THE SABE NEWSLETTER

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF BEHAVIORAL ECONOMICS

Statement of Purpose

SABE is an association of scholars who are committed to rigorous economic analysis and are interested in learning how other disciplines – for example, psychology, sociology, anthropology, history, political science, and biology - further our understanding of economic behavior. An important function of SABE is to serve as a forum for research which may not find either comprehension or acceptance in conventional economics societies. SABE also aims at facilitating communication between economists and scholars trained in related disciplines.

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Editor: Simon James

School of Business and Economics, University of Exeter, Streatham Court, Exeter EX4 4PU United Kingdom

Contributions for the next issue are very welcome - email: S.R.James@ex.ac.uk

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Please visit SABE at our WEB site: http://www.usask.ca/economics/SABE/ Note that the address is case sensitive.

The Newsletter and Mailing List

We are very grateful to Pam Holmes who has done a superb job with the mailing list and welcome her successor Nancy Rekart. Gary Lynne kindly continues to organise the operation from the University of Nebraska and we would like to ask everyone to make sure they keep us up to date with their current email addresses. If you have a change of email or regular mail address please e-mail Nancy at nrekart@unl.edu or send her a note – to Nancy Rekart, Office Supervisor, 102 Filley Hall, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, NE 68583-0922, USA.

Society for the Advancement of Behavioral Economics (SABE) / International Association for Research in Economic Psychology (IAREP) 2004 Joint Meeting

Dates: July 15 – July 18, 2004

Location: Drexel University, 32nd and Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA

Theme: "Cross-Fertilization Between Economics and Psychology"

The 2002 Nobel Prize in economics awarded to Daniel Kahneman and Vernon Smith and the 2001 John Bates Clark Medal for 2001 awarded to Matthew Rabin have stimulated the development of economic psychology, behavioral economics, experimental economics and game theory. The European and North American associations most concerned with these developments will convene in Philadelphia in 2004 to explore the continuing stream of research which draws on both economic and psychological perspectives.

Tentative Schedule:

- July 15: Registration in the evening 5-7pm.
- July 16: Invited talk in the early morning, followed by parallel sessions (plus poster sessions). Boat ride and dinner in the evening.
- July 17: Invited talk in the early morning, followed by three time-slots for parallel sessions (plus poster sessions).
- July 18: Parallel sessions.

Hotel Arrangements:

Conference participants are expected to make their own arrangements and pay for hotels at the following hotels. Please identify yourself as members of SABE or IAREP for a discount rate:

- 1. Sheraton University, 36th and Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19104 (located near the conference site). Toll free reservation number: 877-459-1146 (or regular number: 215-387-8000). Fax: 215-387-7920. Basic room rate: \$99.00 per night plus taxes. Check-in time: after 3pm. Check-out time: before noon.
- 2. Holiday Inn Express Midtown, 1305 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19107 (located in the downtown area, 13 blocks from the conference site). Reservation number: 215-735-9300, Fax: 215-732-2593. Email: midtown@himidtwon.com. Basic room rate: \$92.00 per night plus taxes. Check-in time: after 3pm. Check-out time: 1pm. Taxis and subway can provide transportation to and from the conference site.
- 3. Student housing at Drexel University will be available for those who are interested and do not mind sharing amenities with others.

Highlights of the Conference:

- Keynote speaker will be Vernon Smith, Nobel Laureate in 2002 for his pioneering work in experimental economics.
- A plenary section will be offered to discuss the behavioral approach to public policy issues.

Ph.D. Student Paper Contest: Ph.D. students are encouraged to participate in the contest for the best student paper. There will be a cash prize. The Selection Committee consists of SABE's Charlotte Phelps and Mark Pingle, and IAREP's Gerrit Antonides and Erik Hoelzl.

Submission Invitation: Individual papers and proposals for sessions (which should include 3 or 4 papers per session) are invited. Papers and sessions may be related to any area of behavioral economics or economic psychology.

Submission Items and Deadlines: Abstracts of proposed papers will be evaluated for inclusion on the conference program. Abstracts of papers proposed for the conference may be submitted between Dec. 1, 2003, and March 1, 2004. To propose a session, please send an outline of the session, including the titles and abstract of papers, the chair for the session, and the organizer of the session. Authors and session organizers will be notified of acceptance by May 1. Abstracts and proposals for sessions should be submitted via email as a PDF or MS WORD file.

