



Association for Institutional Thought

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION:

Association for Institutional Thought (AFIT) 2024 Conference

*The 45th Annual Meeting of AFIT is scheduled for April 3-6, 2024, in San Antonio, Texas
in conjunction with the
66th Annual World Social Science Association Conference*

Our Conference Theme:

Law, Technology, and Power

The submission deadline has been extended to January 22, 2024

The Association for Institutional Thought (AFIT) invites you to submit papers and/or propose full sessions for this year's conference. In San Antonio, we aim to celebrate the 45th anniversary of AFIT's inception and our firebrand Texan Institutionalists founders Robert Montgomery, Clarence Ayers, Edward Hale, and Clarence Wiley. In firebrand fashion, this year's theme emphasizes work that challenges the status quo in Law and Technology and fosters new, democratic, and inclusive power structures within the institutions responsible for providing the material means of life across all our planet's ecosystems.

One of AFIT's missions is to offer Institutionalism as a basis for inquiry into the interrelationships in society. As such, we cordially extend an invitation to our colleagues in Law and Political Economy and those who are working on the front lines of legislative change and activism. Through the sharing of ideas and actions, we seek to initiate new transdisciplinary interrelationships with colleagues in law and activism.

We encourage papers and sessions that (1) demonstrate how institutionalist and evolutionary approaches/concepts can be used to answer important economic questions, (2) offer theoretical developments and applications, (3) address methodological issues, and (4) show how institutional issues can be incorporated into the teaching of economics.

To encourage and support the submission of pedagogically themed papers and panels, we are excited to announce a partnership with the ***International Journal of Pluralism and Economics Education***. The IJPEE is interested in new and effective pedagogies, as well as the intersection between law, economics, and technology, as we transition to Net Zero.

Participants are also encouraged to submit their conference papers to the ***Journal of Economic Issues*** and ***Money on the Left: History, Theory, Practice***.

More specifically, we encourage submissions that tackle the following complex and challenging issues:

- Impact of digitalization, surveillance, and artificial intelligence on the economy/labor market
- The political economy of digital currency/cryptocurrencies
- Modern monetary theory, neo chartalism, and constitutional money
- Coordination rights, enterprise structures, supply chains, and monopoly power
- Issues on social reproduction and women's rights
- Democracy, political extremism, neoliberalism, and geopolitical conflict and inequality
- Urban economies, spatial justice, and land use
- Chinese economy as a regional and emerging global leader
- Postcolonial approaches to conflicts/crises
- Africa's emergence in the global economy: opportunities and challenges
- Immigration, migration, globalization and climate change
- Unequal access to justice in vulnerable communities and criminal justice reform
- Biopolitics and economic policies
- Consumption, identity, and class
- Climate Change and environmental justice
- Culture and religion

The conference is also receptive to proposals for panels and roundtables that review and discuss books recently published, especially by AFIT members. As always, AFIT encourages proposals from undergraduate and graduate students, and AFIT sponsors prizes for outstanding student papers.

The topics described above are not exclusive to other dynamics that encompass the vast analytical scope of institutional economics. All proposals for papers and sessions reflecting the traditional and analytical perspectives represented by AFIT will be given serious consideration.

For those who may be unfamiliar with Institutional Economics, Institutionalists are represented by scholars from a variety of disciplines apart from economics including sociology, anthropology, history, law, and political science. Foremost, Institutionalists perceive individuals as social entities. Replacing the atomist vision of orthodox approaches, institutionalists see each individual as influenced by the institutions that surround her/his living context, which in turn is strongly influenced by cultural practices and a set of values pre-determined by historical, environmental, and social variables. As a whole, humans strive not only for basic material needs, but also for status and appreciation among their peers. These pursuits are guided by institutions that we often describe as socially sanctioned behaviors that include an enforcement mechanism and/or validating mechanism.

The format of the 2024 conference panels does not include discussants. AFIT sessions strive to promote a more general discussion on the ideas discussed by each presenter. Nonetheless, AFIT remains open to accommodate a discussant format if deemed necessary. **Proposals for complete sessions are strongly encouraged.** All papers and proposals for the AFIT sessions must be submitted via the WSSA website: <https://wssaconference.com/> no later than January 22nd, 2024, under the “Sections & Affiliates” tab. Please keep abstracts to 300 words or less. Participants should update their AFIT membership, if they are not already members. Online conference registration is open on the WSSA website. Please contact Benjamin Wilson with any inquiries about submissions or conference proceedings: bcw@cortland.edu.