

The Biennial International Conference

“The Future of Europe”

∞ 14-15 November 2014 ∞

Abstracts due by: **June 1st, 2014**;

Papers due by: **September 15th, 2014**

Panels description:

2014 Future of Europe Conference Panels Description

Institutions, Policies and Regulation

It has been six years now since a devastating financial and economic crisis rocked the global economy. The world witnessed a systemic failure of financial regulation: senior policymakers repeatedly enacted and implemented policies that destabilized the global financial system. Supported strongly by the G20 process, international regulators led by the Financial Stability Board have been working hard ever since to develop new regulatory standards designed to prevent a recurrence of those events. And this is just the latest in the financial sector; what about commerce, agriculture, taxation, labor...? Can we find an answer to today's economic problems in Institutions, Policies and Regulation (or maybe their source)? And if so, which one is it: regulation, reregulation, deregulation, state interventionism, free market...? We invite researchers to ponder and share with us their ideas upon these questions.

Quantifying the crisis

The financial and macroeconomic turmoil in the last years increased the need for better measuring techniques in a large spectrum of fields ranging from asset pricing and optimal portfolio management to risk management and the implications of recent macroeconomic policies. On the one hand, we are witnessing the development of tools in the field of signal processing through the differentiation of continuous and discontinuous components based on high-frequency data, the inclusion of big-data analytics in the measurement of price reaction to news, the emergence of new risk management indicators based on new stylized facts and the adjustment of “standard” measures to encompass the new dynamics. On the other hand, a series of empirical gauges are aiming at quantifying the market reaction to the stimulus measures and at providing a framework for further macroeconomic model development that includes heterogeneous agents and the propagation of shocks to both the real economy and the financial sector. In search for answers to those issues and for new relevant questions, we invite researchers to present their work in fields like financial econometrics, asset pricing, risk management, macroeconomic modeling and others.

Business in Crisis

The business cycle triggers a significant impact on the way firms operate on the national and international markets. Starting with their operations management and reaching their strategic approach, the succession of booms and busts impose constraints yet also allow liberties that challenge the management as well as any other category of stakeholders. We invite researchers to explore such issues related to management, marketing, business strategy, business negotiation, accounting, corporate finance and corporate governance and to attempt focusing on the impact of the business environment on firms, especially during the difficult macroeconomic context of crisis. From moral hazard to government bailouts, we are convinced that economics has a lot of free knowledge to offer to decision makers in private entities. A particular but not exclusive topic of interest would be the way we understand business failures. Theoretical models as well as case studies are welcome.

Euro-skepticism: Praxeological Insights

The recent – and seemingly never-ending – crisis has shown not only global imbalances and weaknesses, but also – and more specifically – the weaknesses of the European Union. And what is spectacular about that is the fact that even the showcase institution of the system – the EURO based monetary union – has been to an important extent demystified. The plight of Greece together with the ever present danger of a similar crisis for other peripheral European states has clearly shown not only that the Euro and EU membership are not necessarily obvious positive goods, but that they might actually be "positively bad", so to speak. It is high time that one looked once again at the phenomenon of Euro-skepticism and asked whether it is a completely groundless attitude fit only for extremists, fundamentalists and eccentrics. And this for the whole spectrum of alternatives: from the radical “out of EU altogether” variety to the “inside Euro-skepticism” (we might call it) for which a reshuffling of the European construction along the lines of a more loosely integrated politically – but strongly integrated economically – union is the path to follow. For this section papers covering a wide range of topics are expected and welcome, provided they shed a new light on relevant aspects of European integration: from the general theory of economic and political integration, to monetary theory, to international trade and trade policy, environmental issues, regional and cohesion issues, development, growth, stability and countercyclical measures etc. The focus is not only on theory, but also on applied theory and historical issues or case studies. It is recommended – although non-compliance is not necessarily a defeater – that the twist of the paper should address the Euro-skepticism topic. At the same time, the panel tries to gather as many contributions as possible based on the Austrian school paradigm, especially the praxeological paradigm developed by Ludwig von Mises.