Proceedings: To be sure of inclusion in the proceedings, please submit drafts of papers in <u>PDF</u> format by May 15.

Where to Submit: Submit abstracts and papers, and any questions, to lesterby@drexel.edu - the email address for Professor Bijou Yang Lester; Department of Economics and International Business, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA, USA, 19104; Phone: 215-895-6973; Fax: 215-895-6975.

John Tomer

Despite John's natural modesty, his invaluable contribution to the development of SABE in particular and Behavioral Economics in general should be recorded. As a result of his tireless efforts and enthusiasm we have enjoyed a series of conferences that have brought together so many like-minded individuals from around the world to the benefit of all. Not only is the contribution of behavioral economics being widely recognised but also there can be little doubt that it is having a beneficial effect on the study of economics more generally.

Simon James

A Few Thoughts from the Outgoing President

Thanks very much for the Appreciation Award (on the occasion of my becoming the former President of SABE) which was presented to me at the Lake Tahoe SABE Conference in July 2003. Simon James asked me to share some of my thoughts and reflections on SABE. What follows is a little more future oriented than what he had in mind. SABE, thus far, has operated on a shoe string, financially and managerially. SABE's operations have been run by a small core group of people who are academics with a strong conviction that SABE has an important purpose to serve. This group has performed the work of SABE without compensation in their "spare" time. For quite a while SABE existed without Bylaws and without regular established procedures for elections, etc. Now SABE is maturing, growing in size, becoming more established, and starting to become more complex to manage. At some point, if this growth continues, we might have to consider whether our structures and procedures are adequate and whether operations based on a handful of people's donation of their spare time are sufficient. Are there alternative ways to manage the affairs of SABE? How can we assure the vitality of SABE matches the growing importance and vitality of behavioral economics? We have an opportunity to be the group that facilitates behavioral economics' advance to the forefront of economics. We will need to figure out how to seize this opportunity. Certainly, part of what SABE needs to do is to make sure we connect with and recruit younger economists who have aspirations to be behavioral economists.

John Tomer

An Opinion on the Dues Issue: Don't Raise the Dues

At SABE's business meeting during the Lake Tahoe Conference in July 2003, "the motion to raise the SABE dues to \$30 per year passed, with the understanding that the level of SABE dues will again be considered at the 2004 business meeting." The dues increase was considered to be on a "1-year trial basis". The context of the decision to raise the dues for next year, which I didn't vote for, was the joint SABE/IAREP Conference and the need to accommodate to IAREP with regard to the Philadelphia conference fees.

SABE's dues have been maintained at \$10 for quite a few years. SABE has minimal annual operating expenses; it has no salary expense, and small operating expenses like mailing is usually absorbed by officers or their academic institutions. The big annual expense is our annual conference, but these are intended to be and by and large have been self-supporting. The conference expenses, including speaker honoraria, have been paid for by conference fees. Of course, there is a risk that conference fees will be insufficient to cover unexpected conference expenses. That is why it is important to have a cash balance on hand to serve as a cushion. The cushion is also needed to pay upfront conference expenses incurred prior to the receipt of conference fees. Once in a while I believe the cushion has been used to pay for special one-time expenses such as speakers. SABE's dues have been sufficient to cover expenses plus provide for a slow and steady increase in the cushion. This is true despite the fact that many members, notably the ones not attending the annual conference, do not pay their dues every year. At present SABE is not directly affiliated with a journal. Thus it has no journal expense and minimal newsletter expense.

Given the above, there does not seem to be a good reason to raise the dues. Further, raising the dues would discourage prospective members from joining SABE, thereby holding down SABE's growth. Presumably, SABE members being rational, even if boundedly rational, compare the tangible benefits to SABE membership with the cost. Although SABE membership may be priceless for some of us, practically speaking it does not provide \$30 worth of value. Thus, it seems that the only justification for raising SABE dues would be if it were necessary to pay for some new, not yet incurred, but contemplated project expenses. If that is the case, those who contemplate such projects should spell out what these projects are and why we need to do these things. Such discussion should take place not only at the Board level but among the wider membership. Ultimately, the Board would need to approve these projects. Unless there are some concrete good reasons for operating in a different fashion than previously, a dues increase does not seem justified. At least I am not convinced to raise dues, and I hope others will require very convincing arguments before raising our dues.

