



CALL FOR PAPERS

First International Assembly of the EoC

Research Workshop: Economy of Communion, towards a new economic culture

Recent research on Economics and Business Administration

May 25-28, 2011 – Mariapolis Ginetta (Vargem Grande Paulista), Brazil

Motivation

The **Economy of Communion** (EoC) involves entrepreneurs, workers, managers, consumers and financial operators. It was launched by Chiara Lubich in May of 1991, in Sao Paolo, Brazil, with the aim of building and showing a human society where, following the example of the first Christian community in Jerusalem, "no one among them was in need". The businesses are the pillar of the project. They freely commit themselves to sharing their profits, for: supporting persons and communities in need; spreading a culture of giving and reciprocity; and strengthening the businesses themselves. In addition, the EoC gives life to "industrial parks", in the small towns of the Focolare Movement, aimed at showing a living laboratory of an economy of communion.

The EoC is based on the conviction that, without a new culture, a new economy cannot be created. Economic behavior is always the result of a more general lifestyle, a global vision. Research in economics, business administration and other social sciences is growingly considering elements of this new culture, such as reciprocity and fraternity. The Research Workshop is focused first of all on deepening how EoC culture affects economic and/or management theory and practice.

Papers are welcome, both by senior and junior researchers, on topics that approach either the practice of EoC or its underlying culture from the perspective of Economics, Business Management, or related disciplines. Connections between EoC and other forms of economic activity also constitute a topic of interest.

The workshop

The Workshop will take place during the First International Assembly of the EoC (May 25-28, 2011), and is devoted to improving our theoretical and empirical understanding of EoC and the economic implications of the vision of the world on which it rests. It will bring together students and scholars in the areas of Economics, Business Administration, and related disciplines. The presence of practitioners, entrepreneurs, and other attendants of the Assembly is also welcomed.

Possible topics for contributions

Topics for contributions include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Strengths and weaknesses of EoC enterprises in their competitive contexts.
- EoC and corporate citizenship: which impact do EoC enterprises unfold in their social environment (economic, social, and cultural)?
- Governance and organizational issues of EoC enterprises. Current practice and desirable trends.
- The financial basis of EoC companies.
- Worker-management relationships in EoC enterprises.
- Poverty, aid, reciprocity: Sharing profits for responding to urgent needs in the EoC project.

- Role and specificities of EoC 'business parks'.
- The EoC project and the idea of a 'civil economy', at both national and international level. Which relationships does it imply between government, market and civil society?
- The economic logic of EoC enterprises confronted with notions such as: 'social responsibility', 'corporate citizenship', 'social enterprise', and the like.
- EoC and development.
- Theoretical approaches to EoC and its economic foundations: trust and reciprocity, cooperative behavior ...
- Historical and/or philosophical foundations of EoC.

Organizing committee

Prof. Alejandra Marinovic, Business School, Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Chile (coordinator)

Prof. Giuseppe Argiolas, Faculty of Economics, Università degli Studi di Cagliari, and Istituto Universitario Sophia, Italy

Prof. Benedetto Gui, School of Economics and Business, Università degli Studi di Padova, Italy

Prof. André Habisch, School of Management, Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Germany

Procedures for contributions, submission guidelines and deadlines

If you wish to have a paper/research considered for presentation at the Workshop, please submit a detailed two-page abstract electronically, in Word or PDF format, on or before **March 21, 2011**. Each proposal should be sent as an e-mail attachment to Alejandra Marinovic, at the E-mail address: alejandra.marinovic@uai.cl

Proposals and presentations must be in English.

The organizing committee will select papers from the submitted proposals. Its choices will be announced not later than **April 11, 2011**. The completed version of the paper (or the final version of the power point presentation in case of ongoing work), to be circulated during the Workshop, must be submitted by **May 13, 2011**.

For more information about this call for papers, please contact Alejandra Marinovic at alejandra.marinovic@uai.cl