



'19  Poznań Summer School  
in **Heterodox Economics**

# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS



## 4<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

**7.08-11.08.2019**

Poznań University  
of Economics and Business

The School is intended for PhD Students and early-career researchers interested in heterodox approaches to studying complex economic phenomena. We provide an international learning environment for those interested in deepening their knowledge in heterodox economics or considering applying it to their own research area. Over five days, participants will have an opportunity of attending lectures, presenting their findings and ideas, as well as discussing them with highly competent faculty. They will also take part in workshops and seminars that will improve their analytical skills.

The full programme and short description of topics can be found below.

#### **CONFIRMED SPEAKERS:**

- **RICCARDO BELLOFIORE** (University of Bergamo)
- **DIRK EHNTS** (European University of Flensburg)
- **ELKE PIRGMAIER** (University of Leeds)
- **LEON PODKAMINER** (Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies)
- **ALBERTO RUSSO** (Marche Polytechnic University, Ancona)
- **KAROLINA SAFARZYŃSKA** (University of Warsaw)
- **GIOVANNA VERTOVA** (University of Bergamo)

The School is organized by the Poznań University of Economics and Business in cooperation with the “Heterodox” Publishing House.

The event is supported by the Rethinking Economics, the European Association for Evolutionary Political Economy, the Review of Political Economy and the Forum for Social Economics.

For more information, please contact the Organizing Committee through email: [HETERODOX.SCHOOL@PROJEKTY.UE.POZNAN.PL](mailto:HETERODOX.SCHOOL@PROJEKTY.UE.POZNAN.PL) or [FACEBOOK](#).

Application deadline: 15 May 2019.

Acceptance decision: 17 May 2019.

Application form can be found [HERE](#) and should be sent to: [heterodox.school@projekty.ue.poznan.pl](mailto:heterodox.school@projekty.ue.poznan.pl)

#### **SCHOOL FEE: 140 EUR/600 PLN**

The fee covers lunches and coffee breaks. Budget accommodation (ca. 15 EUR/night) can be provided by organizers upon request.





Deadline for payment: 20 June 2019.

The Organizing Committee:

**KRZYSZTOF CZARNECKI** (Poznań University of Economics and Business),

**MARCIN CZACHOR** (Wydawnictwo Ekonomiczne „Heterodox” – „Heterodox” Publishing House),

**AGNIESZKA ZIOMEK** (Poznań University of Economics and Business).

HOUR/DAY	7/09 WEDNESDAY	8/09 THURSDAY	9/09 FRIDAY	10/09 SATURDAY	11/09 SUNDAY
9:00 - 11:00  Reception Wednesday 8:00-9:15	Welcome address  Lecture <b>Riccardo Bellofiore</b> <i>Is there life on Marx? Marx's Capital after 150 years</i>	Participants' paper presentations*	Participants' paper presentations*	Participants' paper presentations*	Lecture <b>Dirk Ehnts</b> <i>MMT: A macroeconomic model and economic policy</i>
11:00-11:15	COFFEE BREAK				
11:15-12:45	Workshop <b>Alberto Russo</b> <i>Agent-Based Macroeconomics</i>				
12:45-13:45	LUNCH BREAK				
13:45-15:45	Lecture <b>Karolina Safarzyńska</b> <i>Macro-evolutionary modelling</i>	Lecture <b>Elke Pirgmaier</b> <i>What needs to change for fossil capital to die? (and something better to come)</i>	Lecture <b>Giovanna Vertova</b> <i>A feminist perspective of the crisis</i>	Lecture <b>Leon Podkaminer</b> <i>Inevitability of fiscal deficits: a global perspective</i>	Lecture <b>Karolina Safarzyńska</b> <i>Agent-based models of climate change</i>
15:45-16:00	COFFEE BREAK				
16:00-18:00	Lecture <b>Elke Pirgmaier</b> <i>Value, Capital and Nature. Rethinking the foundations of ecological economics</i>	Lecture <b>Riccardo Bellofiore</b> <i>Marx and Sraffa: a novel perspective after the opening of the Archives</i>	Lecture <b>Leon Podkaminer</b> <i>Global secular stagnation: a non-orthodox inter- pretation</i>	Lecture <b>Dirk Ehnts</b> <i>MMT: Introduction to balance sheets</i>	Closing ceremony
18:00-19:00				Rethinking Economics Poland - annual meeting	

\* Participants' presentations: 15 minutes + 15 minutes discussion.

