



SECTION ON SOCIO-ECONOMICS NEWSLETTER

Annual Meeting Program
Saturday, January 3, 2004
8:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Atlanta, Georgia

"Socio-Economics, Peace and Justice"

Program Overview*

- 8:45 - 9:00 Introduction and Welcoming Remarks
- 9:00 - 10:10 Plenary Session - Socio-Economics, Peace and Justice - Open Forum
- 10:10 - 10:25 Break
- 10:25 - 11:40 (1) Empirical Approaches to Economic Behavior
(2) Teaching Socio-Economics
(3) Law and Macroeconomics
- 11:45 - 1:05 Luncheon Speaker
- 1:15 - 2:25 Plenary Session: Socio-Economics and Human Behavior
- 2:25 - 2:40 Break
- 2:40 - 3:55 (1) The Ethical Dimensions of Teaching Socio-Economics
(2) Socio-Economics for Judges
(3) Socio-Economic Analysis in Aid of Those Economically Disadvantaged
- 4:10 - 5:00 The Future of Socio-Economics

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Join Today!

AALS

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*** This mailing is made possible with a generous gift from the University of Pennsylvania Law School ***

Annual Meeting Program
Saturday, January 3, 2004
8:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Atlanta, Georgia

- 8:45 - 9:00** **Introduction and Welcoming Remarks**
Edward Rubin (Law - University of Pennsylvania)
- 9:00 - 10:10** **Open Forum - Socio-Economics, Peace and Justice**
- 10:10 - 10:25** **Break**
- 10:25 - 11:40** (1) **Empirical Approaches to Economic Behavior:**
Ian Ayers (Law and Economics - Yale University)
Margaret Brinig (Law and Economics - University of Iowa)
William Jankoviak (Anthropology - University of Nevada, Los Vegas)
- (2) **Teaching Socio-Economics**
June Carbone (Law - Santa Clara University)
Claire Dickerson (Law - Rutgers , Newark)
James Hackney (Law - Northeastern University)
Lynne Dallas (Law - University of San Diego)
Jeff Thomas (Law - University of Missouri, Kansas City)
- (3) **Law and Macroeconomics**
Robert Ashford (Law - Syracuse University)
Neil Buchanan (Law and Economics - Rutgers University - Newark)
Timothy Canova (Law - University of Arizona)
Peter Huang (Law and Economics - University of Pennsylvania)
Robert Prasch (Economics - Middlebury College)
Charles Whalen (Economics - Interactivity Foundation)
- 11:45- 1:05** **Luncheon Speaker** (To be announced.)
- 1:15 - 2:25** **Plenary Session: Socio-Economics and Human Behavior**
Lynne Dallas (Law - University of San Diego)
Robert Cooter (Law and Economics - University of California - Berkeley)
Russell Korobkin (Law - U.C.L.A.)
Ed Rubin (Law - University of Pennsylvania)
- 2:25 - 2:40** **Break**
- 2:40 - 3:55** (1) **The Ethical Dimensions of Teaching Socio-Economics**
Jeffrey Harrison (Law and Economics - University of Florida)
Richard Hattwick (Economics, Founding Editor, Journal of Socio-Economics)
Amy Mashburn (Law -University of Florida)
- (2) **Socio-Economics for Judges:**
William Black (Public Affairs, University of Texas)
William Bratton (Law - Georgetown University)
Demetri Kantarelis (Economics, Assumption College)
Harry Trebing (Economics, Emeritus, Michigan State University)
- (3) **Socio-Economic Analysis in Aid of Those Economically Disadvantaged**
Robert Ashford (Law - Syracuse University)
Philip Harvey (Law - Rutgers University, Camden)
Charles Whalen (Economics - Interactivity Foundation)
Marleen O'Connor (Law - Stetson University)
- 4:10 - 5:00** **The Future of Socio-Economics**
Robert Ashford, William Black, Margaret Brinig, June Carbone, Lynne Dallas, Jeffrey Harrison,
Richard Hattwick, Demetri Kantarelis, Ed Rubin, Harry Trebing, and Charles Whalen.
(affiliations set forth above).

Program Description

The 2004 Annual Meeting Program of the AALS Section on Socio-Economics will focus on issues of peace and justice. It has been said, if you want peace, seek justice; and a necessary component of justice is economic justice. This year's program explores this proposition in a number of contexts important to law teaching.

Of special interest is a plenary open forum on "Socio-Economics, Peace and Justice." All Annual Meeting registrants are invited to join the program participants in a open discussion regarding the relationship of the socio-economic approach to the goals of peace and justice.

The Program is offered to further the Section's long-term goal to encourage and facilitate the inclusion of socio-economic analysis in law teaching by way of (1) courses in law and socio-economics, (2) enriched courses in law and economics, and (3) socio-economic segments in other courses. The program is intended not only for specialists, but also for generalists interested in legal education.

With the help of more than twenty-nine participants (including nine economists) from twenty member schools and five other schools, the program is offered to demonstrate that socio-economics is an important interdisciplinary approach to an understanding of the law because it (1) recognizes the importance of the institutions such as law and private property in shaping and understanding economic behavior, (2) draws upon all disciplines necessary and helpful to understanding economic behavior, (3) provides the foundation for a rigorous approach to economic understanding (consistent with the scientific method) that is both paradigm-conscious and value conscious.

The program will reveal that the socio-economic approach has important practical consequences in the representation of client interests and the formulation of law-related economic policy and is therefore essential to the professional responsibilities of lawyers and law teachers.

