

A Need for Alternative World Views in Economics to Answer World Challenges in the 21st century.

Ecology, Pandemic, War, Distrust, and a New Violence.

In the pre-pandemic era, during the 2010s, and amid the global and European financial crises, the global system had already displayed increasing tensions between the leading states, due to a major global structural change, including, for instance, the rise of China. The emergence of new inequalities among and within regions and populations also gave rise to enormous flows of migrants and refugees, and outbursts of civil violence and war, which national governments and international governance could not amend so far.

Things further changed in 2020 due to the outbreak of a more lethal Coronavirus mutation (Covid-19) and a global health emergency declared by the WHO. There are hopes that in the following years the problem will be solved with a combination of vaccinations and “natural” herd immunity, alongside expansionary fiscal policies aimed at supporting national health and welfare systems, and stabilizing countries’ economies from the new global recession. Yet limited access to health services, medicine and vaccines, especially of those who are poor and unemployed, is still an issue in most parts of the globe.

Financial crises, the new structure of global powers, and the health crisis come along with the climate crisis and the need for environmental preservation. Prioritizing profit and power over and above a quality of life for all beings has destroyed the environment and compromised our chances of survival on this planet.

We have witnessed the emergence of worried voices and social movements that are founded on a sense of a minimum collectivity and social solidarity required and aim at raising awareness about the world crises. Traditional institutions were unable to resolve these issues, particularly in a neoliberal environment, which promotes hyper-individualism and unlimited personal liberties, undermining democracy and social responsibility. Many people’s refusal to comply with basic social institutions (e.g., getting vaccinated or wearing a mask during the pandemic) also indicates a considerable loss of general trust in all kinds of authorities, especially governments.

All these issues are light years away from what neoclassical economics could discernibly contribute and in fact has predicted in its neoliberal high decades of unfettered “globalization”, “freedom”, “individualism” and “competition”. On the other hand, they may offer new opportunities for non-orthodox economics and social sciences to build a new global political economy, investigating, among other things, mass migrations, climate crisis, the pandemic, social trust, democracy, civil violence, and hazards of war. These themes are conceivably broad.

We invite proposals on the above, including topics such as (but not limited to):

- Changes in the global power structure and their socio-economic and global-governance implications, including threats of war.
- Mass migrations, the further rise in inequality, namely in the pandemic, and the threat of civil violence.
 - Implications of hyper-individualistic attitudes for long term challenges: health, climate crisis, inequality, or precautionary investment.
 - Monetary and fiscal strategies of governments, either in line with public interest or just imposed by myopic electoral needs, public use and misuse of power, information and communication, their impacts on social trust and beliefs in parliamentarism.
 - Changes in social attitudes, and the implementation of alternative principles and practices of collectivity, solidarity, and general trust within civil society, against neoliberal ideologies and policies in the name of “freedom”.
 - Social struggles regarding the nature and goals of market and state institutions and the rise of social groups and movements, or new kinds of social cooperation and networks, for addressing issues of equity, justice, and social and environmental preservation.

In the framework of the Special Session the following Guest Speakers will make their presentations:

- Hardy Hannapi, VIPER - Vienna Institute for Political Economy Research. His speech will be entitled “**Atlantis Rising**. A blueprint for a better world”.
- Phillip O’Hara- Global Political Economy Research Unit, Perth, Australia. He will speak on "World War Four: Causes, Probable Trajectory, Plausible Outcomes"

We aim to publish the papers of the special session in relevant journals, such as REPE and possibly the Journal of Institutional Studies and AlterEconomics (published in both Russian and English), Gospodarka Narodowa - The Polish Journal of Economics (published in Polish and English) and the Review of Evolutionary Political Economy.

Abstract Submission:

Related abstracts (300-750 words) should be submitted electronically at the conference website before 1st April 2022:

https://eaepe.org/?page=events&side=annual_conference&sub=abstract_submission

Authors are reminded to select the option A Need for Alternative World Views in Economics to Answer World Challenges in the 21st century , on the electronic form (it is one of the last options, below the Research Areas).

Sent on behalf of coordinators: RA[JAES]: Asimina Christoforou, Svetlana Kirdina-Chandler, Wolfram Elsner. RA[I]: Maria Lissowska, Caroline Vincensini