John Tomer

Elections for the SABE Executive Board

Congratulations to colleagues who in 2003 were elected as follows:

President: Morris Altman

SABE Board:

2-year terms:

Morris Altman
Shoshana Grossbard-Shechtman
Simon James
Louis Levy-Garboua
Peter Lunt
Charlotte Phelps
Douglas Rebne
Kevin Sontheimer

4-year terms:

Gerrit Antonides Roger Frantz Flora Gill Ewa Gucwa-Lesny Gary Lynne Mark Pingle John Tomer Bijou Yang-Lester

Charlotte Phelps

Charlotte Phelps was awarded a Fulbright Senior Specialist Grant to interact with researchers in the group that does research in Evolutionary Economics at the Max Planck Institute for Research in Economic Systems, Jena, Germany. She was in residence for six weeks in September and October, 2003. Prior to her visit to Jena, she presented a paper on Cooperation in Hierarchies at the Budapest meetings of the International Society for New Institutional Economics.

ICAPE Conference June 5-7, 2003 in Kansas City

The first International Confederation of Associations for Pluralistic Economics (ICAPE) Conference was held during June 5-7, 2003 at the University of Missouri, Kansas City. The conference was entitled "The Future of Heterodox Economics," and the lead organizer was Rob Garnett of Texas Christian University. ICAPE is a consortium of 40 heterodox economic organizations working to further pluralism in the analytical perspectives, methods, policy discourse, and education of professional economists. Two SABE members, Morris Altman and John Tomer, attended and represented SABE. The conference was important in that it brought together people representing a broad range of heterodox economics. The conference promised to "promote a new spirit of pluralism in economics, involving critical conversation and tolerant communication among different approaches within and across the barriers between the disciplines." It was a promising beginning but it remains to be seen whether austrian economists, marxian economists, behavioral economists, etc. can find enough common ground in pluralism and heterodoxy to be a unified force for the improvement of economics. The conference proceedings provided grounds for both hope and doubt.

John Tomer

Journal of Socio-Economics

The mission of the Journal of Socio-Economics is to promote interdisciplinary dialogue about economic processes, institutions and policies. The core disciplines of interest to the journal are those belonging to the social sciences. But other sciences and the humanities are relevant and welcome. Biology, history and philosophy are of particular interest. The journal is interested in pure theory empirical studies, policy analyses and literature reviews. The JSE is a widely distributed, peer reviewed journal with a long historical association with SABE. For further information see:

http://www.elsevier.com/homepage/sae/econworld/econbase/soceco/frame.htm

Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization (JEBO)

I would like to invite you to consider submitting your research to the *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* (JEBO). Its aims and focus are very much in synch with the interests of many SABE members. I note that its founding editor, Richard Day, presented the plenary lecture at the closing banquet at the most recent SABE conference at Lake Tahoe. Information regarding the journal can be obtained at our website at

http://www.elsevier.com/homepage/sae/econbase/jebo/. Papers can be submitted by email to jebo@jmu.edu or by snail mail to

Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization

MSC 5505

1598 South Main Street

James Madison University

Harrisonburg, VA 22807.

Let me conclude this message by repeating the official statement of purpose of our journal.

The *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* is devoted to theoretical and empirical research concerning economic decision, organization and behavior and to economic change in all its aspects. Its specific purposes are to foster an improved understanding of how human cognitive, computational and informational characteristics influence the working of economic organizations and market economies and how an economy's structural features lead to various types of micro and macro behavior, to changing patterns of development and to institutional evolution. Research with these purposes that explore the interrelations of economics with other disciplines such as biology, psychology, law, anthropology, sociology and mathematics is particularly welcome. The journal is eclectic as to research method; systematic observation and careful description, simulation modeling and mathematical analysis are all within its purview. Empirical work, including controlled laboratory experimentation, that probes close to the core of the issues in theoretical dispute is encouraged.

