



International Seminar on

Economy and Well-Being: Implications for Investment

Thursday 14th May 2015 at the GHFP's Office in Brighton

The Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace's (GHFP) seminar series invites speakers and contributors from around the world to present, dialogue and discuss relevant topics within the broad theme of Peace.

Co-convened with the New Economics Foundation, the primary purpose of this GHFP seminar is to explore the fundamental ideas, principles and practices that would form the basis of an economy that is truly centred on human well-being.

We envisage the discussion taking place in two parts.

In the first part, we will explore these ideas in general terms, in order to establish a shared understanding about what an economy based on well-being might look like and what the essential features of such a system would be.

There are two ways in which we might approach this: we may note fundamental problems with or dysfunctional aspects of the existing system. Or, we could envisage and outline new and better possibilities pertaining to the economic system as such. In both cases, this might consist of articulating key principles and values, and in discussing how these can be embodied in institutional reforms and systemic changes.

The second part of our exploration will focus on applying these ideas to a specific area – investment. In this context, by 'investment' we don't mean trading in shares, bonds, futures and derivatives, but rather injections of capital into research, design, development and manufacture of new consumer goods, services and means of production. We suggest this focus because such investment strategically shapes the future content of the economy.

How should the institutions concerning investment be reconceived for an ecologically sound economy that is based on human well-being? In other words, if we were to redesign investment institutions according to the principles of human well-being, what should these associated concepts look like? How would investment institutions need to be in order to make such a re-conception real?

We are aware that the central questions of the seminar are broad and open. This is to give contributors the opportunity to focus the discussion on what they see as the key elements in any new thinking on these topics, and to explore different approaches. We also intentionally leave the scope of the discussion open so that it is not restricted to the particularities of any country.

The GHFP encourages the contributors to reverse engineer blue-sky thinking rather than engage in a process of reforming existing realities or criticise the negativities of the current situation (in terms of both understanding and institutional structures), though both approaches are welcome. In any case, the discussion does not have to be constrained by the limitations of standard neo-classical economic theory. We hope that by developing a common vision, our discussion can more easily advance into new grounds.

OUTLINE OF THE SEMINAR

09:30 – 10:00	Welcome and Introduction
10:00 – 11:00	Presenter: Stewart Wallis: Principles of New Economics
11:00 – 11:30	Respondent: Garrett Thomson
11:30 – 11:45	Break
11:45 – 12:30	Discussion (1)
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	Discussion (2)
15:00 – 15:15	Break
15:15 – 16:45	Further discussion and conclusions

CONFIRMED CONTRIBUTORS

Stewart Wallis	Executive Director NEW ECONOMICS FOUNDATION
Garrett Thomson	Compton Professor of Philosophy, COLLEGE OF WOOSTER; CEO, GUERRAND-HERMÈS FOUNDATION FOR PEACE
David Cadman	Economist, Writer, Visiting Professor UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
David Fell	Director BROOK LYNDHURST
Ivor Goodson	Professor of Learning Theories UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON
Hamilton Helmer	Founder, POWER DYNAMICS Managing Director, DEEP STRATEGY Professor, STANFORD UNIVERSITY
Sharif Horthy	Co-Founder and Vice Chairman GUERRAND-HERMÈS FOUNDATION FOR PEACE
Helene Jelman	Managing Director GOLDLAKE CAPITAL
Jenneth Parker	Research Director SCHUMACHER INSTITUTE
Samuel Simonsson	Business Economist, Entrepreneur

TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION

The GHFP's address is 199 Preston Road, Brighton BN1 6SA. The nearest train station is Preston Park Brighton, and the nearest airport is London Gatwick Airport. Parking at the GHFP is available for limited number of vehicles at request. The GHFP will cover the cost of the seminar, including venue, refreshments and lunch. Overnight accommodation on 13/14 May in Brighton can be arranged for those who need it. For further information and assistance with travels and accommodation, please contact the GHFP's Administrator Laura Hobson: laura.hobson@ghfp.org; Mobile: 07791 075249

CONTACT

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