
EPCS 2009

The 2009 Meeting of the European Public Choice Society

National & Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

2–5 April, 2009

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The 2009 Annual Meeting of the European Public Choice Society was held from April 2–5, 2009 at the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens. The European Public Choice Society promotes scientific research on the economics and politics of public and non-market decision-making, the political economy and the economics of institutions.

More than 450 participants from Europe, the United States and Japan presented 246 accepted post-review papers in thematically oriented parallel sessions on topics such as monetary policy, voting, growth, fiscal policy, aid, public finance, education, games, coalitions and bargaining, the shadow economy and corruption, budgetary institutions and fiscal policy rules, the EU, tax compliance and tax morale, labor, political business cycles, ideology and collective action, local government, behavioral economics, environmental economics, international trade and FDI, economic theory, public spending and economic performance, fiscal adjustment and public expenditure, legal systems, electoral institutions, electoral competition and voting, committees, government debt and deficits, the economics of terrorism, the financial crisis, inequality, the redistribution and welfare state, constitutional economics, economy and religion, experimental economics, indices and measurement, rent-seeking, the economics of conflict, development, social

policy, media, and parliamentary democracy. Three special sessions were devoted to the founders of the European Public Choice Society and focused specifically on the works of James Buchanan, Peter Bernholz and Elisabeth Liefmann-Keil.

Three keynote speakers provided survey lectures at the plenary sessions: “Special Interest Politics,” was presented by Allan Drazen from the University of Maryland; “Expressive behavior in economics and politics: An overview and perspective,” was given by Arye L. Hillmann from Bar-Ilan University; and “Dark side of European integration: Repercussions of the merger of populations,” was presented by Oded Stark from the Universities of Bonn, Klagenfurt, Vienna and Warsaw.

In the stormy atmosphere of the general strike in Greece that culminated on April 2, the organizers from the University of Athens did everything possible to ensure the smooth course of the meeting and a friendly environment for all participants. For further information on the conference, including the complete program, list of participants and all of the presented papers, please visit the conference website <http://www.epcs2009.org>.

The next meeting, European Public Choice Society 2010, will take place in Izmir, Turkey from April 8–11, 2010, and will be hosted by The Turkish Social Sciences Research Society in coo-

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peration with the Faculty of Economics and Management of Dokuz Eylul University. The deadline for submissions is

set for December 31, 2009. Please see <http://www.epcs2010.org> for more information on this event.

PET09

The 10th Annual Meeting of the Association for Public Economic Theory

National University of Ireland, Galway

17–20 June, 2009

Martin Gregor*

The Association for Public Economic Theory (APET) held its 10th international meeting at the National University of Ireland, in the crisis-hit but scenic and beautiful Irish city of Galway. The local organizers Brendan Kennelly and Ashley Piggins, plus the program chairpeople John P. Conley and Myrna Wooders of Vanderbilt University invited, out of upcoming submissions, approximately 300 research papers. These were comprised primarily of classic micro topics in public economics, such as local public goods, experiments with public goods, but also essentially public finance topics of optimal taxation, and the political economy of social security, tax competition, or tax evasion.

A significant part of the conference was devoted to advances in pure theory, especially in general equilibrium, games, contests, mechanism design, social choice, voting, and spatial modeling. Many of the twelve parallel sessions dealt with theory developments in applied fields of labor economics, networks, education, health, crime, migration, and environmental economics. The macro dimension has also been significant and of large interest, and dominated sessions on macro dynamics, international trade, growth, law and eco-

nomics, development and income inequality. To name but one example of the discussions' spicy flavor, let me mention a session on the economics of body parts featuring Ted Bergstrom of University of California at Santa Barbara.

Three keynotes speeches marked the conference. Ehud Kalai (Northwestern University) spoke of a “co-co” (competitive-cooperative) protocol, designed in order to separate conflict from cooperation within a single game. Hubert Kempf (Banque de France, Paris School of Economics) introduced a fairly general idea on how the shape and size of a bargaining set depends on key features such as the sign of externalities, strategic complementarity, and agents' heterogeneity. Myrna Wooders (Vanderbilt University) spoke of the past, present and future of small group behavior in large economies. Interestingly, her talk coincided with her gala dinner speech, where she applauded the richness of the Association, and called for using their events not only to promote research, but also to maintain a robust academic community.

For more about the conference and activities of the Association, please visit: <http://www.apet.org/>

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