J. Barkley Rosser, Jr.

Professor of Economics and Kirby L. Kramer, Jr. Professor of Business Administration James Madison University

Editor, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization

The 2003 SABE Conference

Many thanks go to Mark Pingle and his colleagues for all the hard work they cheerfully undertook in arranging the outstanding conference at Lake Tahoe. Their efficient organization together with the excellent presentations and spectacular location made this a very memorable conference.

Papers and Presentations:

Paul Albanese: The Personality Continuum and Consumer Behavior

Sam Allgood: The Marginal Costs and Benefits of Redistributing Income and Willingness to pay for Status.

Morris Altman: Freedom to Choose and Choice and Production X-inefficiencies: The Role of Information, Power and Gender in Preference Formation and Economic Wellbeing.

Lisa R. Anderson and Jennifer Mellor: *Inequality, Group Cohesion and Public Good Provision: An Experimental Analysis.*

Dan Ariely: Keeping Doors Open: The Effect of Unavailability on Incentives to Keep Options Viable.

Jason Barr: Organization, Learning and Cooperation.

Nathan Berg: Race-Switching in Texas: New Statistical Tests of Constructionist Theory.

Kjell Arne Brekke: Advertising as Manipulation of Social Learning.

Paul Brown: Income Inequality as a Predictor of Stroke; Exploring the Behavioral Mechanisms.

Jeremy T. Burman: The Culture of Capitalism as a Window to the Nature of Economic Man.

C. Monica Capra: The Effects of Common Advice on One-Shot Traveler's Dilemma Games: Explaining Behavior Through an Introspective Model with Errors.

Thomas Chamberlain: Instant Utility Approach to the Social Sciences.

Yan Chen: Sealed-Bid Auctions with Ambiguity: Theory and Experiment.

Elizabeth Chorvat: You Can't Take it With You: Behavioral Finance and Corporate Expatriations.

Terrence Chorvat: Perception and Income: The Behavioral Economics of the Realization Doctrine.

Gerald Cory: Behavioral Economics and Evolutionary Neuroscience: The New Findings.

Rachel Croson: Theories of Commitments, Altruism and Reciprocity: Evidence from Linear Public Goods Games.

Richard Day: Adaptive Economizing: Implications for Economic Theory and Policy.

David Dickinson: The Chilling Effect of Optimism: The Case of Final-Offer Arbitration.

Dorla Evans: Bidding and Overconfidence in Experimental Financial Markets.

Alexander J. Field: *Group Selection and Economic Theory*.

Sean Masaki Flynn: Limited Arbitrage, Segmentation, and Investor Heterogeneity: Why the Law of One Price So Often Fails.

Robert Frank: Departures from Rational Choice: With and Without Regret.

Przemek Gadomski: Socio-Economic Consequences of Theories of Justice. Transitional Perspective.

Herbert Gintis: How and Why Economic Man Deviates from Self-Interested Behavior.

Fredrik Hansen: Economic Methodology for Behavioral Economists.

Michael Hayes: The Significance of Informatics in Strategic Work at the IRS.

Peter Huang: Effective Regulation of Affective Investing: Regulating Emotional Investing in Bipolar Securities Markets.

Klaus Jaffe: Altruistic Punishment or Decentralised Social Investment?

Simon James: Taxpayer Beliefs and Views: A New Survey.

Philip Jones: Policy Preference and Political Participation: A Transactions Cost Analysis.

Catherine Kalinowski and Gary Lynne: Recycling as a Reflection of Balanced Self-Interest: The Metaeconomics Approach.

Jeong-Yoo Kim: The Architecture of Information-Processing Organizations.

Gaëlle Le Guirriec: Allocation of Time within Households: Determinants of Domestic Production Arrangements within French Households.

Louis Lévy-Garboua: Social Cognition and the Construction of Social Preferences.

Chi-ang Lin: An Institutional Perspective on Fundraising: A Comparative Analysis of Taiwan's Educational and Religious Groups.

André Lunardelli: Fairness, Ambiguity Aversion and the Stabilization Costs in the USA.

Ronald Mincy: Markets for Mothers and Fathers.

John Morgan: A Test of the Revenue Equivalence Theorem using Field Experiments on eBay.

Basil Moore: Complexity and Contingency.

Shabnam Mousavi: Rationality, Bounded Rationality and Actual Decision Making.

