

CALL FOR PAPERS

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT AND RESEARCH ETHICS IN ECONOMICS

August 21 - 22, 2014 - Izmir, Turkey



ORGANIZATIONAL DETAILS

Date : August 21-22, 2014
Venue : Swiss Hotel Grand Ephesus, Izmir, Turkey
Workshop website : www.econethics2014.org
Workshop calendar :

March 15, 2014 - Deadline for abstract submissions

May 4, 2014 - Notification of acceptance

July 27, 2014 - Deadline for full-paper submissions

Submissions : www.econethics2014.org

Workshop Committee :

Altug Yalcintas, Ankara University

Robert McMaster, University of Glasgow

Wilfred Dolfsma, University of Groningen and the Review of Social Economy

Keynote Speakers :

James Wible, University of New Hampshire - USA

Stephen Ziliak, Roosevelt University - USA

Workshop Fee : 250 € (payable upon arrival)

Workshop fee includes participation in the workshop, lunches, and coffee breaks. Our intention is to waive the workshop fee for all PhD researchers This is currently under negotiation with our sponsors.

Please note that the workshop is limited by 20 participants

Organization Team :

Altug Yalcintas, Ankara University

Mehmet Basaran, The Collective Minds

Funda Demir, the Netherlands Institute for Higher Education in Ankara.

Information with regard to lodging and transportation will soon be available on the workshop website.

WORKSHOP INFORMATION

Since the screening of *Inside Job* in movie theatres around the world in 2010, research integrity in economics has been questioned by scholars and public intellectuals. Prestigious economists and policy makers are accused of conflicts of interest (Ferguson 2010) while prominent economists are charged with plagiarism and self-plagiarism. Recently, errors and omissions in a number of influential papers, uncovered in 2013 by UMass researchers, caused scholars to raise serious questions about the reliability of findings in economics. Some of these economists replied to accusations about themselves while many others have preferred not to respond at all. These days, economists hear the following question more often than before: “what is wrong with economics?”

Despite serious concerns regarding the honesty of economists, scientific misconduct in economics, entailing plagiarism, fraud, and fabrication of data, has been among the issues drawing inadequate attention and remaining unexplored. The number of publications on the collective responsibility of economists is too small and there are only a few undergraduate and graduate courses in the US and Europe where economics students are taught about breaches of research integrity. Research ethics is not part of the standard curriculum in many research universities.

Concerned by the unresponsiveness of the community of economists about the significance of the problem, we invite authors to submit paper proposals to a two-day workshop on Scientific Misconduct and Research Ethics in Economics to be held in Izmir, Turkey in August 2014. Submitted articles will first be reviewed by the workshop committee, involving Altug Yalcintas, Robert McMaster, and Wilfred Dolfsma, for inclusion in the workshop. A selection of workshop papers will then be invited to the regular submission process of the *Review of Social Economy* for publication in a special issue on the same topic. Guest editors of the special issue will be Altug Yalcintas and James Wible.

In this special issue, we aim at opening a platform for debates on the nature, scope, and pervasiveness of questionable research practices in economics.

- Nature of questionable research practices in economics: Why do economists involve themselves in breaches of research integrity? How should one explain the violation of the principle of “truth-seeking”?
- Scope of questionable research practices in economics: What are the forms of breaches of research integrity in economics? What has ethics got to do with it?
- Pervasiveness of questionable research practices in economics: What is the frequency of cases of breaches of research integrity in economics? Are these cases just a few “bad apples” or are they a real threat to the reliability of economic research?

International Workshop on
Scientific Misconduct and Research Ethics in Economics
August 21 - 22, 2014 - Izmir, Turkey

Research topics that we would welcome in this special issue include but are not limited to:

