

Rethinking Economic Policies: The Role of the State in the post-Covid-19. 20th STOREP Annual Conference

June 15-17, 2023, Università di Bari “Aldo Moro”, Italy

Website

Both the Covid-19 pandemic started in early 2020 and the onset of the Russia-Ukraine war in 2022 have represented unprecedented shocks for the world economy, exacerbating pre-existing inequalities and socio-economic crises inherited from the Global Financial Crisis and its aftermath. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, governments and central banks have taken swift and massive action to mitigate its economic and financial negative consequences. Welfare and labour market interventions in most countries have avoided dramatic further increases in unemployment, prompting a renewed debate over the need for more inclusive labour markets, increasing women and young participation, limiting the use of flexible work arrangements and setting minimum wage policies. The European Commission has suspended the Stability and Growth Pact (up to 2023), turning to strategies aimed at restoring economic growth. The International Monetary Fund has recommended focusing on public investments, both in infrastructures and research and innovation, to facilitate economic recovery by stimulating long-term and more inclusive economic growth.

The explosion of the Russia-Ukraine war in 2022 has however increased uncertainty, and depressed consumption and investment. The rising energy costs have led companies to reduce production and postpone investment, while inflation has strongly reduced the purchasing power of households, particularly those at the bottom of the income distribution. Such a new reality and the pressing need to tackle economic stagnation, inflation, increasing inequalities, labour market fragmentation and the rapid growth of non-standard forms of employment call for a radical change in the way public policies are to be formulated and interpreted. This requires a whole reconstruction of economic theories explaining public intervention, considering the essential role of the State and other policy-making institutions both in steering and orienting economic growth and addressing social, economic, and territorial disparities. The history of economic thought can provide relevant contributions helping to reflect on the role of the state in economic policy at times of crisis, through the tools of historical comparison, as well as on the role of the state in a historical perspective.

The 20th STOREP Conference, “Rethinking economic policies: The role of the State in the post-Covid-19”, will be held at the University of Bari, Department of Political Sciences, June 15-17, 2023. The Conference will be preceded by the Young Scholars Initiative (YSI) pre-conference events (June 14-15, 2023). The Conference (General program) aims to catalyse a national and international debate on how the role of the State and policy-making institutions needs to be rethought to tackle current societal

challenges by promoting a pluralist discussion, through historical multidisciplinary perspectives.

We are pleased to announce that distinguished colleagues **Isabelle Ferreras** (University of Louvain and Harvard Law School) and **Pasquale Tridico** (President of INPS, National Social Security Institute, and Roma Tre University) will join the conference as keynote speakers. **Maria Pia Paganelli** (Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas) will give the seventh “Raffaelli Lecture”. STOREP also organizes a joint initiative with the Institute for New Economic Thinking on “Public investment, Industrial Policies and the European Strategy” with the participation of distinguished colleagues Francesco **Saraceno** (OFCE-Sciences Po), Annamaria **Simonazzi** (Sapienza University of Rome), Gianfranco **Viesti** (University of Bari Aldo Moro).

“Guest Discipline”: Sociology

Economics’ increasing variety and fragmentation are also the product of “reverse imperialisms” by former victims of the dismal science’s expansionism. The mainstream of economics is in fact currently populated by a series of research programs that significantly deviate from the neoclassical core and have their origins in other social science disciplines.

Starting from 2023, STOREP invites scholars from a neighboring discipline to discuss this latter’s relationships with economics in a historical perspective, including the impact it currently has on economics itself, as well as the contribution it can make to creating a new transdisciplinary behavioral science in the future.

STOREP 2023 welcomes abstract and session proposals from Sociology and Economic sociology. To encourage participation, facilitations are provided in the form of extended deadline and discounted fees.

The *Review of Political Economy* (ROPE) will consider selected papers presented at the STOREP Conference for publication. Participants have to submit their papers to ROPE within six months after the Conference. Manuscripts submitted through this procedure will go through peer review as usual. STOREP is also pleased to announce that a series of academic journals have expressed interest in considering Conference papers for publication.

Important dates

- March 13, 2023: Abstracts and Sessions submission
- April 17, 2023: Notification of accepted and rejected abstracts and sessions
- May 19, 2023: Deadline for submitting full papers (and early registration)
- June 14, 2023: YSI pre-conference
- June 15-17, 2023: 20th STOREP Annual Conference

Visit the website for details about submissions and registration.

Young Scholars STOREP Awards

(1) STOREP provides two Awards of 1000€ each (so as to make it possible to reward both history-of-economic-thought articles and more policy-oriented papers) for the best articles presented at the Annual Conference by young scholars under 40 years of age. All applications, with CV and the final version of the papers, should be sent to segretario@storep.org no later than December, 31, 2023.

(2) Scholarships for young scholars (under 40 years of age, non-tenured). In order to be eligible, the applicant is required to submit a Curriculum Vitae and an extended abstract (2,000 words ca., both to be uploaded on the Submission website) on any topic relevant to the history of political economy, by March 27, 2023. The final version of the papers must be uploaded within April 21, 2023.

Organizing Committee

Angela Ambrosino (STOREP Secretary, Università di Torino) Vincenzo Bavaro, Maria Cristina Barbieri Góes, Michele Capriati, Valeria Cirillo, Matteo Deleidi, Marco Di Sapia, Marialuisa Divella, Santiago José Gahn, Ettore Gallo, Lidia Greco, Francesco Ninivaggi, Giacomo Signorile, Gianfranco Viesti (Università degli Studi di Bari, Department of Political Sciences), Eustachio Ferrulli (Università degli Studi di Bari, Department of Economics and Finance), Luigi Salvati (Università degli Studi Roma Tre, Department of Economics)

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