Linda Pelzmann: Departure from Rational Risk Perception.

Hermann Pengg: Models of Diffusion and Contagion Adapted for Prediction of Market Volume.

Mark Pingle: Examining the Impact of Relative Standing Using an Ultimate Bargaining Game Experiment.

Amnon Rapoport: Equilibrium Play in Single-Server Queues with Endogenously Determined Arrival Times.

Douglas Rebne: In Celebration of Value-Rational Leadership: Albert Gallatin and the Louisiana Purchase.

Craig Richardson: Who Lies and Why? The Economics of Deception.

J. Barkley Rosser: *The Changing Face of Economics*.

Tobias Rotheli: Losses Induced by Limited Coordination.

Jim Roumasset and Ari Joeri Henri Van Assche: *Malthus to Solow: A New Classical Apporach to Induced Innovation*.

Jean-Louis Rulliere and Marie-Claire Villeval: Redesigning Teams and Incentives: A Real Effort Experiment with Managers of a Merged Company.

Shunichiro Sasaki: The Density of Social Ties and the Equilibrium Selection in Coordination Games: An Experimental Study.

Pamela Schmitt: On the Role of the Hostage in Ultimatum Bargaining Games.

Hugh Schwartz: Decision Making as Revealed in On-Going Interviews.

Darryl Seale: Joining a Queue or Staying Out: Effects of Information Structure and Service Time on Large Group Coordination.

Manohar Singh: State Dependence of Investor Perceptions: An Explanation for Herding Behavior?

Donald J. Smythe: Bounded Rationality, the Doctrine of Impracticality, and the Governance of Relational Contracts.

Kevin Sontheimer: Behavioral Economics versus Neoclassical Economics: Paradigm Shift or Generalization.

Jack Stecher: Rationality and Perceptions.

Mark Stegeman: Accelerated (hyperbolic) Discounting as the Fully Rational Solution to a Generic Stochastic Control Problem.

Kurtis Swope: Preferences, Personality, and Pre-Commitment: Behavioral Explanations in Ultimatum Games.

Mauro Calixta Tavares: Consumption Systems and Market Orientation.

Ken Taylor: Ethical Behavior in Class Games.

Ranjini Thaver: A University Based Micro Credit Program.

Erik Thorbecke: Conceptual and Measurement Issues in Poverty Analysis.

John Tomer: Organizational Capital and Personal Capital: The Role of Intangible Capital Formation in the Economy.

Bijou Yang and David Lester: Gender Differences in E-commerce: Are Men Really from Mars and Women Really from Venus?

Hsiang Yin: Short-Term Stock Price Volatility: A NASDAQ Level-II Approach.

Roberto Weber: Exploiting the Moral Wriggle Room; Behavior Inconsistent with a Preference for Fair Outcomes.

Paul Zak: The Neurobiology of Trust.

Conference Participants' Affiliations: SABE 2003				
Name	Affiliation	Email		
Albanese, Paul J.	Kent State University	palbanes@kent.edu		
Allgood, Sam	University of Nebraska	sallgoodl@unl.edu		
Altman, Morris	University of Saskatchewan, Canada	altman@sask.usask.ca		
Anderson, Lisa R.	College of William and M	irande@wm.edu		
Ariely, Dan	MIT	ariely@MIT.EDU		
Atkinson, Glen	University of Nevada, Reno	atkinson@scs.unr.edu		
Barr, Jason	Dartmouth College	Jason.M.Barr@Dartmouth.edu		
Berg, Nathan	University of Texas at Dallas	nberg@utdallas.edu		
Brekke, Kjell Arne	University of Oslo, Norway	k.a.brekke@sum.uio.no		
Brown, Paul	University of Auckland, New Zealand	pm.brown@auckland.ac.nz		
Burman, Jeremy T.	Trinity College, University of Toronto	jeremy.burman@ utoronto.ca		
Capra, C. Monica	Emory University	capram @hss.caltech.edu		