Crisis: The Interdisciplinary View

The global crisis of the recent years has brutally exposed the deficiencies of mainstream economics. Media and a number of academics have focused on the inability to predict the crisis and the corresponding inadequacies of the economics profession, expecting a sort of self-criticism and reconstruction from within the discipline. In the case of mainstream economics, however, the result was the opposite: a passionate defense of the existing frame of analysis based on the assertion that the discipline's principles remain adequate but they need to be better and more realistically applied. Similar minor modifications to analytical frameworks have emanated from the international financial institutions which have in fact advocated for more policy

precaution and wisdom rather than fundamental rethinking. Under such circumstances, this panel will probe much deeper into the multiple aspects of the crisis of economic science, informed by the perspectives of (classical) political economy that have long been ignored and marginalized by the mainstream, whether deriving from non-conventional and heterodox economics or from the treatment of the economy from across the social sciences. Accordingly, we are seeking contributions in relation to the following major topics: the role of methodology in the critique of mainstream economics; the challenges to, and potential for, interdisciplinary research in promoting alternatives to the mainstream; the ways in which theologically-inspired economics could provide consistent insights into the nature, causes and remedies of both the economic crisis and the crisis of economics.

Synergies in business communication. Training, education and research.

Business communication is a synergistic field where effectiveness is given by knowledge from diverse fields and by aligning its best practices with the rapid pace of the world today. This section of our conference welcomes papers focusing on (but not restricted to) topics related to the following main areas: the intercultural dimensions of business communication; language training, education & research; education through (inter)cultural and literary studies; languages and business opportunities; research methodologies and professional development; technological impacts on language learning. Some of the following questions may be useful guidance to what we hope to achieve in this section:

- How can language training, education and research meet the challenges of Europe 2020?
- What do relevant skills mean in specific work contexts and how can they be acquired?
- How can teaching international business communication be re-defined in order to help ease the turbulence of today's world?
- How can research in business communication become relevant for actual (best) practices?

Translation studies / Traductology and Terminology in Business and Economics.

With globalization the buzz word of the century, business is conducted more often than not at levels that exceed a country's boundaries. Consequently, business communication is bound to involve the use of at least one or two foreign languages, if not more. This conference section invites papers dealing with research in theoretical and practical aspects of translation and interpreting, and terminology papers focused on language for economics and business, as well as any other specialized language. The section aims at promoting research and strengthening cooperation between universities and institutions teaching and researching those specific fields. These are but a few questions that we hope to answer:

- How can translation and interpreting bridge gaps between cultures and markets across continents?
- What are the newest refinements in professional standards related to translation and interpreting?
- How does terminology work affect the success of business activities?
- What are the newest research trends in translation, interpretation and terminology?

- How can they be incorporated into study programs meant to develop highly skilled business communicators?

Diaspora Worldwide and in Today's Europe (NEW)

The newest developments in communication, technology and transportation increased people's mobility and ability to connect globally thus adding new flows of immigrants to the previous groups of refugees, exiles or people in search of economic betterment. Countries of the so – called First World in general, and those of Western Europe in particular, are visibly the preferred destinations of immigrants from both other European states, especially from Eastern Europe, and countries belonging to other continents, mostly from Asia and Africa. In no time, migration has become a feature of our modernity challenging hegemonic conceptions of 'nation', 'nation – state', 'the people', and 'national identity'. In an era in which Europe is working towards the consolidation of its common policies while still respecting the boundaries of its 'nation – states', the presence of diasporic groups and communities triggered by international migration raises challenging questions regarding the future of the composition of its population and the consequences of these changes at legal, cultural, social, and economic level. With multiculturalism still a debatable issue, Europe has to identify ways in which diasporas can be accommodated without being assimilated. Diasporans who now live 'in –between' worlds, in a 'Third Space' in which new identities are negotiated and re – defined, boundaries/borders are blurred (Homi K. Bhabha 1994) forcing new hybrid forms and cultural diasporization (Stuart Hall 1990) to occur as part of interculturality. Apart from cultural transformations, diasporas also contribute to the economics, politics and the policies of both the states in which they settle ('host' countries, countries of settlement) and of their 'homelands'.

This section aims at understanding contemporary society by incorporating various meanings of 'diaspora' and of its consequences in all its aspects. Therefore, scholars from various disciplines are invited to contribute with papers that explore new interpretations and new contexts of 'diasporas' in Europe as well as worldwide.

Below are just a few questions to which participants are free to add their own:

- How is diaspora represented in literature and the arts? How are collective memory and trauma, spatiality, temporality, hybridity, double consciousness, and (un)belonging reflected in works of art?
- How is the usage of the mother tongue of diasporans affected in the host country? What changes in the context of second and third - generation immigrants? What are the realistic measures that can be taken in order to overcome this shortcoming and facilitate diasporans' adaptation/integration?
- How do remittances affect the relations between the host country and the home country in the context of globalization and transnationalism?
- How can diasporans be represented by the legal system of the host society? One may discuss the issue of citizenship and the rights of immigrants.
- What is the status of the diasporic women in the country of destination? 'Agency'/lack of agency or the desire to return 'home' can be emphasised.