



Economics Conference of the Goetheanum *Part of the Social Sciences Section to the School of Spiritual Science*

Convenor: Christopher Houghton Budd, PhD / Email: economics@goetheanum.org / www.economics.goetheanum.org

8th Annual Meeting of the Economics Conference: Economic Life at the Threshold / Pathways for Another World

Invitation to participate and to present a paper

28 April 2009

Dear Colleagues,

After seven years of regularly meeting at the Goetheanum, we met last year in Canterbury and would like this year to invite you to the next Annual Economics Conference Meeting, which will take place in Switzerland, at L'AUBIER, near Neuchâtel from Sunday to Wednesday, 27th to 30th September 2009. As well as being Michaelmas, these dates coincide with the 30th anniversary of L'AUBIER on Saturday 26th September. About 500 people are expected to attend and we hope as many of you as possible will come soon enough so that you can also take part.

We had thought to have a specific focus on labour and income, but our sense now is that this theme should be widened in link to the global economic situation and the threshold experience that goes along with it. In particular, are we able out of spiritual science to initiate practicable changes that provide a new orientation for economic life? In other words, are we, as part of the Goetheanum as the School of Spiritual Science, ready to act as a "think tank" addressing today's economic problems in ways that are relevant and bring healing but are also credible?

Whether it be through his 1922 lectures on economics, seminal texts like *Brotherhood and the Struggle for Existence* (1905), or his own direct involvement in *Der Kommenden Tag*, the *Waldorf School* and especially the refounding of the Anthroposophical Society, Rudolf Steiner points to a world in which economic life has to be seriously rethought. This is the challenge and task we would like to focus on in this year's annual meeting. What would we suggest as the most urgent and practical steps for the future of economic life?

Possible themes include *the relation between labour and income, how to achieve true pricing in today's circumstances, the concept and practical forms of associations, and the aging of money*. Based on Steiner's indications, proposed contributions should be both spiritually scientific and practical. The six formal sessions, each comprising a prepared introduction and conversation, and two open afternoons should allow us time to formulate concrete propositions suitable for publication. Please let us know latest before the end of May if you wish to present a paper on the theme, mentioning its probable title.

We also envisage three evenings as a Michaelmas triptych and an opportunity to share our work with local Society members.

This year's meeting will take as its ground the general understanding of the threshold given by the contents of the First Class of the School of Spiritual Science and will therefore be restricted to members only (requiring participants to bring their blue cards). It will however be open to any member of the School, although limited to 25 people maximum. (*Please note, the meeting will be held in English.*)

We look forward to welcoming you at L'AUBIER!

Christopher Houghton Budd
Convenor

Marc Desaulles
For the carrying group



Economic Life at the Threshold Pathways for Another World

8th Annual Meeting of the Economics Conference of the Goetheanum

L'AUBIER, Neuchâtel, Switzerland
(Provisional Programme)

Saturday, 26th September 2009

L'AUBIER 30th Anniversary Celebration (see www.aubier.ch)

Sunday, 27th September 2009

- 15.00-16.00 Opening session with introductions and challenges of this meeting
- 16.30-18.00 15th lesson of the First Class of the School of Spiritual Science – Introduced conversation
- 18.30-19.30 Supper
- 20.00-21.30 Michaelmas Evening*

Monday, 28th September 2009

- 09.00-10.30 Session I**
- 11.00-12.30 Session II
- 13.00-16.00 Lunch and open afternoon
- 16.30-18.00 Session III
- 18.30-19.30 Supper
- 20.00-21.30 Michaelmas Evening

Tuesday, 29th September 2009

- 09.00-10.30 Session IV
- 11.00-12.30 Session V
- 13.00-15.00 Lunch and open afternoon
- 16.30-18.00 Session VI
- 18.30-19.30 Supper
- 20.00-21.30 Michaelmas Evening

Wednesday, 30th September 2009

- 09.00-10.30 15th lesson of the First Class of the School of Spiritual Science – Introduced conversation
- 11.00-12.30 Conclusion and publication

* As this is the first Economics Conference meeting to be held actually at Michaelmas, we would like to include a festive element by way of three evenings when we will be joined by local members of the Anthroposophical Society. This will be an opportunity to share our work and the aspirations that underlie it with friends. As we will be in Suisse Romande, these evenings will be in French and English.

** The session topics have been left open as we would like the content to be linked to the presentation of papers related to the overall theme. We plan to publish both the papers and the content they give rise to, so they should be rigorous and 'on message'. Length should be 3,000 words maximum (word document or equivalent), the style should be accessible, and the emphasis and content should be both spiritually scientific and practical. The aim is not of course, to have the papers read out by their authors, but spoken to as a means of leading us into particular aspects of the overall theme. For this reason, they should be distributed in advance of the meeting and therefore submitted by 31st August¹. Those wishing to present a paper should submit a 300 word abstract by 31st July¹.

¹ To economics@goetheanum.org

Registration Form

- I would like to attend the **2009 Economics Conference** meeting.
Please note that in order to have an effective research event, attendance will be restricted to 25 people.
There will be a fixed contribution of **CHF 250** which will include all meals, drinks, coffee, snacks and refreshments during the pauses. It excludes accommodation (see below).

- I require accommodation (all prices including organic breakfast buffet, service and taxes):

- Single room, 3 nights **CHF 270** per person (each additional night **CHF 60**).
- *Shared* twin room, 3 nights **CHF 210** per person (each additional night **CHF 50**).
- *Shared* 4-bed family room, 3 nights **CHF 150** per person (each additional night **CHF 40**).

- I intend to submit a paper provisionally entitled:

(300 word abstract to be sent by 31 July – economics@goetheanum.org)

- I would need help for my travel costs above: CHF _____.

We will look for foundations to help finance up to 80% of travel costs linked to attending the meeting. Please let us know if and to what extent this would be helpful for you.

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Street, Nr _____

Code, City _____

Country _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Date _____

Signature _____