Chamberlain, Thomas	Independent Researcher	tomchamb@ix.netcom.com
Chen, Yan	University of Michigan	yanchen@umich.edu
Chorvat, Elizabeth	George Mason University	echorvat@gmu.edu
Chorvat, Terrence	George Mason University	tchorvat@gmu.edu
Cory, Gerald	San Jose State University	augustuscory@msn.com
Croson, Rachel	Wharton Business School	Croson@opim.wharton.upenn.edu
Day, Richard	University of Southern California	rday@rcf.usc.edu
Dickinson David	Utah State University	ddickinson @b202.usu.edu
Evans, Dorla	University of Alabama, Huntsville	evansd@email.uah.edu
Field, Alexander J.	Santa Clara University	afield@scu.edu
Flynn, Sean Masaki	Vassar College	Flynn@vassar.edu
Frank, Robert	Cornell University	rhf3@cornell.edu
Frantz, Rodger	San Diego State University	rfrantz@mail.sdsu.edu
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid	
Freeland, Mark	Services;	mfreeland@cms.hhs. gov
Gadomski, Przemek	Warsaw University, Poland	pgadomski@wne.uw.edu.pl
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Unversity of Massachusetts, Amherst and	Power a series
Gintis, Herbert	Sante Fe Institute	hgintis@comcast.net
Guerrero, Federico	University of Nevada, Reno	guerrero@unr.edu
Hansen, Fredrik	Vaxjo University, Sweden	fredrik.Hansen@ehv.vxu.se
Hayes, Michael	Internal Revenue Service	Michael.N.Hayes@irs.gov
Huang, Peter	University of Pennsylvania Law School	phuang@law.upenn.edu
<u> </u>	Universidad Sim®n Bolivar, Caracas,	
Jaffe, Klaus	Venezuela.	kiaffe@usb.ve
James, Simon	University of Exeter	S.R.James@ex.ac.uk
Jones, Philip	University of Bath	P.R.Jones@bath.ac.uk
Kalinowski, Catherine	North Carolina State Universty	cmkalino@unity.ncsu.edu
	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State	
Kheirandish, Reza	University	rkheiran@vt.edu
Kim, Jeong-Yoo	Dongguk University, Korea	jyookim@dongguk.edu
Le Guirriec, Gaelle	Paris II University and ESSEC	Gaelle.leguirriec@reims-ms.fr
Lester, David	The Richard Stockton College of New	lesterd@stockton.edu
	Jersey, Pomona, NJ 08240	
	TEAM (CNRS) University of Paris I	Louis.Levy-Garboua@univ
Levy-Garboua, Louis	(Pantheon-Sorbonne), France	parisl.fr
Lin, Chi-an	National Chenchi University , Taiwan	calin@nccu.edu.tw
Lunardelli, Andre	University of Sao Paulo, Brazil	a.lun@globo.com
Lynne, Gary	University of Nebraska-Lincoln	GLYNNE@neb.rr.com
Mellor, Jennifer	College of William and Mary	jmmell@wm.edu
Mincy, Ronald	Columbia University	rm905@columbia.edu
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Wesleyan University and University of	
Moore, Basil	Stellenbosch	bjm@sun.ac.za
Morgan, John	University of California at Berkeley	morgan@haas.berkeley.edu
<i>S</i> ,	J 1 1 J	5

