SPECIFIC CALL FOR PAPERS TO THE WORKSHOP:
“POLITICAL ECONOMY OF APPROPRIATION AND CONFLICT”
(ÉCONOMIE POLITIQUE DE L’APPROPRIATION ET DU CONFLIT)

1. GENERAL ORGANIZATION

As detailed by the general presentation of the Conference (check on our website Recherche & Régulation), the organizers want to support collective research, on new or critical economic challenges, which in turn question the researchers’ practices and methods. With this prospect in mind, the scientific committee has selected this workshop topic—and around thirty other ones.

This specific call will help you to submit a paper to the organizers of this specific workshop (otherwise you should check on our website to submit to another workshop or as a varia).

Paper proposals will be examined by the organizers of the workshop and by the scientific committee according to the schedule and requirements below:

SCHEDULE AND FORMAL REQUIREMENTS.

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<th>ÉCHÉANCE</th>
<th>DATE LIMITE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper proposals&lt;br&gt;Approximately 500 words + maximum 10 bibliographic references (languages: either French or English)</td>
<td>November 1, 2014. Response from the scientific committee: December 15, 2014.</td>
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<td>Final versions of complete papers&lt;br&gt;(for both varia and special workshops)&lt;br&gt;Approximately 8,000 words except for “state of the art” papers that are limited to 2,500 words + maximum 15 bibliographic references</td>
<td>April 15, 2015</td>
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<td>Conference: June 10-12, 2015 (Paris)</td>
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FORMATS. The topics addressed by contributions to the Research and Regulation 2015 Conference are not limited, but submitted papers must clearly set out how they are positioned: within epistemological or theoretical issues; conceptual or empirical; whether they present results, a survey or a programmatic approach.

The committee will also examine proposals that sum up state-of-the-art knowledge in specific areas, whether methodological or field-based. ¹

In addition, selected presentations will be proposed for publication in a variety of formats, such as peer-reviewed journals, books or proceedings; specifics will be provided by the organizers prior to the Conference.

2. ORGANIZER OF THE WORKSHOP

- Mehrdad VAHABI (université de Paris-8, LED)

3. SCIENTIFIC ORIENTATION OF THE WORKSHOP


Intégrer les activités conflictuelles et appropriatives dans la théorie économique requiert une approche multidisciplinaire combinant la théorie économique

¹ Be aware that such state-of-the-art papers must follow formal constraints (see section “Event Organization” below).
avec la science politique, la sociologie, le droit, la géopolitique et la philosophie morale. La compréhension des concepts fondamentaux tels que ‘conflit’ et ‘crime’ transgresse les frontières standards imposées par l’économie conventionnelle.


[EN] This workshop introduces a programmatic approach regarding the impact of destructive activity on economic performance. By ‘destructive activity’, we mean all conflictual efforts (violent and non-violent such as warfare, civil war, civil disobedience, social conflicts) as well as criminal activities.

From its inception, Political Economy has been interested in analysing the value that agents, individually or collectively, can produce or exchange at national or international levels. According to Say, Political Economy has to be “confined to the science which treats of wealth” and “unfolds the manner in which wealth is produced, distributed, and consumed” (Jean-Baptiste Say, [1821] 1964, p. xv). The main object of Political Economy is thus the productive power of human beings. But what about their destructive power? This latter question is not less important than the traditional central question of Political Economy, since it is easier to destroy than to create. In fact, we are able to destroy a hundred or even thousand times more than what we can create.

The creative power of an ordinary healthy high-school graduate may amount to no more than four or five thousand dollars of value per year. This creative or positive economic power refers to the graduate’s capacity to produce or to exchange. But that is not the only economic power that he possesses. As an extortionist, for example, he can destroy a hundred times more. Furthermore, extortion can be used by a criminal, a brigand, or a revolutionary. Regardless of the extortionist’s motive, it is destructive power, the power to destroy use values or exchange values that he uses. Is the question how much can an agent destroy irrelevant to Political Economy? Neoclassical economists say that it is.

