



SECTION ON SOCIO-ECONOMICS NEWSLETTER

December 2006

Number 27

Section on Socio-Economics Annual Meeting Program

Wednesday, January 3, 2007

*Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC **

(Co-Sponsored by the Sections on Contracts, Minority Groups, Poverty Law, Women in Legal Education)

Socio-Economics and Economic Justice

Ralph Nader to Speak on “Reversing the Contractual Destruction of Markets”

- 8:45 - 9:00 Welcoming Remarks
- 9:00 - 10:10 Deans’ Forum on Socio Economics and Economic Justice
- 10:20 - 11:20 Concurrent Sessions
 - 1. Ecological Law and Economics
 - 2. Theology and Socio-Economics
 - 3. Corporate Governance Fiduciary Duties and Social Responsibility
 - 4. Norm Creation, Globalization, and the Regulation of New Technologies
- 11:30 - 12:30 Teaching Socio-Economics and Economic Justice
- 12:40 - 1:50 Luncheon Address: *(Tickets must be purchased from AALS in Advance!)*
Ralph Nader: “Reversing the Contractual Destruction of Markets”
- 2:00 - 3:10 Socio-Economic Perspectives on Black Reparations
- 3:20 - 4:20 Concurrent Sessions
 - 1. Socio-Economics and Wealth Distribution
 - 2. Katrina and the Destruction and Rebuilding of New Orleans
 - 3. Criminology and Socio-Economics
 - 4. Socio-Economics Perspectives on Development
- 4:30 - 5:00 The Future of Socio-Economics

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Ralph Nader to Speak on Reversing the Contractual Destruction of Markets

*(Tickets must be purchased
from AALS in advance.)*

Mr. Nader’s luncheon address will explore recent trends in the judicial treatment of form contracts, and propose reforms that law teachers can champion to reverse the growing disempowerment of the people in the markets for goods and services.

* For more information, please contact Robert Ashford, Program Chair - AALS Section on Socio-Economics, Syracuse University College of Law Syracuse, New York 13244; Tel (315) 677-4680; rhashford@aol.com

*** Please copy, post, and send to interested persons. ***

Annual Meeting Preliminary Program
Wednesday, January 3, 2007

Socio-Economics and Economic Justice

- 8:45 - 9:00 Welcoming Remarks**
Philip Harvey (Economics and Law, Rutgers - Camden, Section Chair)
- 9:00 - 10:10 Deans Forum on Socio Economics and Economic Justice**
Roger Dennis (Provost, Rutgers)
Dennis Honabach (Northern Kentucky)
Donald Polden (Santa Clara)
Ed Rubin (Vanderbilt)
Emily Spieler (Northeastern)
Kellye Testy (Seattle)
- 10:20 - 11:20 Concurrent Sessions**
- 1. Ecological Law and Economics**
Nicholas Ashford (Chemistry and Law, Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
David Driesen (Syracuse University)
- 2. Theology and Socio-Economics**
Alfreda Robinson (George Washington)
Cynthia Fain (Thurgood Marshall)
Herbert Fain (Ethics, School of Divinity, Thurgood Marshall)
Carlton Waterhouse (Florida International)
- 3. Corporate Governance Fiduciary Duties and Social Responsibility**
James Hackney (Northeastern)
Robert Hockett (Cornell)
Demetri Kantarelis (Economics - Assumption College)
Nell Minow (The Corporate Library)
- 4. Norm Creation, Globalization, and the Regulation of New Technologies**
June Carbone- Moderator (Missouri - Kansas City)
Martha Ertman (Utah)
Michelle Goodwin (De Paul)
Kevin Outterson (West Virginia)
- 11:30 - 12:30 Teaching Socio-Economics and Economic Justice**
Robert Ashford (Syracuse)
Lynne Dallas (San Diego)
Jeffrey Harrison, (Florida)
Emma Coleman Jordan (Georgetown)
- 12:40 - 1:50 Luncheon Address: (*Tickets must be purchased from AALS in Advance!*)**
Ralph Nader: “Reversing the Contractual Destruction of Markets”
- 2:00 - 3:10 Socio-Economics Perspectives on Reparations**
Anthony Cook (Georgetown)
Adrienne Davis (North Carolina)
Charles Ogletree (Harvard)
Alfreda Robinson (George Washington)
- 3:20 - 4:20 Concurrent Sessions**
- 1. Socio-Economics and Wealth Distribution**
Morris Altman (Economics, Saskatchewan, Editor - Journal of Socio-Economics)
Jonathan Forman (Oklahoma)
Charles Whalen (Economics, Labor and Employment Relations Association)
- 2. Katrina and the Destruction and Rebuilding of New Orleans**
Mitchell Crusto (Loyola)
Jim Chen (Minnesota)
Jordan Kurland (Association of American University Professors)
D. Aaron Lacy (Barry)
Deleso Washington (Barry)
- 3. Criminology and Socio-Economics**
William Black (University of Missouri - Kansas City)
Dr. Wil Burns (Santa Clara)
Jacqueline P. Hand (Detroit)
Dr. Louse Shelley (Director, The Transnational Crime and Corruption Center)
- 4. Socio-Economic Perspectives on Development**
James Angresano (Economics, Idaho)
Carmen Gonzalez (Seattle)
Philip Harvey (Economics and Law, Rutgers - Camden)
Demetri Kantarelis (Economics - Assumption College)
- 4:30 - 5:00 The Future of Socio-Economics**
Morris Altman (Economics, Saskatchewan, Editor - Journal of Socio-Economics), Richard America (Economics - Georgetown), Robert Ashford (Syracuse), Bill Black (Missouri-KC), June Carbone (Missouri - KC) Anthony Cook (Georgetown), Lynne Dallas (San Diego), Roger Dennis (Provost, Rutgers), James Hackney (Northeastern), Jeffrey Harrison (Florida), Phillip Harvey (Ph.D. Economics, Rutgers, Camden), Dennis Honabach (N. Kentucky), Emma Coleman Jordan (Georgetown), Demetri Kantarelis (Economics - Assumption), Ralph Nader (Consumer Advocate), Charles Ogletree (Harvard), Donald Polden (Santa Clara), John Richard (Essential Information) Alfreda Robinson (George Washington), Ed Rubin (Dean, Vanderbilt), Emily Spieler (Northeastern), Kellye Testy (Seattle), and Charles Whalen (Economics, Labor and Employment Relations Association).

