



Philosophy-Economics Network Réseau Philosophie-Economie

Newsletter n° 3, October/November 2013

Summary

News: The life of the network	p. 1
Event: Call for papers, Strasbourg Conference (October 2014)	p. 4
Promising centre: “Centre for Humanities Engaging Science and Society” (CHESS)	p. 7

News

The life of the network

In this Autumn 2013, there is no doubt that our network’s most noteworthy event is the release of the call for papers of the “Economic Philosophy” Conference which will take place in Strasbourg (France) on the 9th and 10th October, 2014.

As many of you may know, both the creation of the *Philosophy-Economics Network* and the organisation of a biannual Conference dedicated to the economic philosophy were two complementary initiatives proposed during the first *Lille Economic Philosophy Conference* in June 2012. This is why we are especially pointing out this call for papers (see infra, section “Event”, p. 4). It is thus natural for the new logo of the *Philosophy-Economics Network*, now present on our site and in the header of this newsletter, to be on this call for papers among partners who sponsor this event. We hope that this conference will be, for the greatest number of us, a place conducive to exchanges between economists and philosophers, French or English-speaking.

In this third newsletter, the “promising” research department section appears for the first time. This section will allow us to bring attention on European research centres in which the interdisciplinarity between philosophy and economics took recently a central place. It seems to us that the *Centre for Humanities Engaging Science and Society* (CHESS) created last year in Durham University (United Kingdom), under the direction of two philosophers, Nancy Cartwright and Julian Reiss, is such a promising department. Our gratitude to Prof. Reiss – who has recently published a book entitled *Philosophy of Economics - A Contemporary Introduction* – for providing us the information concerning the place of the interaction philosophy-economics in this new research centre (with the following text, p. 7).

We also have the opportunity to evoke the *Network* development and functioning almost one year after its creation on 23th November, 2012. The number of our members continues to increase and it had reached almost 350 (on 28th October), in other words 85

people have joined the *Network* since the last newsletter sent in late June). Besides, the internationalization of the *Network* has been ongoing since its extension to Europe, at the end of May 2013. Today, French-speaking members are still in majority, but the proportion of non French-speaking researchers increases quickly and already exceeds 40%.

The respective proportions of economists, philosophers and specialists of other social sciences are more difficult to estimate, because we do not ask our members for “specifying” a discipline of reference with their accession. However, before the internationalization of the *Network* economists were significantly more numerous than philosophers, while it seems that this internationalization goes with the accession of a majority of philosophers.

Next to these clearly positive points concerning the development of the *Network*, some functioning difficulties have become patent over the months:

- Despite our renewed calls in the launching letter and in the previous newsletters, the interactivity, basic principle selected for the launching of an informal network without resources of its own, is still weak between us: little information is spontaneously sent to us for publication on the site. If this site is attractive and regularly visited, it is essentially because of its manager Jean-Sébastien Gharbi’s extensive searches for relevant news to supply it.

- Similarly, the section “debates”, launched four months ago in the second newsletter and relayed on the site, did not meet the expected interest: to date, only one comment was posted (see tab “debates” on the site). The quality of Egidius Berns’ text cannot be put in question. It is probable that the topic we chose (“Which name for the interaction Philosophy-Economics?”) was not the good one. Besides, maybe that expressing an argued view from this stimulating text demanded too much time, a time that *Network* members could not or would have devoted to such an exchange.

Here, it is not about to accuse our members to have a “consumerist” attitude, but rather to stress that these two points reveal a weakness of our functioning we really have to take into account:

- in the short term, hoping to awaken the involvement of every one, we created two news categories in the *Network* site (“articles” and “working papers”). The first interest of that is to provide a better visibility to articles published in journals which are not systematically mentioned on the site and to allow every one to raise awareness of his/her research with the possibility to receive comments from other *Network* members. These two new categories will also contribute to eventually make our site an archive database as complete as possible concerning works on both philosophy and economics (this database is already usable through the site search function). At the same time, of course, the tab “debates” stays open for everyone who would wish to leave a comment on the theme currently in discussion or for suggesting new themes of debate.

- in the medium term, the strategic choice of interactivity, preferably to a more organized structure, seems to reveals its limits and will probably have to be re-examined, if not abandoned. Several directions are conceivable to move to a network structure resting less on the voluntary and time-consuming participation of everyone:

- Creation of an *ad hoc* association in order to manage the *Network* with subscriptions of its members and subsidies it could possibly receive.

