

Special session devoted to

THE FIRM: ECONOMICS, ACCOUNTING AND LAW

November 2-4, 2006

European Association for Evolutionary Political Economy ([EAEPE](#))

Istanbul, Turkey

Research Area [E]: Theory of the Firm

Convened by

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and

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The EAEPE meetings constitute an important ongoing network for people interested in questions regarding the interface among economics, accounting and the law of the firm. With this as our focal point we are inviting scholars from several countries to join what promises to be an interesting and unique session.

For those interested in the nature and the theory of the firm these are challenging times. The scandals surrounding the disclosure failures and shortcomings associated with Enron, WorldCom and many other corporations have focused attention on accounting and regulation policies in a way many may never imagined and few welcomed. Given these events, the state of corporate governance and disclosure is under strict scrutiny. The challenge now facing corporate governance and disclosure is to fundamentally change without further distressing the entire system of regulation and disclosure. In addition, as many scholars have recently acknowledged, reforms are necessary, in some instances to protect shareholders.

The purpose of this conference is to discuss these complex issues and the different implications associated with various reforms, and to do so from an interdisciplinary perspective. To this end we are issuing a call for original papers that challenge the conventional wisdom and academic frontiers, and seek to link the economics, the accounting, and the law of the firm along the following four categories:

A: LINKING ACCOUNTING, ECONOMICS, AND LAW OF THE FIRM: COMBINED APPROACHES

It is current wisdom that both (i) law and economics and (ii) accounting and economics have tools driven and a world view hugely influenced by neoclassical economics. This neoclassical approach overlooks the potential of more interdisciplinary, combined approaches – approaches that search for a synthetic view to the firm integrating economic, accounting and legal features in a comprehensive and heuristic system of thought. Axe A will present approaches that may be applied to theoretical and applied questions.

B: WHAT ACCOUNTING AND/OR LAW CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE THEORY OF THE FIRM

This topic/issue complements topic/issue A by probing the question -To what extent is neoclassical economics positive? Does its approach comport with the related notions inherent in accounting and/or law? Papers related to this topic/issue will explore whether the well-established traditions of accounting and law have special (and somewhat neglected) insights to contribute to the economic theory of the firm with the aim to develop a more comprehensive approach that integrates these disciplines. To this end, papers related to this topic/issue may have a special focus on (i) comparative analysis of key notions or issues such as entity, corporation, group, assets, income, property rights, contract, enforcement; (ii) theoretical views on the respective underlying perspectives; or on (iii) history-driven approaches with respect to the relationship between economics, accounting, and/or law.

C: THE ISSUE OF THE FIRM BETWEEN GOVERNANCE AND REGULATION

Discussing the economics, accounting and the law of the firm naturally raises questions of regulation and governance. This axe will explore such questions as -- Are contracts enough to assure enforcement and social welfare? Should ordering be (i) private or public, (ii) rules-based or norms-based ? What role do institutions play in regulating the nexus inside and across business firms? Are firms transitory associations between proprietors?

D: THE CONTRIBUTION OF NOVEL AND HETERODOX PERSPECTIVES TO UNDERSTAND THE RECENT STAKES OF THE FIRM

Innovative perspectives appear to be required to challenge the received doctrine and promote a better understanding of the current state of the firm. In this category we look for novel and heterodox approaches that better able to suggest new perspectives of classic or neglected questions related to the nature and the theory of the firm.

Several panels will be organized to present papers collected according to these four respective categories of topics / issues. In addition, two additional panels shall be devoted to discuss two new books directly related to this topic. After a brief book presentation by the respective editors, they will address comments and questions from scholars that will review these two books:

- (Authors meet critics) on M. Dietrich ed., “ *The Economics of the Firm: Analysis, Evolution, and History*”, London and NY: Routledge, 2006
- (Authors meet critics) on Y. Biondi, A. Canziani, T. Kirat eds., “*The Firm as an Entity: Implication for Economics, Accounting, and Law*”, London and NY: Routledge, 2006

In replying to this call for papers, please advise us as to whether you wish to (i) present a paper in one of the four categories of topics / issues; (ii) be a discussant in one of the panels; or (iii) be reviewer-discussant of the books that will be presented.

About your proposal, please send (1) a long abstract, (2) a brief presentation of your research program, and (3) a short list up to 5 relevant working papers or publications. Given the interdisciplinary nature of the session, we encourage different perspectives and approaches so as to enhance the robustness of the session and the anticipated discussion and debate.

Please send your proposal to both yuri.biondi@free.fr and M.Dietrich@sheffield.ac.uk , and feel free to forward this call for papers to scholars potentially interested in joining our conference to Istanbul.

Deadline for submission of paper proposals: **May 31, 2006.**

A final version of accepted papers will be requested by **August, 31 2006**, in order for papers to be included in the proceedings, published on CD-Rom.

All the papers collected may be published on-line by the conveners after the conference.

Please note that you have to be an EAEPE member in order to attend the Conference. If you do not have the 2006 conference booking form or the 2006 EAEPE membership form, please download it from the [web](#).

Further information:

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