

**CALL FOR PAPERS - EAEPE 2020**



**European Association for  
Evolutionary Political Economy**

**The Evolution of Capitalist Structures:  
Uncertainty, Inequality, and Climate Crisis**

**The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual EAEPE Conference**

**2-4 September, 2020**

**Bilbao, Spain**

## Background to the 2020 Conference Theme

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In recent decades, the global spread of economic liberalization and financial deregulation, has inserted the former socialist economies (e.g. China and Central Europe) into international markets. This has generated deep structural changes in both the evolution of advanced, emerging and developing economies and the global distribution of growth and human development. Many advanced economies implemented economic and welfare reforms to reduce unemployment and match rising competition from these new international actors. Employment policies evolved into labour market policies to promote greater flexibility instead of workers' rights and wages. Similar processes have occurred in emerging and developing economies.

Since the implementation of the policies of the Washington Consensus, governments opened their economies and markets to domestic and international competition and integrated into regional governance systems such as the European Union, the European Monetary Union, the NAFTA, Mercosur, etc. Financial deregulation was one of the outcomes of such policies, which significantly increased the impact of volatile global markets on national economies. Now national financial regulators face challenges in supervising globally mobile financial capital and recurring financial crises have become more widespread due to greater interconnectedness of financial systems.

The globalization process, labour market reforms and technological change, have in many cases, generated high structural unemployment, a decline in labour incomes and security and segmentation in labour markets. In most countries, income distribution inequality, both personal and functional, has increased. This inequality has created additional global economic problems, such as greater economic and financial instability, higher poverty rates, and a stagnation of private consumption that leads in turn to lower rates of economic growth and even secular stagnation. Polarisation of incomes increase in private indebtedness, and youth unemployment remain highly problematic in both.

The impact of these structural changes has accompanied a squeezing of public sector capacity to deal with the rising need to protect people through the social and redistributive policies. Governments are expected to be smaller but more efficient despite shrinking fiscal space. Dominant fiscal policies, which are still oriented to reducing the size of the public sector, sustain and control fiscal imbalances.

For the first time in decades there are signs that global economic integration is now threatened, while challenges posed by the processes of internationalization and globalization, rising inequality in income distribution are accompanied by new forms of risk. Greater military and environmental insecurity has forced people from their homes to seek safety abroad. Environmental collapse has changed from a possibility into a process and, soon, an inevitability. National political systems, including democracies, have been stressed by these changes creating hybrid forms of authoritarianism. International forms of cooperation that were seen to order world politics are also experiencing dramatic change.

Given the uncertainties and complexity of these structural changes and the threat of an increasingly instable global ecosystem, alternative theoretical and methodological approaches capable of representing and interpreting these disequilibria are required. The conference invites delegates to open up their discussion of the dynamics of economic evolution in late capitalism and to test established and novel interpretations of capitalist structure.

These might include stock-flow, integrated assessment, agent-based modelling and network analysis or they may address particular challenges such as the consequences of cumulatively worsening climate change. Macroeconomic policies need to gain new inspirations from ecological economics and political ecology, e.g. steady-state perspectives or even confronting the growth imperative of capitalist evolution.

We may also address how hegemonic political economic goals, such as achieving price stability and controlling public debt via austerity policies make it difficult to provide the necessary means for labour and the environment.

The conference will provide unique opportunities to revisit the foundations of inequalities and structural change, to discuss alternative points of view at the macro, meso and micro levels, and to enrich traditional evolutionary background with diverse fields such as complexity science, biology, political and international studies, development studies, physics, philosophy sociology, history of thought, and management science among others. The aim is to provide new empirical evidences and fresh insights for policy makers to understand the complexity of structural change and to redefine innovation and formulate new innovation policies. In doing so we aim to allow a rethinking of the role of the State in relation to transition issues; to define and build commons to manage environmental issues; to establish new partnerships with developing countries; to investigate new ways of consuming and producing; to shape new institutions to manage these structural changes; to redefine social interactions related to demand and the labour market; to define new business models relevant to the internet age; to identify new organizing principles in the context of a knowledge economy; and to finance and participate in a greener economy.

## Local Organizing Committee

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Amaia Altuzarra (University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU); Kepa Astorkiza (University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU); Ricardo Bustillo (University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU); Ikerne del Valle (University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU); Jesus Ferreiro (University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU); Catalina Galvez (University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU); Carmen Gomez (University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU); Ana Gonzalez (University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU); Patricia Peinado (University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU); Carlos Rodriguez (University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU); Felipe Serrano (University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU)

## Scientific Committee

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Philip Arestis (University of Cambridge); Andrea Bernardi (Oxford Brookes University); Charlie Dannreuther (University of Leeds); Wolfram Elsner (University of Bremen); Sebastiano Fadda (University of Rome 3); Jesus Ferreiro (University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU); Jean-Christophe Graz (University of Lausanne); Eckhard Hein (Berlin School of Economics and Law); Agnès Labrousse (University of Amiens); Catherine Laurent (INRA); Nathalie Lazaric (UCA, CNRS GREDEG); Oliver Kessler (University of Erfurt); Ronen Palan (City University of London); Marco Raberto (University of Genoa); Manuel Scholz-Wäckerle (Vienna University of Economics and Business); Smita Srinivas (LSE, Open University); Pasquale Tridico (University of Rome 3); Ulrich Witt (Max Planck Institute)

## Important Dates

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- **7 January, 2020:** Abstract Submission to Regular Sessions Opens Online ([www.eaepe.org](http://www.eaepe.org))
  - Special Session Proposal Submission Opens Online
- **10 February, 2020:** Special Session Proposal Submission Deadline
- **1 March, 2020:** Abstract Submission to Special Sessions Opens Online
- **1 April, 2020:** Abstract Submission Deadline for all kind of sessions
- **30 April, 2020:** Notification of Abstract Acceptance; Registration Opens
- **27 May, 2020:** Early Registration Closes
- **25 June, 2020:** Late Registration Closes (for authors to be included in the scientific programme)
- **31 July, 2019:** Submission of Full Papers Deadline

## Venue

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Faculty of Economics and Business, University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU

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