- Cases of scientific misconduct and best practices of scientific conduct in economics (such as the editorial policies of Econ Journal Watch publishing scholarly comments on “inappropriate assumptions, weak chains of argument, phony claims of relevance, and omissions of pertinent truths” as well as American Economic Review, Journal of Political Economy, Econometrica, Journal of Money, Credit, and Banking, Empirical Economics, and Labour Economics, among others, making research data and codes available on the websites of journals so that potential readers are able to replicate the results that papers reach. See, for instance, Dewald, Thursby, and Anderson 1986 and the website of “Journal Data Program Archives”.)
- Cases of scientific misconduct in social and natural sciences as analyzed from an economic perspective (such as Hoover 2006; Arce, Enders, and Hoover 2008; Ziliak and McCloskey 2008; Lacetera and Zirulia 2011).
- Surveys providing evidence on the extent of fraud, lack of financial disclosure, conflicts of interest etc. (such as Gaffney and Harrison (eds.) 1994; Feld, Necker, and Frey. 2012; Enders and Hoover 2004; List et al. 2001).
- Replication failure, epistemic costs, intellectual path dependence (Wible 1998; Yalcintas 2013; Ramell 2013; Folbre 2013).
- Student misbehavior and teaching scientific misconduct in undergraduate and graduate programs.
- Normative issues: accountability and proposals for reform (such as codes of conduct, oaths, and honorary systems, see the 2013 Special Issue of the Review of Social Economy 71 (2), “Oaths and Codes in Economics and Business”)

REFERENCES

“Oaths and Codes in Economics and Business”. 2013. Special Issue of the Review of Social Economy 71 (2).

“Plagiarism: Legal, Moral, and Educational Aspects” Conference of European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities, 4 December, 2011, Amsterdam: <http://www.allea.org/Pages/ALL/31/400.bGFuZz1FTkc.html>

Arce, Daniel G., Walter Enders, and Gary A. Hoover. 2008. “Plagiarism and Its Impact on the Economics Profession” *Bulletin of Economic Research* 60 (3): 231-243.

Dewald, William, Jerry G. Thursby, and Richard G. Anderson. 1986. “Replication in Empirical Economics: The Journal of Money, Credit, and Banking Project” *American Economic Review* 76 (4): 587-603.

Enders, Walter and Gary A. Hoover. 2004. "Whose Line is It?: Plagiarism in Economics" *Journal of Economic Literature* 42 (2): 487-493.

Feld, Lars P. Sarah Necker, and Bruno S. Frey. 2012. "Scientific Misbehavior in Economics – Evidence from Europe" Working Paper. www.eea-esem.com/files/papers/eea-esem/2012/1745/PAPER%20Norms_EEA.pdf [Accessed October 2013].

Ferguson, Charles. 2010. "Larry Summers and the Subversion of Economics" *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 3 October.

Folbre, Nancy. 2013. "Replicating Research: Austerity and Beyond" *The New York Times*, 22 April.

Gaffney, Mason and Fred Harrison (eds.). 1994. *The Corruption of Economics*. (Shepherd-Walwyn).

Herndon, Thomas, Michael Ash, and Robert Pollin. 2013. "Does High Public Debt Consistently Stifle Economic Growth? A Critique of Reinhart and Rogoff" PERI Working Paper Series 322. www.peri.umass.edu/fileadmin/pdf/working_papers/working_papers_301-350/WP322.pdf [Accessed October 2013].

Hoover, Gary. A. 2006. "A Game-Theoretic Model of Plagiarism" *Atlantic Economic Journal* 34 (4): 449-454.

"Journal Data and Program Archives" www.aeaweb.org/RFE/showCat.php?cat_id=9 [Accessed October 2013]

Lacetera, Nicola, and Lorenzo Zirulia. 2011. "The Economics of Scientific Misconduct." *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization* no. 27 (3):568-603.

List, John A., C. Bailey, P. Euzent, and T. Martin. 2001. "Academic Economists Behaving Badly? A Survey on Three Areas of Unethical Behavior" *Economic Inquiry* 39 (1): 162-170.

Rampell, Catherine. 2013. "A History of Oopsies in Economic Studies" *The New York Times*, 17 April.

Wible, James. 1998. *The Economics of Science: Methodology and Epistemology as if Economics Really Mattered*. (Routledge).

Yalcintas, Altug. 2013. "The Problem of Epistemic Cost: Why Do Economists Not Change Their Minds (about the 'Coase Theorem')?" *American Journal of Economics and Sociology* 72 (5) November, 1131 - 1157.

Ziliak, Steve T. and Deirdre N. McCloskey. 2008. *The Cult of Statistical Significance: How the Standard Error Costs Jobs, Justice, and Lives*. (The University of Michigan Press).