

Call for panels, workshops and papers

Economics & Democracy

Second Annual Interdisciplinary Social Sciences Conference

**Hosted by the Research School of
Social Sciences, ANU, Canberra
8-10 December 2008**

Register online

[Registration information](#)

The interpenetration of democracy and the economy has been subject to longstanding suspicions, on both sides. Economists frequently decry what they regard as ill-conceived interventions into the market from populist politicians. For their part, political scientists are often concerned about the influence that 'political money' has on the makeup of parliaments or decisions of government, and on keeping the forum separate from the market.

What the appropriate relation between democracy and the economy should be remains a fraught question. Most of us rejoice in the extensions of the franchise and extending democracy, but many would balk at extending it to workplaces or boardrooms. There are also important questions over whether contracting out more public functions to the private sector seriously constricts the range of democratic control. Some see democracy as just another kind of market: a market in votes, governed by the same logic as the economic market, while others regard the analogy as fundamentally misplaced.

This conference is organized by the Research School of Social Science of the Australian National University, drawing on the new Thematic structure around which the School itself is organized. It brings together a wide range of social scientists scholars and policy practitioners, from across Australasia and beyond, to reflect on the ways in which economics and democracy interact. The aim of the conference is to foster academic and policy dialogue about the ways, for better or worse, that economics penetrates democracy and democracy the economy, and to explore creative ways of resolving problems that arise as they do.

We invite proposals for workshops (full-day, invitation only intensive sessions aimed at fostering collaborative research), paper sessions (public presentations and discussions of thematically linked papers), panel discussions (on current issues and controversies related to the conference theme), and individual paper proposals. An indicative, non-exhaustive list of possible topics includes:

- Modeling Human Decision-making
- Prediction Markets in Politics
- Financing Elections and Buying Office
- The Politics & Economics of Government Regulation
- The Contract State
- Democratizing the World Order, Politically & Economically
- The Rise and Rise of Economic Rationalism
- Corruption/ Transparency
- Extending the Franchise: Past and Future
- Auditing Democracy
- Fiscal Federalism
- Democratizing the Economy: Shareholding, Workplace Democracy
- Social Democracy and the Labour Movement
- Growth of Government
- Engendering Political Economy
- Democratic Limits on the Market
- Limiting Democracy: Independent Central Banks
- Science and Democracy: The Limits of Populism
- Democratizing Risk
- Markets, Equality and Democracy
- Democratic Effects on Society and Economy
- Deliberative Democracy and Distributional Issues

A word on formats:

Paper Sessions are 90-minute sessions where 2-3 thematically linked papers are presented in 15 mins each, and then commented on by one or two discussants, followed by questions and comments from the audience.

Panel Discussions are interactive sessions driven by current debates and controversies, both academic and societal ones, where the organizer acts a moderator of the panel composed of representatives of significant positions and/ or stakeholders in the debate.

In addition there will be 2 or 3 plenary sessions featuring keynote speeches, including Tim Besley (LSE and Bank of England).

We welcome proposals for whole Paper Sessions, or offers of individual papers that we can pair with related papers in such a session. We also welcome proposals for topics and speakers that might make for a good Panel Discussion.

Deadline for proposals: 31 March 2008.

Please address (or at least cc) all conference program correspondence and all administrative queries to the Conference Secretariat:

Mary Hapel <arcadia@coombs.anu.edu.au>.

Address substantive queries to one of the members of the Organizing Committee:

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