# RICCARDO BELLOFIORE

Professor, University of Bergamo

## LECTURE 1: Is there life on Marx? Marx's Capital after 150 years.

Marx's Critique of Political Economy must be reconstructed as a macro-monetary theory of capitalist production. The first part of the Lecture will provide a sort of methodological introduction to Das Kapital. The investigation will be about the meaning of critique versus criticism, the distinction between fetish-character and fetishism, the role of dialectics, and the difference between reading, interpretation, and reconstruction. In the second part of the Lecture I will focus especially on Volume I. At the centre of the discussion will be: (i) the multiple meanings of abstract labour and «socialization»; (ii) the role of money as a commodity for the labour theory of value; (iii) the “method of comparison” in grounding valorisation (the emergence of gross profits) as the constitution of capital from class struggle in production; (iv) the unity of absolute and relative surplus value extraction; (v) the key notion of «Technologie» in the real subsumption of labour to capital; (vi) the law of the tendential fall of the relative wage; (vii) Marx's two notions of «competition», and the macro-monetary class perspective in capitalist reproduction crucial to Capital, Volume I. Some considerations will be to the themes developed in Volume II and Volume III: the transformation problem, the so-called New Interpretation, the schemes of reproduction and crisis theory. The conclusion will be on the actuality of Marx in understanding contemporary capitalism.

## LECTURE 2: Marx and Sraffa: a novel perspective after the opening of the Archives.

Sraffa's relationship to Marx remains a controversial topic. After the opening of Sraffa's Archive in 1993, with the Sraffa Papers (SP) and the Sraffa Collection (SC), we know that the Italian economist changed his attitude on the labour theory of value (LTV). In 1927–31 he was very critical of the LTV whereas in the early 1940s Sraffa thought that his inquiry would vindicate the 'Old Moor'. A few years later he abandoned this view of strong continuity. However, even after the publication of Production of Commodities by Means of Commodities Sraffa maintained a positive judgment on Marx's transformation procedure. Even more than that, he interpreted the results of his book in terms of capitalist exploitation within an amended Marxian discourse. As Sraffa himself would write in October 1975, 'in economic theory the conclusions are sometimes less interesting than the route by which they are reached'. A novel perspective, both interpretative and reconstructive, about the relationship between Sraffa and Marx will be presented. In the Lecture, some of the surprises coming from the Archive will be considered in a more general survey of Sraffa's published output, from his criticism of Marshall and his attack against Hayek to his Ricardo's edition and some analytic conclusions of Production of Commodities by Means of Commodities.



# DIRK EHNTS

Professor, European University of Flensburg

## **LECTURE 1: Modern Monetary Theory: Introduction to balance sheets**

## **LECTURE 2: Modern Monetary Theory: A macroeconomic model and economic policy**

In the two lectures on Modern Monetary Theory (MMT) the students will learn about the methodology of this new relatively new approach, about the way that entities like firms, households, banks, central banks and the Treasury use their balance sheet to fulfil their goals in a monetary economy, and about the macroeconomic consequences of these interactions. Students will be able to understand the way that money is created and destroyed in the economy, giving them a grasp of what instruments of economic policy are available and how they function. The course concludes with a discussion of economic policy issues centered on tax policy and inequality, the Green New Deal and the Job Guarantee, the Euro Treasury and deficit spending as well as financial regulation. Students need no prior knowledge of monetary or macroeconomic theory. The course covers the US, the Eurozone and sovereign currencies like the Canadian dollar. and will be based on a macroeconomics textbook that will be published this year. Chapters shall be made available before the course starts so that students can chose to follow the course using that textbook.