- Integration of our informal network into the *International Network of Economic Methodology* (INEM), an organized structure of which the subject seems rather close to our own. However their site does not offer the same function of gathering and sharing information than the one that we animate.

- Support received from a *European Grouping for Research* (GDRE) yet to be created under the auspices of the *French National Centre for Scientific Research* (CNRS). This GDRE would gather some research centres of different European countries which would acknowledge the interaction philosophy-economics as a relevant field of research.

We will examine each of these solutions in the next newsletter (late February/early March 2014) and we will share the possible progress in each of these three directions. For the time being and at least until the Strasbourg Conference, the *Philosophy-Economics Network* will continue in its current interactive form, by working to strengthen its reputation and its utility beyond the good reception that its creation has received. Thank you for supporting us with your reactions, remarks and suggestions, on any of the topics mentioned in this newsletter (secretariat@philo-eco.eu).

The Network managers

Claude Gamel (AMSE-GREQAM, Aix-Marseille University)

Jean-Sébastien Gharbi (AMSE-GREQAM, Aix-Marseille University)

Patrick Mardellat (CLERSE, Sciences Po Lille)



Bureau
d'économie
théorique
et appliquée
(BETA)
UMR 7522



Philosophy-Economics Network
Réseau Philosophie-Economie

Association
Charles Gide

POUR L'ETUDE DE LA PENSEE ECONOMIQUE

INEM ~ The International
Network for Economic Method

**2nd International Conference
“Economic Philosophy”
Strasbourg, October Thursday 9th – Friday 10th October, 2014**

ONESELF AND THE OTHER

Call for Papers

(Submission deadline: January 31st, 2014)

The 2nd International Conference “Economic Philosophy” will be held at the University of Strasbourg from 9th to 10th October 2014. This conference is organized by the *Bureau d'Economie Théorique et Appliquée* (BETA, UMR 7522 of CNRS).

This international conference will host sessions on the theme “Oneself and the Other”, but any paper or session which addresses the Philosophy of Economics is welcome.

The Philosophy of Economics primarily considers the economic agent as a moral subject. Economics, however, has long overlooked the agent’s moral—that is to say, reasonable—dimension, to focus instead on the strictly rational. The economic agent refers to “himself” (herself) in terms of his desire and passions, yet also refers to others besides himself. For the rational economic agent, what is the nature of this relationship with the Other? And should it not be understood as undergoing a transformation once we come to consider the economic agent as a *reasonable* being? Through what process does the Other pass from being an instrument at the disposal of a rational agent to being an end in itself for a moral subject? In other words, how does another become “anOther”?

In the act of producing, the economic agent has friends, masters and subordinates. The acts of exchanging, sharing and borrowing all involve partners. When an economic agent consumes, through the use of goods and services, he depends on other agents of the same kind. Could we claim, then, that in each of these actions there is an encounter with the Other? And would

such an encounter not imply, moreover, an acknowledgment of the Other as “my equal”, irrespective of how different they may be? Deprived of the qualities of a moral subject, is the economic agent defined by Economics in a manner sufficient to be seen as a consciousness capable of discovering something within himself, or as a subjectivity capable of experiencing the pain of envy?

Such questions, with which current research is increasingly concerned, lead us to consider the philosophical dimensions of the science of Economics—they lead us, in other words, towards a re-examination of certain fundamental notions, and to a re-reading of certain great authors. It is precisely the study of these notions and these authors which the Colloquium on the Philosophy of Economics invites you to join. Presentations could address the following themes:

- The “just” and the “good” in the economy
- The passions which constitute the economic agent, from Adam Smith to the present
- The role of emotions in economic behaviour
- Economic rationalities
- The Kantian tradition and the question of “the Other”
- Justice and institutions
- Economics and religion
- Reason and the Other
- The question of social preferences
- Evolution of individual preferences: theory and experiments
- The Other and the utilitarian tradition
- Altruism and reciprocity
- Gift and counter-gift
- ...

PROPOSALS FOR PAPERS/SESSIONS

Proposals for papers in the form of abstracts of approximately 500 words, in French or English, must be submitted **no later than January 31st, 2014** via the website of the conference:

<http://www.beta-umr7522.fr/PhiloEco/en/>

Proposals for complete sessions are also welcome; they should contain a title, a summary of each of the proposed papers, and the name of the session chair (3 papers per session).

