



31st Annual Conference of the European Association for Evolutionary Political Economy

12-15 September 2019, Warsaw (Poland)

Special session: The success, obstacles and potential opportunities for heterodox economics

The aim of this special session is to discuss: how we may assess the progress and achievements of heterodox economics; possible strategies to counter renewed but perennial criticisms of heterodox economics; the challenges posed to embed within economics curricula the perspectives and analytical frameworks offered by the different schools of heterodox economics; and, how policymakers may be exposed to the policy prescriptions of heterodox economics that are alternatives to those of the mainstream. The purpose of this wide-ranging discussion is to understand how heterodox economics is positioned to address the emerging needs of society and how it can increase its scientific, teaching and policy authority.

Papers should address at least one of the following topics:

- 1) Assessment: How can the quality of heterodox economics research be assessed? Should heterodox economics adopt the same assessment standards used within mainstream economics? If so, what would be the consequence(s) of such assessment practices for the future of heterodox economics? If not, what are appropriate qualitative and/or quantitative indicators that may be used to judge the progress and achievements of heterodox economics? What role could contemporary policy relevance, internal consistency, and/or empirical assessment, have in the assessment of heterodox economics?
- 2) Relations within heterodoxy: Are there forms of complementarity between different schools of heterodox economics? Should there be? Or, are there major differences in terms of ontology, epistemology, methodology, core concepts, insights, the use of empirics, and/or policy prescriptions? Is there a lack of clarity within heterodox economics on these points, and if so, around which issues or concerns? What role may pluralism and interdisciplinarity play vis-à-vis heterodox economics?
- 3) Relations with the mainstream: Are there shortcomings within heterodox economics that account for, and/or reinforce, the dominance of mainstream economics? To what extent does the policy and teaching dominance of mainstream economics depend on economic, social and political circumstances, and how may these be overcome? Does fragmentation of the mainstream and the diversity of research programs within it suggest that heterodox economics has successfully undermined the ideological authority of neoclassical economics?
- 4) Should heterodox economics actively engage in conversations with mainstream economics? What would be practical and fruitful tactics to promote pluralism within economics?

DEADLINE FOR PAPER PROPOSALS: April 1ST