



Association for Institutional Thought [AFIT]

2006 CALL FOR PAPERS

The annual meeting of AFIT will be held

April 19-22, 2006

Wyndham Hotel

Phoenix, Arizona

In conjunction with the Western Social Science Association (WSSA) 48th Annual Conference

Theme for the 2006 Conference:

What's Right with Institutional Economics; What's Wrong with Institutional Economics?

Institutional economists have long promoted a far-ranging program, addressing theoretical, methodological, and policy issues. As with any enterprise, it is necessary from time to time to take stock of the body of knowledge that has accumulated over the decades, and to make an estimate as to what has been accomplished and what is required if further progress is to be achieved. Is there consensus on the main theoretical corpus of institutional economics? What should be the institutionalist stance on major policy issues? Is a single, unified approach to issues possible? Is this desirable? It is hoped that this conference brings out differences on these and other matters, encouraging good debate and attempts at resolution.

Some possible themes for panels and/or papers

- Exactly what is institutional theory? Is there a unified theory incorporating the work of the major figures in this approach, or do we see disjointed elements, impossible to synthesize?
- What is the place of pragmatism in the institutionalist approach? Are there methods used that run counter to pragmatism?
- What is and what should be the relation between institutionalism and Marx, Keynes, Polanyi, et al.?
- To what extent does institutional theory correspond to a monetary economy? Is "real" analysis more enlightening than monetary relations?
- What work needs to be done in order to advance the institutional program of institutional economists?

In addition to the above topics, AFIT welcomes papers reflecting the tradition and analytical perspective of institutional economics and applications of institutional analysis to current policy issues. Submissions from economists of other heterodox schools of thought are also welcome. AFIT encourages proposals from graduate students, and it is anticipated that at least one and possibly more panels of graduate student papers will be included in the program this year.

AFIT hopes to continue the tradition of having one or more roundtables on ideas, experiences, and materials helpful for incorporating institutionalism and heterodox economics into our teaching. Participants in these roundtables are encouraged to submit their materials for posting on the AFIT web site.

Anyone interested in attending the AFIT Conference or in finding out more about the organization may visit the AFIT web site at <http://afit.cba.nau.edu>. The WSSA web site can be found at <http://wssa.asu.edu>.

You must be a member of AFIT to present a paper at the conference. Annual dues are only \$15. Contact Steven Bolduc, Secretary-Treasurer of AFIT, (bolduc@mnstate.edu).

How to submit a proposal:

Individual Paper Proposals. Proposals must include the following information:

Section: AFIT
Author:
Mailing Address:
Telephone:
Fax:
E-mail:
Title of Paper:
Abstract (150 words):

Complete Panel Proposals. Complete panel proposals are invited. Panel proposals should include 3-4 papers, 1-2 discussants and a panel chair. Panel organizers should send a brief letter with the following information: 1) Title of panel; 2) List of Participants; 3) E-mail addresses for all panel participants. Each participant in the panel should also submit an individual proposal with the information listed above.

Please note: Abstracts of papers presented at AFIT will be included in the WSSA published abstract disk (available at the conference). WSSA requires that abstracts not exceed 150 words. *Excessively long abstracts will be truncated at the word limit.*

Audiovisual or other equipment needs: Individual and panel proposals should include requests for any equipment (WSSA does not provide computer projectors). It is difficult (and expensive) to arrange for equipment at the last minute. Please plan ahead!

Send proposals by E-mail (file attachment in Microsoft Word or RTF format preferred) to the Vice President of AFIT:

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Deadline for proposal submission: December 1, 2005