



## **XVII AISPE Conference**

*Roma Tre University*

**October 3-5, 2024**

### **Regional Economic Integration and Multilateralism in Historical Perspective**

2024 marks the 80th anniversary of the Bretton Woods conference, where the foundations of a new international economic and monetary order were laid. Following the formal collapse of its regime between 1971 and 1973, a de facto hegemony of the US dollar replaced its de jure hegemony. This shift led to increasing global imbalances and greater vulnerability of the world economy, attributed to what were named the Triffin dilemma and inherent destabilizers that characterize each international monetary system (IMS) relying on a national currency to provide global liquidity.

Since China's economic rise, the US-led financial crisis, and the UN Stiglitz Commission in 2009, calls for multilateralism and a new, more equitable global economic governance have become pressing. The most relevant feature of the present global economy is interdependence. Despite attempts at fragmentation through the shortening of global value chains (with reshoring and friend shoring) and attempts to fence off negative transnational externalities (even with autarchic and neocolonial responses), there is an increasing need for supranational public goods (or reducing negative public bads).

Hence, there is a growing renewed interest in regional integrations as optimum policy areas to compromise between import substitution and market openness, attempting to govern unavoidable economic and monetary interdependencies. Furthermore, given the continental dimension of most actors now playing in the global arena, regional integration will increasingly be a key topic in the forthcoming future, as a key to restore a path to global multilateralization.

Inquiring into past experiences and understanding of regional integration in different areas of the world is key to designing regional experiments that may avoid failures and major shortcomings negatively impacting the return to multilateralism. How did Asian countries rationalize regional integration? How do African experiments in trade and monetary integration reflect a genuine attempt to overcome fragmentation, and to what extent are they born out of neocolonial ambitions? What about Latin Americans and their reiterated proposals for a common regional currency? Does any specific model of regional economic and monetary integration exist in specific regions of the world? Or do they all take for granted that, sooner or later, the path followed by the EU is to be replicated elsewhere? What lessons can be learned from European integration? How did the EU and non-EU regions make sense of the relationship between regional integration and global integration? How does this understanding evolve over time, and what major watersheds can be highlighted in different regions? What was the relative role of events and economic theories in shaping different understandings and policymaking connected to regional integration? How does regional integration respond (only, or mainly) to

economic theorizing and/or reflect a complex set of features that require an interdisciplinary knowledge of history?

Alongside these — and further — questions, a whole set of research projects can be pursued and papers presented that reconstruct both the historical dimension and the comparative features of different models for interpreting regional trade, economic, and monetary integration, and their relationship with multilateralism

The conference serves as a platform for discussions on the overarching theme of models for regional integration and multilayered governance. However, it is also open to paper presentations on broader topics related to the history of economic thought.

### **Important dates:**

**31 March 2024:** deadline for submitting (paper and sessions).

Please, send abstract and session proposals to: [aispe.conference2024@gmail.com](mailto:aispe.conference2024@gmail.com)

**30 April 2024:** notification of acceptance

**30 June 2024:** deadline for early bird registration

**1 September 2024:** deadline for sending full papers

**3-5 October 2024:** conference

### **Scientific Committee**

Pier Francesco Asso (University of Palermo)

Giandomenica Becchio (University of Torino)

Fabrizio Bientinesi (University of Pisa)

Marco Guidi (University of Pisa)

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### **Organizing Committee**

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