



Newsletter of the Economics Conference

Part of the Social
Sciences Section of the
School of Spiritual
Science

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Editor

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The aim of this publication is to encourage colleagues within the School of Spiritual Science to meet, share their work with one another, and where possible build a common culture in this field. It offers commentary, reports and news from a spiritual scientific point of view and provides a link between those who approach modern economic life in this way.

Associate does not proselytise or establish a 'party line' as regards the School of Spiritual Science and modern economic life. Responsibility for the views expressed, as also for their accuracy, rests solely with their authors.

Contributions should be as succinct as possible. Where appropriate, the editorial right is reserved to publish abstracts with a fuller version available on request. Contributors are asked to provide their name, profession and address.

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Next Dornach Meeting

The next meeting in Dornach will take place 27 and 28 September (changed from mid-August), immediately prior to the Michaeli Conference. The re will be a twin focus – completing our overview of the Economics Course as a whole (Lectures 8-14) and looking at its link to the fundamental social law. The Rudolf Steiner Nachlass has kindly agreed to lend four of the original blackboard sketches, which will be on show on our venue, the Nord Atelier.

The Work of the Economics Conference

The work of the Economics Conference within the School of Spiritual Science, is beginning to grow, for example by way of inter-section projects within the School related to teaching economics, the funding of education, and the economics of farming. Like the Social Sciences Section itself, the Economics Conference is conceived on a worldwide basis so as not to gainsay or preclude the work done in various countries around the world. The spirit is to act in an inclusive manner, to bring together people with diverse karma in this field but who use the term associative economics, with a view to building a 'literature' of use to a wider audience, a project that requires increased working together. The meetings of the Economics Conference are thus not meant as platforms for statement-making. Their main purpose is to bring together those responsible for associative economics in order to better understand what one another is doing, how and why, in order that we may carry one another in our thoughts. Hopefully, our several endeavours will gradually come to reflect a commonality of perspective, without which, arguably, associative economics will not find the strength to withstand the materialism currently underlying much of modern economic life.

The Economics Conference in UK

A series of research days are being held in the UK convened by Christopher Houghton Budd and Arthur Edwards. In 2005, the first, in July in London, was given over to the question of how to teach economics in schools. At what age? Does the Waldorf curriculum lend support? Does one include Steiner's work? What is the appropriate stance to market economics, so much of which negates the associative spirit? The second day, in October in Stroud, explored the nature of gift money. What did Rudolf Steiner mean by this term? Is a donation necessarily gift money? Where is loan money converted via gift money to purchase money, to put Steiner's case in a nutshell? Does the phenomenon exist in our times? Several days are planned this year, including a look at the historical-esoteric background to London's financial district.

The Economics Conference in North America

Following questions concerning the Economics Conference raised in August 2005 at the Social Sciences Section meeting in Ann Arbor, a series of conference calls have taken place with several members of the School who represent associative economics in North America. The initiative is being led by Pamela SophiaJohn from Columbus, Ohio, the idea of fostering increased collegueship among those who carry outer responsibility for associative economics in their various ways. A wider gathering concerning the development of the Economics Conference was also held in San Francisco on 5th February, attended by some 30 people.

Steiner in Mainstream

In mainstream economics in the Anglo-Saxon world, at least, Rudolf Steiner is conspicuous by his absence. But a change may be underway. In 2004 the *Journal of Economic Literature* carried a notice of the publication of 'Rudolf Steiner. Social and Political Science: An introductory reader. Compiled by Stephen Usher and published by Rudolf Steiner Press, Sophia Books, 2003.

In January 2006, Christopher Houghton Budd gave a paper at London School of Economics - *From closed to open to closed again: How are we to think in a one-world economy?* - that made deliberate and direct reference to certain of Rudolf Steiner's methodological considerations. The context was an on-going seminar of academics concerned with the increasingly abstract nature of economics and its over-reliance on mathematics. It would be good to know of other formal references to Steiner's work, if anyone knows of any please send details to economics@goetheanum.org. While not the favoured medium for many anthroposophists, it is clearly important to bring Steiner's ideas into such realms.

Comparative Study

Marc Theurillat's comparative study of current orthodoxy and Steiner's ideas (see previous issue) is now available in a first draft in English. If you would like a copy please write to: economics@goetheanum.org.

Re-thinking Farming Economics

A discussion has begun with Nicholai Fuchs of the Agricultural Section concerning the possibility of developing an economic approach to farming based on the idea of the farm as an individuality or organism. The idea would be to develop further the way farming is treated economically in practical terms that could also result in alternative macro policies for it is often the latter that hinder micro efforts.

Accounting Research

A research gathering into the nature of accounting from a spiritual scientific point of view is being planned for Canterbury, England later this summer (probably second half of July). If you would be interested to take part or know of relevant material in this field, please contact: economics@goetheanum.org.

List of Participants

Britain

Clark, David
Edwards, Arthur
Hallam, Michael
Houghton Budd, Christopher
Metcalf, Bettina

Canada

Allen, Debbie
Beaucage, France
Doray, Marguerite
Ponec, Blanka

Dominican Republic

Meier, Christoph

Finland

Kaufmann, Eric

Germany

Christoph, Moritz
Eisenhut, Stephan
Grass, Willi
Habisreiter, Dr. Horst
Hardorp, Dr. Benediktus
Henrich, Uwe
Hofmann, Christoph
Kolass, Benjamin
Kuebler, J. Christopher
von der Linden, Winfried
Noest, Jan
Roesch, Ulrich
Seidel, Hans-Joachim
Siebeck, Detlef
Spehl, Prof. Dr. Harald
Vollmer, Jutta
Zuecker, Helgo

Luxemburg

Schank, Aender

New Zealand

Saunders, Glen

Romania

Botez, Dan

South Africa

Wigand, Martin

Switzerland

Bessau, Elisabeth
Biemond, Rembert
Bracher, Elisabeth
Desaules, Marc
Frischknecht, Waltraud
Grandjean, Anita
Heinrich, Alfred
Mackay, Paul
Osmer, Jesse
Pianta, Luciano
Theurillat, Marc

Thailand

van Willenswaard, Hans

USA

Chotzen, Kim
Freeling, Meg
Osmer, Daniel
Papic, Keiko
SophiaJohn, Pamela
Woutersen, Tiemen