

SABE 2003: Summary Description



The SABE 2003 conference, held July 28-31 at the Cal-Neva Resort on the North Shore of Lake Tahoe (Nevada and California, USA), included 85 registered participants from 16 nations. Thirteen of these participants were PhD students.

There were 24 sessions in which attendees presented papers. The session titles indicate the breadth of topics addressed: A behavioral look at economic development; Alternative approaches to empirical analysis in behavioral economics; Altruism and other behaviors beyond self interest; Applied behavioral economics; Bargaining and contract formation: some behavioral issues; Behavior and the economics of organization; Behavioral finance; Behavioral issues, macroeconomic outcomes, and public policy; Consumer behavior and the behavioral economics of marketing; Coordination and economic outcomes; Decision-making; Deepening our understanding of market behavior; Ethics and justice: Implications for the economy and the classroom; Family, education, and religion; Physiology and behavioral economics; Preferences, perceptions, and public policy; Psychology and economic behavior; Rationality: experimental evidence and mathematical logic; Relative standing, status, and concern for others; Rethinking some basic economic and sociological concepts; Understanding and extending the methodology of behavioral economics; inequality and poverty; and Understanding financial markets.

The conference featured 3 guest speakers. Robert Frank opened the conference on “Departures from rational choice: With and without regret.” Herbert Gintis’s talk on “How and why economic man deviates from self-interested behavior” provided the background for a roundtable discussion on the topic. The roundtable participants included Robert Frank, Richard Day, Rachel Croson, and Dan Ariely. Richard Day concluded the conference with his talk on “Adaptive economizing: Implications for economic theory and policy.”

Three journal editors participated in the conference and presented attendees with the opportunities that exist to publish behaviorally oriented papers in the Journals. Morris Altman and John Tomer spoke on the Journal of Socio-Economics. J. Barkley Rosser spoke on the Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization. Glen Atkinson spoke on the Journal of Economic Issues.

The conference schedule provided free time for participants to enjoy the Lake Tahoe environment. Many also actually got out on the Lake by taking the optional dinner cruise. The conference ended with a dinner at the North Tahoe Conference Center located right on the sand of Kings Beach on the North Shore of the Lake.

It was a privilege for me to organize this conference, and for the University of Nevada, Reno to host it. I believe that conference was worthwhile for most participants in terms of making contacts, further developing existing relationships, getting thoughts provoked, seeing the breadth of behavioral economic research, obtaining a new research idea, and having some fun.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Pingle
SABE 2003 Organizer
University of Nevada, Reno