

Seminars, Conferences, Addresses

Second International Conference on Ethico-Economics: Ethical Foundations of the Economic and Social Order

Centre of Humanomics, University College of Cape Breton, Sydney, NS, Canada Rabi at Awwal 3-4, 1412/October 11-12, 1991

The Second International Conference on Ethico-Economics was organized by the Centre of Humanomics at the University College of Cape Breton, Sydney, NS, Canada, on October Il-12, 1991. It turned out to be a great success, as the fourteen university professors and research scholars from America, Canada, and overseas were active participants in the sessions. There were five sessions and three invited luncheon and dinner sessions. The conference proved to be of a rigorously analytical nature, as its purpose was to inquire into the ethical foundations of the theory and policy of economic reasoning and socioeconomic development.

The objective of the conference was to intensify the Scientific Research Program (SRP) launched by a group of university professors and research scholars, an undertaking which seeks to discover the analytical and applied roots and possibilities of treating ethics endogenously in socioeconomic systems. The latitude is extended to comprehend the socioscientific system as well. The First International Conference on Ethico-Economics, held at

Sydney, NS, Canada, in 1989, inquired into the subject of "The Epistemological Foundations of Social Theory."

Among the papers presented and extensively discussed in critical length—an expressed style of this SRP group to evolve a scientific theory and application of ethics as endogenous elements of the socioeconomic and socioscientific orders—were two papers on Islamic economics. Mohammad Ansari, of Athabasca University, Athabasca, AL, Canada, dealt with the question of the Islamic concept of rationality being different from the neoclassical concept of rationality. Salah el-Sheikh of St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS, Canada, discussed the process of knowledge formation in the Islamic approach to the study of economics.

The paper by Masudul A. Choudhury of the University College of Cape Breton, Sydney, NS, Canada, was in the area of endogenous conceptualization of ethics in contrast to the exogenous treatment to be found in the entire history of Western social contractarian theory. Mark Lutz of the University of Maine at Orono, Orono, ME, focused on the area of developing standard approaches in development studies. He also criticized the existing concept of relativism in ethical philosophy. Jon Wisman of the American University, Washington, DC, and Kenneth Stikkers of Seattle University, Seattle, WA, dealt in their jointly-authored paper with the ethical formulation of the concepts of the good life, the common good, and the vision of material progress in an ethical framework.

The papers of Len Pluta of St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS, Canada, and Li-teh Sun of Morehead State University, Morehead, KY, concentrated on conceptualizing the attributes of individual behavior and societal interactions as perceived in comparative social and economic doctrines to form a balanced individual and society. Santo Dodaro of St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS, Canada, and Rod Nichols of the University College of Cape Breton, Sydney, NS, Canada, discussed institutionalist thinking in Keynes and Wendell Berry, as they have shaped socioethical views. The papers of Abdur Rehman Zeinelabdin of the Statistical, Economic, and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries, Ankara, Turkey, Lewis Solomon of the National Law Centre, George Washington University, Washington, DC, and Barry Myers of the Algonquin College, Algonquin Park, OT, Canada, were in the applied areas of sustainable development, aid granting, and commodity pricing that leave the impress of the existing unethical values ingrained in these processes on the global scene.

The papers presented will be collected in several issues of the *Humanomics* journal which will appear over the course of the year 1992.

The "Third International Conference on Ethico-Economics: Relations between Ethical Values and Social Institutions" has been announced by the Ethico-Economic SRP group for October 1993. Papers are invited now in

various areas on the theme of the conference, but particularly those dealing with the following areas: Ethico-Economics and the Concept of Human Fulfillment, and Theoretical and Case Studies on the Regenerative Relationship between Ethical Values and Socio-Economic Institutions. Limited travel funds and accommodation are available.

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