

January 31, 2011

Dear Heterodox Economists,

In many countries pressure to increase the visibility of our research is steadily increasing: research evaluation, selective funding schemes, and economists' career opportunities increasingly depend upon bibliometric indicators - for the better or the worst. At the same time, the financial and economic crisis shows that there is a large need for a reform of mainstream economic thinking and for the establishment of non-orthodox communities. A way to partially cope with both trends is through the internet. With a colleague at University of Rome 'La Sapienza,' Carlo D'Ippoliti, we are working to increase the visibility of heterodox research in RepEc, a free online database of economic research providing access to full papers, rankings and bibliometric information.

We have recently launched a NEP list called NEP-HME (heterodox microeconomics). NEP (New Economic Papers) lists are thematic newsletters collecting all new working papers and unpublished works periodically added to the RepEc database. They are sent out for free to all who subscribe here: <http://nep.repec.org/>.

Our aim is to complement the NEP-PKE (Post Keynesian Economics) list edited by Karl Petrick (kpetrick@wnec.edu) which, despite the name, in fact ranges across all heterodox schools of macroeconomics. With our heterodox microeconomics list, we wish to collect all new working papers and unpublished works belonging to any non-orthodox tradition, including (but not limited to) the radical-Marxist, Post Keynesian-Sraffian, feminist, Institutional, evolutionary, and social economics.

We strongly invite you to subscribe to both newsletters, in order to stay informed on the latest research developments across all areas of heterodox economics and to strengthen the build-up process of a more inter-connected heterodox community. To subscribe to NEP-HME and NEP-PKE go to <http://nep.repec.org/> and click on NEP-HME and NEP-PKE where you will be able to subscribe to both newsletters. You can also send an e-mail directly to Karl, Carlo, and me saying that you want to subscribe to the NEP-HME and/or NEP-PKE. The NEP-HME newsletter will come out weekly or so.

We also encourage you to make all your work visible and available through RepEc (which is a free service). To do so, you either must have your institution's papers indexed in RepEc (instructions to do are available here: <http://ideas.repec.org/stepbystep.html>) or you can upload a single paper here: <http://mpira.repec.org/>.

With Karl, we strive to collect all papers that do not fit the tight boundaries of the mainstream economics. However, in order to facilitate our work and to be sure that we do not miss your papers, we encourage you to signal that you would like your paper to be included in the NEP heterodox lists by using at least one appropriate JEL code. The primary JEL code is B5-Current Heterodox Approaches, which will identify papers for inclusion in our micro newsletter or Karl's macro newsletter. If you want your paper to be included in our micro newsletter, then additional JEL codes need to be listed, such as C67, D, H, I, J, K, L, M, N8, R2, and Z1.

Using JEL codes is still not common practice in many institutions' paper series, but we strongly encourage you to use at least some unorthodox codes in order to boost the visibility of the heterodox community. If there is a feeling that this may reduce the chances of publication in some journals, you can select different JEL codes for the article you submit.

One final note, NEP includes 85 areas covering all kinds of areas in economics. There are a couple that include heterodox working papers:

NEP-CBE: Cognitive and Behavioural Economics edited by Marco Novarese
(marco@novarese.org)

NEP-HAP: Economics of Happiness edited by Viviana Di Giovinazzo
(viviana.digiovinazzo@unimib.it)

NEP-SOC: Social Norms and Social Capital edited by Fabio Sabatini
(fa.sabatini@gmail.com)

Please write us concerning any query or comment concerning NEP-HME, as well as to propose new ideas on how to strengthen connections and inter-linkages between heterodox schools and individuals.

Sincerely,

Fred and Carlo

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