Neoclassical economics rejected social disequilibrium and conflict, and assumed a sustainable harmony among individual agents through a market economy with clearly defined and transferable private rights. Consequently, revolutions or radical conflicts undermining the social system are considered to be “unnatural” or irrational, and thus treated as actions resulting from passions and emotions and not from reason. Since by definition Neoclassical economics was the study of “rational behavior”, the study of this type of irrational behavior was, as Pareto urged, delegated to sociology, politics, psychology and history. Of course, Pareto ([1902] 1966) acknowledges that “The efforts of men are utilized in two different ways: they are directed to the production or transformation of economic goods, or else to the appropriation of goods produced by others”. However, since the appropriative activity does not come within the scope of free choice, it cannot under the neoclassical view concern the economist. Our workshop tries to grasp the importance of different aspects of destructive activity with regard to economic performance. We thus focus on the costs and benefits of conflictual and criminal activities.

Our topic is related to the conference scientific orientation in at least two respects:

1) What are the priorities in research development? What would be determining factors in shaping economic analysis over the next few years: demography, gender, modes of consumption, habitat…?

In our opinion, destructive activity is one of the main determining factors in shaping economic analysis over the next few years. Unfortunately, the influence of mainstream economics in our discipline has resulted in excluding the significant role played by conflictual and criminal activities in shaping economic institutions and determining economic performance. Our workshop endeavors to bring back destructive activities into economics and in this sense it has a programmatic approach.
2) Which multi-disciplinary strategies? Should economics be considered only as one of the many components of social sciences or should we seek a fully integrative social science paradigm? Integrating destructive activity in economics requires a multi-disciplinary strategy combining economics with politics, sociology, law, geopolitics and moral philosophy. A basic understanding of concepts such as ‘conflict’ and ‘crime’ is impossible within the tight neoclassical straitjacket and goes beyond the standard frontiers imposed by the mainstream economics as a ‘forgotten branch of mathematics’. Although we are not against the use of mathematics, we consider economics as part of a more general integrative social science paradigm.

This workshop will address these topics, one of its session being organized as follows:
– Clotilde Champeyrache (Université Paris-8, LED-EPII): “Destructive entrepreneurship: The costs of the mafia for the legal economy”.
– Mehrdad Vahabi (Université Paris-8, LED-EPII et CES): “Appropriation and conflictual costs: why A Political Economy of Predation?”
– Carl Mildenberger (University of St Andrews) and Antoine Pietri (université Paris-1, CES): “Comparing Contest Success Functions: Evidence from Virtual Worlds”

TO SUBMIT A PAPER

STEP 1. PAPER PROPOSAL
To be considered, a paper proposal should be presented in a word-processing document that respects the following requirements:

First page:
+ Paper title,
+ professional status and contacts of author (if co-authors, use boldface for the correspondent)
+ title of the workshop

Second page: Abstract in French and English (maximum 10 lines each, with 5 key words)

Third and fourth page:
— A summary presenting a detailed outline that addresses the following questions: What is the starting point? What is the key idea or argument? What is going to be demonstrated? Which scientific questioning and heuristic framework (and the theoretical or conceptual elements on which they are based)? What methodology is used? (when appropriate: what is the state of the art of which scientific issue?)
— A bibliography indicating the key references that will guide the author (10 maximum)

Proposals will be evaluated by the scientific committee according to the “double blind” procedure.

STEP 2. FULL PAPER
The definitive text must be received according to the calendar above in a digital word-processing file (Arial 10pt, single line spacing; margins 2.5 cm).

First page: Paper title, professional status and contacts of author (if co-authors, use boldface for the correspondent).

Second page: Abstract in French and English (maximum 10 lines each, with 5 key words)

Text: maximum 8,000 words.

Note that each paper will be evaluated for possible publication after the colloquium, in a peer-reviewed journal or edited volume.

CONTACT US

Proposals and full papers will be sent to the organizer of the workshop (mehrdad.vahabi@wanadoo.fr) with a copy to the organizers of the conference (rr2015@upmf-grenoble.fr).