



ACADEMY OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES IN AUSTRALIA

The Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, in conjunction with La Trobe University, is pleased to present the 2012 Keith Hancock Lecture:

A Case for Pluralism in Economics

Speaker: John E. King (FASSA), Professor of Economics
La Trobe University, Melbourne

In this lecture Professor King will argue that economics is unique among the social sciences in having a single monolithic mainstream, which is either unaware of or actively hostile to alternative approaches.

He will present a case for pluralism in economics, derived from the complex and ceaselessly changing nature of the world in which we live. He will concentrate on two arguments. First, economic reality is very complicated, so that the questions that economists ask are therefore inherently difficult, and it is unlikely that they have simple answers. Since no theory can consider all relevant factors in any particular economic context, this establishes a strong *prima facie* case for theoretical pluralism. Second, economic reality is fluid and subject to continuous change, so that the quest for a single, 'general' theory applicable to human behaviour in all societies, at all points in time, is a delusion. To illustrate the case for pluralism Professor King will draw on the recent history of the global economy, the problems encountered in understanding it solely in terms of mainstream macroeconomics, and the dangerous policy implications that have been drawn from mainstream theory.

The Keith Hancock Lecture honours Professor Keith Hancock, an eminent labour economist and a past President of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia



John E. King is Professor of Economics at La Trobe University in Melbourne, where he has taught since 1988. His principal research interests are in the history of heterodox economic thought, with particular reference to Marxian political economy and Post Keynesian economics.

His recent publications include *The Rise of Neoliberalism in Advanced Capitalism: a Materialist Analysis* (with M.C. Howard) (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008), *Nicholas Kaldor* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009) and *The Microfoundations Delusion* (Elgar, 2012). He is also the editor of *The Elgar Companion to Post Keynesian Economics* (second edition, 2012). Professor King is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia (FASSA).

Date : Tuesday, 7 August, 2012

Time : 6:10 PM (registration) for 6:30 PM start, refreshments from 7.30pm

Venue : Village Roadshow Theatrette, State Library of Victoria, Entry 3, 179 La Trobe Street, Melbourne see www.slv.vic.gov.au/how-get-here

FREE ADMISSION, Bookings essential

RSVP by cob Thursday August 2, 2012

Email to assa.secretariat@anu.edu.au; Phone 02 6249 1788



Professor John Dewar, Vice-Chancellor, and Professor Joanna Poyago-Theotoky, Head of School of Economics, La Trobe University, and Professor Stuart Macintyre AO, for the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, cordially invite guests to stay for refreshments at the conclusion of the lecture.