez* that captured world attention thirty years ago. Commodification moves forward into dehumanizing processes, particularly in social groups of the Global North and the Global South where former mechanisms of colonization and racial hierarchies were implemented. In the rubric of gender identity perhaps we have somewhat good news. I align with Jemima Repo's definition of gender posited in the *Biopolitics of Gender* (2015, Oxford University Press). Gender represents an instrumental category to re-organize identities and fit the purpose of one of the primordial institutions of population control: bodies' subjugation. During the neoliberal era, LGTB's movements have taken off worldwide, and the LGTB community is widening the spectrum of resistance to certain institutional crises, including the tremendous set back on reproductive rights with the criminalization of abortion in the U.S.

**Asimina:** Of course, there are social movements and local initiatives of solidarity and resistance, as you have shown in your work on Latin America. How can these experiences inspire all of us, young and old, to promote change?

**Karol:** When discussing the narratives of despair that indirectly endorse neoliberalism's violent nature, I specifically refer to the mainstream population (urban, educated, or semi-educated, and highly connected to the market) from the Global North and South. On the other hand, it is inspiring to observe the narratives launched by the most marginalized populations across the globe that continue to bloom despite their historically deprived agency. In the Global

North, resistance is propelled among the most disfranchised, including immigrants and racialized populations, such as the Black Lives Matter and the Standing Rock Movement of the Sioux Nation in the United States, as well as the Global Reparation Movement. In Latin America, profound resistance to neoliberalism and neocolonialism is present. In 1994, the Zapatista uprising claims that 'a world where different worlds fit is possible,' a world that identifies with alternative logics, which are non-Eurocentric, non-teleological, and draw from the ancient institutions of reciprocity, community, and solidarity economics, and so-called primitive money. Tzotzil, Tzeltal, and Chontal militants decry the destructive impact neoliberalism would have on Mexican society. A little-known fact is that Latin America's most popular indigenous movement was led by Commander Ramona, a former street vendor who became the coordinator of the military assault that caught the world by surprise. Institutionally, their ceremonial mobilizations materialize with enacting the Revolutionary Women's Law, a carefully designed instrument that enlarges indigenous women's space as political entities. In Bolivia, indigenous mobilizations capture national political representation with Evo Morales' inauguration. In Chile, Dr. Elisa Loncon, Mapuche activist, has been elected as the president of the New Constitutional Assembly's president in 2021. It is about time to pay close attention to indigenous mobilizations around the world. They voice a deep critique to the market doctrine, and they share the 'Other's' wisdom, breaking the dichotomy between pragmatism and ceremonialism, which is embedded in their ancient institutions. These can assist in restoring humanity, not humanism. The 2018 first presidential indigenous candidate of Mexico, Maria de Jesus Patricio Martinez (Marichuy), invited Mexicans to indigenize themselves. Let us indigenize ourselves around the world, meaning, deracialize the indigenous concept, learn from their ontologies, philosophies, perspectives, and begin constructing a real alternative. I believe this is the starting route for young and old alike to promote meaningful change towards a post-neoliberal reality across the Global North and South.

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

**Karol:** This year I am determined to first complete ongoing projects in order to move into new research interests. My first objective is collaborating with Dr. Alicia Giron to publish the Forum for Social Economics's Special Issue entitled "Social Reproduction and Biopolitics", which focuses on analyses that relate violence to the sphere of reproduction in order to link contemporary social issues with neoliberalism's empowerment. The second project consists of organizing, along with institutional economists, a great 2023 AFIT Conference in Tempe, Arizona in April. Regarding publications, I have several collaborative manuscripts in the making that I would like them out of the oven. There are, for instance, two manuscripts co-authored with Dr. Wolfram Elsner on contemporary Death Cults. These papers shed light on the narratives of despair and social extremism being emboldened by the market doctrine in Mexico and Ukraine. Even though these topics are difficult to tackle, I've gained tremendous passion for its inquiry after being exposed to Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari's *Anti-Oedipus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia* (1983, University of Minnesota Press). There are also drafts on indigenous women and citizenship as well as a study on food insecurity. Moving forward, I would like to finally delve into my dissertation to rescue the postcolonial study of monetary systems in an effort to contribute to building with my two cents an alternative paradigm in the Global South. Finally! I would like to humbly thank the ASE newsletter committee for their interest in my perspectives. I really appreciate their willingness to share this vision.

#### 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](#) for more announcements. Be safe out there as we adjust to life in these COVID-19 times.





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