Open Forum on Socio-Economics, Peace and Justice

Do the foundational assumptions that lawyers and law teachers make when considering and teaching law-related economic issues affect the realization of peace and justice? All Annual Meeting Registrants are invited to join the Program participants in an open-ended discussion of this question. Particular attention will be given to the socio-economic approach to law-related economic issues (see page 4 of this Newsletter). Several well-known Atlanta-based speakers may attend and participate.

2005 Annual Meeting in San Francisco

Preliminary plans are under way for the 2005 Annual Meeting Program in San Francisco. The Section on Socio-Economics will propose another day-long program featuring teachers and practitioners of law, economics, and other disciplines.

Among the sessions that may be offered include:

1. Culture and Economics
2. Biology and Economics
3. Other Paradigms of Economic Thought
4. Socio-Economics and the History of Legal Thought
5. Corporate Social Responsibility
6. Teaching Socio-Economics
7. Socio-Economics for Judges
8. Socio-Economics for the Economically Disadvantaged

Additional suggestions for sessions are welcome.

Contact Robert Ashford, Program Chair: (315) 677-4680; <<rhoashford@aol.com>>.

Message from the Section Chair Edward Rubin, University of Pennsylvania

This year's program demonstrates the strength and promise socio-economics. In these difficult and belligerent times, it is easy to lose track of social justice issues that will, in the long run, be our most important means of ensuring our security.

Socio-economics can provide legal scholars with the intellectual resources to address these crucial issues. It combines economics' great contribution to policy analysis with a wide-ranging concern for social justice and the capacity to incorporate values other than efficiency into the analysis.

The program for the 2003 Annual Meeting offers practical insights for teaching, scholarship and judicial decision making. It will explore the differing approaches to human behavior that socio-economics encompasses, the socio-economic perspective on both microeconomic and macroeconomic behavior, and the implications that these insights offer for ethical and social justice issues.

What Is Socio-Economics?

Socio-economics begins with the assumption that economics is not a self-contained system, but is embedded in society, polity, culture, and nature. Drawing upon economics, sociology, political science, psychology, anthropology, biology and other social and natural sciences, philosophy, history, law, management, and other disciplines, socio-economics regards competitive behavior as a subset of human behavior within a societal and natural context that both enables and constrains competition and cooperation. Rather than assume that the individual pursuit of self-interest automatically or generally tends toward an optimal allocation of resources, socio-economics assumes that societal sources of order are necessary for people and markets to function efficiently. Rather than assume that people act only rationally, or that they pursue only self-interest, socio-economics seeks to advance a more encompassing interdisciplinary understanding of economic behavior open to the assumption that individual choices are shaped not only by notions of rationality but also by emotions, social bonds, beliefs, expectations, and a sense of morality.

Socio-economics is both a positive and a normative science. It is dedicated to the empirical, reality testing approach to knowledge. It respects both inductive and deductive reasoning. But it also openly recognizes the policy relevance of teaching and research and seeks to be self-aware of its normative implications rather than maintaining the mantle of an exclusively positive science. Although it sees questions of value inextricably connected with individual and group economic choices, socio-economics does not entail a commitment to any one paradigm or ideological position, but is open to a range of thinking that treats economic behavior as involving the whole person and all facets of society within a continually evolving natural context.

Unique among interdisciplinary approaches, however, socio-economics recognizes the pervasive and powerful influence of the neoclassical paradigm on contemporary thought. Recognizing that people first adopt paradigms of thought and then perform their inductive, deductive, and empirical analyses, socio-economists seek to examine the assumptions of the neoclassical paradigm, develop a rigorous understanding of its limitations, improve upon its application, and develop alternative, perhaps complementary, approaches that are predictive, exemplary, and morally sound. With modest amendment, this description of socio-economics was the substance of the petition signed by more than one hundred twenty law professors from over fifty AALS member schools, to establish the AALS Section on Socio-Economics. It serves as the constitution of the Section.

Socio-Economics for Judges Call for Papers

The Section on Socio-Economics is seeking contributions to a collection of papers for a publication entitled "Socio-Economics for Judges." Suggested length is fifteen to thirty double-spaced pages. The collection is intended for publication either in a symposium issue of a law review or as a book. The deadline for Submissions is March 15, 2004. Submissions should be sent to Jeffrey Harrison: HarrisonJ@law.ufl.edu

Introductory Socio-Economic References

1. Paul Stern, "The Socio-Economic Perspective and Its Institutional Prospects," *The Journal of Socio-Economics*, Volume 22, No. 1, 1993, pp. 1-11.
2. Richard Coughlin, "Whose Morality? Which Community? What Interests? Socio-Economic and Communitarian Perspectives," *The Journal of Socio-Economics*, Volume 25, 1996, pp. 135-55.
3. Robert Ashford, "Socio-Economics: What Is Its Place in Law Teaching?" *Wisconsin Law Review*, Volume 1997, p. 611-623.
4. Jeffrey L. Harrison, "Law and Socio-Economics," Volume 49, *Journal of Legal Education*, 224 (1999).
5. Richard E. Hattwick, "The Future Paradigm for Socio-Economics: A Call for Papers," Volume 28, *The Journal of Socio-Economics*, 1999, pp. 511-532.
6. Robert A. Solo, *The Philosophy of Science, and Economics* (1991) and *Economic Organizations and Social Systems* (2000).
7. Steve Keen, *Debunking Economics - The Naked Emperor of the Social Sciences* (2001)
8. Lynne Dallas, *Law and Public Policy: A Socio-Economic Approach* (forthcoming).