# ELKE PIRGMAIER

Postgraduate researcher, University of Leeds

## **LECTURE 1: Value, Capital and Nature. Rethinking the foundations of ecological economics**

Ecological economists aim to study the interrelations between ecological and economic systems, with a view to promoting changes towards sustainability. They agree that the nature of global environmental crises is systemic and rooted in economic dynamics. Yet, core economic categories, such as prices, profits, money and their interrelations with ecological destruction, are surprisingly undertheorized. The 'economic' becomes either tied to neoclassical economics, which sits deeper in ecological economics than is often assumed, or remains neglected. Marxian Political Economy has the potential to address this gap, but is mostly ignored in ecological economics, especially in what it is best at: explaining dynamics of the capitalist system as a whole.

I identify the Marxian understanding of 'value' and 'capital' as the missing core of ecological economics: a realistic understanding of the capitalist system, spelled out from basics in simple and abstract terms. I explain these foundations and integrate them with a system dynamics understanding of global ecological destruction, social crises and barriers to social change. Specifically, I introduce the general circuit of capital M-C-M' as a simple, intuitive and powerful framework that explains social

ecological trends in the 21st century. The omission of a realistic economic theory is a serious problem in ecological economics, because it prevents an open confrontation with capitalist institutions that stand in the way of sustainability transformations. I argue for the need to break with existing prejudices against the Marxian approach and take it seriously as realistic economic theory.

### **SEMINAR 1: What needs to change for fossil capital to die? (and something better to come)**

Intertwined crisis of globalised fossil capitalism demand we reconsider the very foundations upon which capitalist societies have been built. The previous lecture made the case that the Marxian understanding of 'value' and 'capital' explains dynamics of global ecological overshoot, and barriers to social change. But realistic theory is not enough; it needs to be combined with a coherent programme of ambitious change, linking research to practical actions, to protect human flourishing in a world of accelerating political instability and ecological overshoot. Punctual knowledge of individual problems is abundant, and there exist a multitude of piecemeal proposals for altering current trends, but this knowledge is not (i) integrated, (ii) widely communicated, and (iii) not imposed as a priority in decision-making realms.

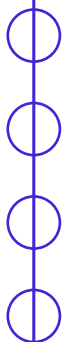
This contribution explores how a systemic understanding of fossil capitalism can be linked to individual and collective action to deliver systemic change. Radical changes have to be fought for and we must not be naïve that sensible policies – sensible from a social justice and planetary health perspective – would be implemented easily by 'smart' decision-makers. Large fractions of the public are kept unaware of the challenge ahead, and those in power are compromised by their proximity to fossil capital. To deliver well-being within planetary boundaries, what is needed are not more piecemeal ideas about transformative proposals, but a coherent approach that includes challenging the distribution of power at its core. We will discuss how this approach could look like and how it might be achieved.

## **LEON PODKAMINER**

Senior economist, Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies

### **LECTURE 1: Global secular stagnation: a non-orthodox interpretation**

Progressing globalisation appears to have been associated with global economic growth becoming increasingly unstable and weak. The negative correlation between advancing globalisation and the pace of global growth cannot be blamed on adverse exogenous developments (i.e. supply-side factors). Globalisation slows down growth by activating 'the race to the bottom' in wage rates, engulfing the high-income as well as low-income countries. The 'race' results in declining shares of wages in output and higher private saving propensities combined with falling shares of capital formation. Rising excess of private saving over private investment slows down the global economic growth. Global trade imbalances emerging under globalisation additionally destabilise and weaken the



global growth. The premeditated 'beggar-thy-neighbour' policies conducted by countries seeking to engineer large trade surpluses make the matter even worse. The world may need another international system limiting the scope of free trade and capital flows. However, such a system is unlikely to emerge anytime soon. While clearly benefiting from balanced international trade, the world would still need sufficiently large fiscal deficits on the global scale.

## **LECTURE 2: Inevitability of fiscal deficits: a global perspective**

The 'global saving glut' à la Bernanke is not a serious problem for a large group of high-income countries considered collectively. More importantly, taken together these countries exhibit a tendency for a growing GDP share of private sector saving and a falling GDP share of private investment. Given prevailing tendencies regarding income distribution and gross capital formation, the private sector of developed countries considered collectively is prone to accumulating 'saving gluts' which is reflected in persistent public sector financial deficits. Fiscal policy may need to support growth with the debt-financed income injections more or less permanently, and not just in response to 'cyclical' growth slowdowns or occasional recessions.

