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.
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?
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


“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