Georgetown Conference on Socio-Economics

Georgetown University Law Center

Saturday, January 6, 2007

(Endorsed by the AALS Sections on Contracts, Minority Groups, Poverty Law, Women in Legal Education, and Socio-Economics and the Institute for Fraud Prevention)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

12-00 - 1:15	Luncheon Address:	Speakers to be announced.
1:15 - 2:00	Introductory Plenary:	Socio-Economics and Economic Theory
2:10 - 4:20	Concurrent Sessions	
4:30 - 5:30	Concluding Plenary:	The Future of Socio-Economics
5:30 - 6:30	Reception	

Continuing the tradition, members of the AALS Section on Socio-Economics and friends will hold the 2007 Georgetown Conference on Socio-Economics. Most of the participants at the AALS Section on Section-Economics Annual Meeting Program will also be participating at the Georgetown Conference along with others. People interested in organizing session or participating in the program should contact Robert Ashford: rhashford@aol.com

PROGRAM

12-00 - 1:15	Luncheon Address:	Speakers to be announced.
1:15 - 2:00	Introductory Plenary:	Socio-Economics and Economic Theory
2:10 - 4:20	Concurrent Sessions	
	(1)	Race, Gender and Convergence Theory
	(2)	Wealth Distribution and Economic Theory
	(3)	Ecology and Economic Theory
	(4)	Ethical Dimensions of Teaching Economic Issues
	(5)	Fraud and Economic Theory
	(6)	Corporate Governance, Fiduciary Duties and Social Responsibility
	(7)	Telecommunications and the Internet, Race, Ethnicity, Language and Socio-Economics
	(8)	How Will the New Behavioralism Change Law and Economics? Cognitive Psychology, Culture, Biology and Law
4:30 - 5:30	Concluding Plenary:	The Future of Socio-Economics
5:30 - 6:30	Reception	

**Georgetown Conference
on
Socio-Economics
Registration**

\$ 60 in advance and \$75 on site. Registration includes continental breakfast, box lunch, mid-morning and afternoon refreshments.

To register, or for more information:

contact: Robert Ashford, Syracuse University College of Law, Tel (315) 677-4680; << rhashford@aol.com >>

