

Italian Association for the History of Economic Thought

14th Conference – Call for Papers

28-30 April 2016

Università del Salento (Lecce, Italy)

"Economics and Power: An Historical Perspective"

Power may be defined as the capacity to induce others to carry out actions desired by those who hold it, actions the others would not carry out spontaneously of their own free will. It has been studied from the earliest times, yet has not received a univocal evaluation in economic theory. It can be met with, for example, in theories of monopoly, of oligopoly and trade, right from their origins, defined as market or strategic power: in these cases the counterpart is free to choose whether to carry out the economic action, and sees the field of his possible choices limited, or modified in favour of those who hold power. Power relationships certainly enter into an analysis of labour markets, at least from the time of Adam Smith and, later on, in all the theoretical contexts in which it is assumed that wage bargaining is carried out in conditions where firms can determine wages and, as a consequence, the distribution of income. The power of intervention in the economy, too, has always been a question intensely debated by economists throughout history (from mercantilism to the present day), leading to the definition – via the economic policies put forward from time to time – of various typologies of relations between the economy and the state. More recently, economists have dealt with the subject of power in the theory of incomplete contracts, as well as in economic analyses of political organisations.

Aispe invites historians of economic thought, economic historians, economists and interested scholars to present proposals for papers and/or sessions along the lines listed below, or on others relevant to the subject of the conference:

- a) Power and markets in an historical perspective: strategic, bargaining and monopoly power, in the labour market, in the financial markets
- b) Economic power and Governments in the history of economic ideas: economic policies, Public Choice, Law and Economics
- c) Power and the theory of the firm in economic thought
- d) The concept of power in the various schools of thought: Physiocracy, Mercantilism, Classical political economy, Marxism, Historicism, the Austrian school, Marginalism, Institutionalism, Corporatism, Keynesian and post-Keynesian economics, others
- e) The history of the relationship between economists and power
- f) The power of ideas and of economic paradigms



Other sessions

As usual in the AISPE tradition, proposals of papers and sessions on various topics in the history of economic thought are welcome.

Official languages

Italian, English

Key Dates

15 February 2016 – Deadline for abstract submissions
29 February 2016 – Notification of acceptance
18 April 2016 – Deadline for sending your paper
28-30 April 2016 – 14th AISPE Conference

The Scientific Committee

Pier Francesco Asso (Università di Palermo)
Massimo M. Augello (Università di Pisa)
Guglielmo Forges Davanzati (Università del Salento)
Vitantonio Gioia (Università del Salento)
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Sebastiano Nerozzi (Università di Palermo)
Giovanni Pavanelli (Università di Torino)
Gianfranco Tuset (Università di Padova)

Organizing Committee c/o Università del Salento:

Guglielmo Forges Davanzati, Vitantonio Gioia, Manuela Mosca

An abstract of max 500 words for a paper and max 1000 words for a session should be submitted to aispe2016@unisalento.it no later than 15 February 2016.

For information concerning the conference, go to www.aispe.eu