DEADLINES

January 31st, 2014: submission deadline

March 31st, 2014: notification to applicants

August 31st, 2014: full paper submission deadline

A selection of papers will be published in a peer-reviewed journal.

Contact: colloque-philoecco@unistra.fr

Website: <http://www.beta-umr7522.fr/PhiloEco/en/>

Keynote speakers and Committees

Keynote speakers:

Catherine Audard (London School of Economics)
Philippe Mongin (CNRS et HEC)

Scientific committee:

Erik Angner (George Mason University, USA)
Claude d'Aspremont (Université catholique de Louvain, Belgique)
Arnaud Berthoud (CLERSE, Université de Lille 1)
Ragip Ege (BETA, Université de Strasbourg)
Ricardo Crespo (Universidad Austral, Argentine)
Rodolphe Dos Santos Ferreira (BETA, Université de Strasbourg)
Samuel Ferey (BETA, Université de Lorraine)
Claude Gamel (GREQAM, Université d'Aix-Marseille)
Jean-Sébastien Gharbi (GREQAM, Université d'Aix-Marseille)
Muriel Gilardone (CREM, Université de Caen Basse-Normandie)
Harald Hagemann (Université de Hohenheim, Allemagne)
Jimena Hurtado (Université de Los Andes, Colombie)
Herrade Igersheim (CNRS et BETA, Université de Strasbourg)
André Lapidus (Phare, Université de Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)
Maurice Lagueux (Université de Montréal, Canada)
Pierre Livet (CEPERC, Université d'Aix-Marseille)
Patrick Mardellat (CLERSE, Science Po Lille)
Emmanuel Picavet (NOSOPHI, Université de Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)
Claire Pignol (PHARE, Université de Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)
Maurice Salles (CREM, Université de Caen Basse-Normandie)
Don Ross (University of Cape Town, Afrique du Sud)

Organization committee:

Jean-Daniel Boyer (Culture et Sociétés en Europe, Université de Strasbourg)
Ragip Ege (BETA, Université de Strasbourg)
Samuel Ferey (BETA, Université de Lorraine)
Philippe Gillig (BETA, Université de Strasbourg)
Herrade Igersheim (CNRS et BETA, Université de Strasbourg)
Charlotte Le Chapelain (CLHDPP, Université Lyon 3)
Sylvie Rivot (BETA, Université de Haute Alsace)

Promising centre
Centre for Humanities Engaging Science and Society (CHESS),
Durham University (United Kingdom)

CHESS studies how academic knowledge can best inform policy and practice, what methods will produce this knowledge and how should this knowledge be put to use. We start from the premiss that science – broadly conceived as including the natural, social and policy sciences – has an unprecedented influence on the wellbeing of society today, through its products, its theories, and through the creation of novel phenomena. For an example of each, consider how the science-based production of pharmaceuticals has revolutionised modern medicine, how the recent financial crisis has been blamed on economists’ mistaken theories and how there wouldn’t be a climate to worry about if it wasn’t for climate models (though we might of course still worry about changing weather patterns and their consequences). In most general terms, CHESS aims to contribute to the ability of science to play this role well – to help improve the wellbeing of societies.

A second premiss from which we start is that no discipline has any effect on the people’s wellbeing all on its own. Pharmaceuticals only affect people to the extent that regulation allows it, so we need to understand the law. More generally, all sciences act through institutions, education and media, and we require the social sciences to understand these. At CHESS, we see philosophy, and the humanities more generally, to act as facilitators in interdisciplinary conversations and research projects aimed at improving the role of science in society. We are currently working on a variety of such projects, for instance on evidence in biomedical and social science, on scientific expertise, on ‘knowledge for use’, and on uncertainty and epistemic humility in climate science.

While not its exclusive focus, the intersection of philosophy and economics plays an important role at CHESS. Apart from hosting research projects in this area and organising a seminar series entitled Philosophy, Economics, and Public Policy (PEPP) jointly with Durham’s Global Policy Institute, our members are offering modules in Philosophy of Economics and Philosophy of the Social Sciences through Durham’s Department of Philosophy. CHESS also runs weekly research meetings and collaborates with various groups in the UK and continental Europe on related topics.

For more information, see [this short presentation of CHESS](#) by Julian Reiss, or the research centre website: www.chess-centre.org.

CHESS is directed by Professors Nancy Cartwright and Julian Reiss.