	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State	
Mousavi, Shabnam	University University	smousavi@vt.edu
	•	an an af@ av nat
Nomof, Normon	Unaffiliated Vienna University of Economics and	nnomof@gv.net
Dalamana Linda	_	Linds Dalaman (Quantilates as at
Pelzmann, Linda	Business	Linda.Pelzmann@uni-klu.ac.at
	Vienna University of Economics and	
Pengg, Hermann	Business	hermann.pengg@treibacher.at
Pingle, Mark	University of Nevada, Reno	pingle@unr.edu
Rapoport, Amnon	University of Arizona	amnon@u.arizona.edu
Rebne, Douglas	New York University	dr73@salem.edu
Richardson, Craig	Salem College	Cjr@salem.edu
Rosser, J. Barkley	James Madison University	rosserjb@jmu.edu
Rotheli, Tobias	University of Erfurt	tobias.roetheli@uni-erfurt.de
Roumasset, Jim	University of Hawaii	jimr@hawaii.edu
Rullere, Jean-Louis	GATEUniversity of Lyon, FRANCE	rulliere@gate.cnrs.fr
	Graduate School of Media and Governance,	
Sasaki, Shunichiro	Keio University, Japan	ssasaki@sda.att.ne.jp
Schmitt, Pamela	US Naval Academy	pschmitt@usna.edu
Schwartz, Hugh	University of the Republic and ORT,	hughschwar@aol.com
Seale, Darrel	University of Nevada, Las Vegas	dseale@unlv.edu
Singh, Manohar	University of Nevada, Reno	msingh@ unr.edu
Smythe, Donald J.	California Western School of Law	djs@cwsl.edu
Sontheimer, Kevin	University of Pittsburgh	Sontheim+ @pitt.edu
Stecher, Jack	University of Minnesota	jstecher@csom.umn.edu
	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State	
Stegeman, Mark	University	stegeman@vt.edu
Swope, Kurtis	US Naval Academy	swope@usna.edu
	College of Human Sciences of Pedro	
Tavares, Bruno Gustavo	Leopoldo, Brazil	calixta@terra.com.br
	College of Human Sciences of Pedro	
Tavares, Mauro Calixta	Leopoldo, Brazil	calixta@terra.com.br
Taylor, Ken	Rollins College	ktaylor2@cfl.rr.com
Thaver, Ranjini	Stetson University	rthaver @stetson.edu
Thorbecke, Erik	Cornell University	etl7@ cornell.edu
Tomer, John	Manhattan College	jtomer@juno.com
Van Assche, Ari Joeri		
Henri	University of Hawaii	asschea@hawaii.edu
Villeval, Marie-Claire	Universite Lumiere Lyon 2, France	villeval@gate.cnrs.fr
Weber, Roberto	Carnegie Mellon University	rweber@andrew.cmu.edu
Wheeler, Mark	Temple University	mark.wheeler@ temple.edu
Yang-Lester, Bijou	Drexel University	lesterby@drexel.edu
Yin, Hsiang	Unaffiliated	hsiang76@hotmail.com
	Claremont Graduate University and Loma	
Zak, Paul	Linda University	paul.zak@cgu.edu
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IAREP CONFERENCE IN PRAGUE 2005

'ABSURDITY IN THE ECONOMY'

The Jubilee IAREP Congress, the 30th, will be held in Praha, Czechia, on the site of the oldest University in Central Europe: Charles University (founded in 1348). The organiser will be Karel Riegel, with the Institute of Psychology Charles U. and Cappo (Czech association of work and organizational Psychology)

The main theme will cover all aspects of rationality and absurdity: from pure rational thinking, through bounded rationality, to the non-rational - or irrational - so well described by the writer Franz Kafka, who was a citizen of Prague and clerk of an assurance agency. The transition of economies was not like a walk through a rosarium (as in beautiful Bath for example), but rather more like a laboratory of economic thought. Independent variables were not only the euphoria that came from new freedoms, but also naivity and inexperience on the one hand and legal and moral deficits on the other. The resulting profound changes brought not only the standard, functioning market economy, but also emotions, depressions, disenchantment and, even a sense of absurdity. Underestimation, in the same way as overestimation of market possibilities, leads as a rule to a whole family of economic consequences like bankruptcy, corruption,, unemployment, and its psychological co-(Johny)walkers: distrust (of currency, or stocks and shares for example), dissocialization (not only children, but adults too), an increase in the proportion of risky and hazardous behaviors (such as gambling etc). So there is a wide range of general and specific research problems to be approached from theoretical, methodological and applied perspectives, and members of IAREP are invited to address these. Another aim of the congress is to contribute to ways of solving the problems emerging in practice. For that reason, some of the thematic sessions will be focused on specific topics. There will be an 'Internet Conference' on the web as a special forum for those who will not be able to join the meeting in person.

As the Prague meeting represents IAREP's 30th year, the congress presents an opportunity both to recapitulate and evaluate all that has already been achieved in the field of economic psychology, as well as outlining perspectives for future development. Depending on the demand, the organiser will prepare some pre-congress workshops, a programme for accompanying persons, social events (such as a visit to Karlovy Vary, a boat cruise on Vltava River, a guided tour of ancient Prague, a University promotion ceremony and so on) as well as some post-congress tours.

The conference will be in September 2005. We look forward to welcoming you all in Prague in 2005! For details of other events, go to the IAREP web site at http://www.ex.ac.uk/IAREP/

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