## **ALBERTO RUSSO**

Professor, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Ancona

## **WORKSHOP: Agent-Based Macroeconomics**

The main goal of this workshop is providing an introduction to Agent-Based Macroeconomics, namely Macroeconomics with Heterogeneous Interacting Agents. Basic concepts and tools will be learned by students and a presentation of advanced topics will be proposed to explore this relatively new field of investigation. Some topics such as business cycles and economic growth, financial fragility, inequality, and crisis will be discussed within a "complexity economics" framework. According to this approach, the economy is an adaptive complex system in which the interaction among heterogeneous micro-entities gives rise to macro properties, from endogenous business cycles to large crises. As a consequence, the economic system is hardly in equilibrium, being characterized by perpetual motion and continuous innovation. Agent-Based Modelling is the main methodology we propose to study out-of-equilibrium dynamics of a complex economic system. We introduce the basic concepts regarding the micro-macro relationship, aggregation, agents' behaviour and expectations, interaction and networks, calibration and validation. The typical algorithmic structure of an Agent-Based macroeconomic model and its computer simulation will be presented and discussed. We will provide students with a toolkit for analysing complex macro patterns and agents' distributions. In particular, a step-by-step approach will be followed to build Agent-Based Models from the scratch, thus proposing an active learning during lectures. At the end of the course the student should be able to build her/his own (simple) model with Heterogeneous Interacting Agents.

# KAROLINA SAFARZYŃSKA

Assistant professor, University of Warsaw

## LECTURE 1: Macro-evolutionary modelling

The lecture will provide an overview of key assumptions that distinguish macro-evolutionary from mainstream macroeconomic models. Macro-evolutionary models use an agent-based modelling (ABM) technique, which allows modelling populations of heterogeneous, boundedly-rational consumers, producers, investors and banks interacting within and between networks. Macro-evolutionary models go further than other agent-based models used in economics in that they specify a set of evolutionary mechanisms governing agents' interactions, regarding income generation, innovation activities, consumer spending, and saving-investment decisions, which we will discuss during the lecture.

## LECTURE 2: Agent-based models of climate change

In recent years, agent-based models have been suggested as a new wave of climate change models. Because of their flexible structures, capable of modelling a variety of behaviours beyond macroeconomic models, agent-based models are burgeoning rapidly in economics. However, the potential of this technique has not been fully realized in the context of climate change modelling. The lecture will provide an overview of current state of economy-climate models (including energy markets) using agent-based modelling and will suggest future lines of research.

# GIOVANNA VERTOVA

Professor, University of Bergamo

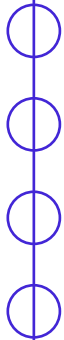
## LECTURE 1: A feminist perspective of the crisis

The current global crisis has been considered the worse one since the Great Depression of the 1930s. While different schools of economic thought have attempted to explain the causes, little room has been given to a heterodox and feminist approach. My lecture will, therefore, propose a theoretical framework to analyse the crisis and policy responses within a gender perspective. By intertwining feminist economics and social reproduction theory, I will present a theoretical framework which looks at both, the productive as well as the social reproductive systems. The starting point is that a comprehensive gender analysis must take into considerations both the production and the social reproduction system, because they both take part in the creation of the human well-being. Another important dimension is government's fiscal policy, because of its impact on the supply of social public goods/services (fiscal policy has a strong gender dimension, as the gender budget tradition has shown). Afterwards I will use the theoretical framework to assess the gender impact of the crisis and policy

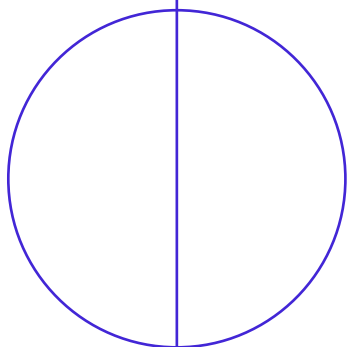




responses in Italy and Poland. By looking at the labour market, the social reproduction system, the familiar models and fiscal policies (both expansionary and austerian), it is possible to evaluate the impact on Italian and Polish working men and women. At the end, the theoretical approach and the empirical investigation should help to understand whether the crisis is going to sustain or to slow down the long and difficult process towards more gender equality.



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