Participants*(Partial Listing)*

James Albus (National Institute of Standards and Technology), Morris Altman (Economics, Saskatchewan, Editor Journal of Socio-Economic), Richard America (Economics Georgetown), Robert Ashford (Syracuse), William Black (Criminology, Missouri-Kansas City), Paul Boudreaux (Stetson), Don Braman (George Washington), Carl Brown (Alabama), June Carbone (Missouri - Kansas City), Don Braman (George Washington), Dr. Wil Burns (Santa Clara), Naomi Cahn (George Washington), Susan Carle (American), Anthony Cook (Georgetown), Mitchell Crusto (Loyola - New Orleans), Jonathan Forman (Oklahoma), Carmen Gonzalez (Seattle), Kevin Greene (Thomas Jefferson), James Hackney (Northeastern), Jacqueline P. Hand (Detroit), Philip Harvey (Economics and Law, Rutgers - Camden), Robert Hockett (Cornell), Dennis Honabach (Kentucky), Demetri Kantarelis (Economics, Assumption), James Kelly (Baltimore), Aaron Lacy (Barry), John Linarelli (La Verne), Nell Minow (The Corporate Library), Alfreda Robinson (Associate Dean, George Washington), Catherine Sandoval (Santa Clara), Kellye Testy (Dean, Seattle), Charles Whalen (Labor and Employment Relations Association), David Yosifon (Santa Clara).

Join Today!
Section on Socio-Economics

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Chair: Philip Harvey (Rutgers Camden); Co-Chairs-Elect: Guido Calabresi (Yale) and Robert Ashford (Syracuse).

Web Site for all Programs (1996-2007)
<< journaloflawandsocioeconomics.com >>

Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of
the Section and do not necessarily represent the
position of the AALS.

Socio-Economic References

1. Paul Stern, "The Socio-Economic Perspective and Its Institutional Prospects," *The Journal of Socio-Economics*, Volume 22, No. 1, 1993, pp. 1-11.
2. Richard Coughlin, "Whose Morality? Which Community? What Interests? Socio-Economic and Communitarian Perspectives," *The Journal of Socio-Economics*, Volume 25, 1996, pp. 135-55.
3. Robert Ashford, "Socio-Economics: What Is Its Place in Law Teaching?" *Wisconsin Law Review*, Volume 1997, p. 611-623.
4. Jeffrey L. Harrison, "Law and Socio-Economics," Volume 49, *Journal of Legal Education*, 224 (1999).
5. Richard E. Hattwick, "The Future Paradigm for Socio-Economics: A Call for Papers," Volume 28, *The Journal of Socio-Economics*, 1999, pp. 511-532.
6. Robert A. Solo, *The Philosophy of Science, and Economics* (1991) and *Economic Organizations and Social Systems* (2000).
7. Steve Keen, *Debunking Economics - The Naked Emperor of the Social Sciences* (2001).
8. Socio-Economics and Corporate Law Symposium: The New Corporate Social Responsibility, 76 *Tulane Law Rev.* 1187 (2002).
9. Symposium: Teaching Law and Socio-Economics 41 *San Diego Law Review* 1 (2004).
10. Lynne Dallas, *Law and Public Policy: A Socio-Economic Approach* (2004).

Definition of Socio-Economics

Socio-economics begins with the assumption that economics is not a self-contained system, but is embedded in society, polity, culture, and nature. Drawing upon economics, sociology, political science, psychology, anthropology, biology and other social and natural sciences, philosophy, history, law, management, and other disciplines, socio-economics regards competitive behavior as a subset of human behavior within a societal and natural context that both enables and constrains competition and cooperation. Rather than assume that the individual pursuit of self-interest automatically or generally tends toward an optimal allocation of resources, socio-economics assumes that societal sources of order are necessary for people and markets to function efficiently. Rather than assume that people act only rationally, or that they pursue only self-interest, socio-economics seeks to advance a more encompassing interdisciplinary understanding of economic behavior open to the assumption that individual choices are shaped not only by notions of rationality but also by emotions, social bonds, beliefs, expectations, and a sense of morality.

Socio-economics is both a positive and a normative science. It is dedicated to the empirical, reality testing approach to knowledge. It respects both inductive and deductive reasoning. But it also openly recognizes the policy relevance of teaching and research and seeks to be self-aware of its normative implications rather than maintaining the mantle of an exclusively positive science. Although it sees questions of value inextricably connected with individual and group economic choices, socio-economics does not entail a commitment to any one paradigm or ideological position, but is open to a range of thinking that treats economic behavior as involving the whole person and all facets of society within a continually evolving natural context.

Unique among interdisciplinary approaches, however, socio-economics recognizes the pervasive and powerful influence of the neoclassical paradigm on contemporary thought. Recognizing that people first adopt paradigms of thought and then perform their inductive, deductive, and empirical analyses, socio-economists seek to examine the assumptions of the neoclassical paradigm, develop a rigorous understanding of its limitations, improve upon its application, and develop alternative, perhaps complementary, approaches that are predictive, exemplary, and morally sound. With modest amendment, this description of socio-economics was the substance of the petition signed by more than one hundred twenty law professors from over fifty AALS member schools, to establish the AALS Section on Socio-Economics. It serves as the constitution of the Section.