

**Conference Programme**  
**Abstracts and (most) full papers are attached.**

**Monday 10/12/2007**

8:30-9:00 Registration

9:00-9:30 **Opening Address:** John Sutton (LSE): ***Robbins's Relevance***

9:30-11:00 ***The Definition and Boundaries of Economic I***

**Chair: Richard Jackman (LSE)**

***Resource Allocation through Social Interaction***  
**Larry Blume (Cornell)**

Scarcity, private property rights and social norms  
Vivienne Brown (Open University).

Robbins, Time, Value and Sustainability  
C Pitelis and J Runde (Cambridge)

Demarcation of Economics in Robbins's Essay  
Ignacio Falgueras-Sorauren (University of Malaga)

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-13:00 ***Ethics and Economics***

**Chair: Mary Morgan (LSE)**

***Economics and Ethics: Juxtaposition, Illicit Relationship, or Fruitful Partnership***  
**Anthony B Atkinson (Nuffield, Oxford)**

Efficiency or a 'Fair' Game? John Rawls Contra Lionel Robbins  
David Levy (George Mason University) and Sandra Peart (University of Richmond)

Positive Ethics and the Science of Economics: Robbins's enduring fallacies.  
Amos Witztum (London Metropolitan University)

Robbins and the transformation of Welfare Economics  
Roger Backhouse (University of Birmingham)

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:30-16:00 *Methodology I*

*Chair: Tony Lawson (Cambridge)*

*Can Economics be founded on ‘indisputable facts of experience’?  
Robert Sugden (University of East Anglia)*

Lionel Robbins and Broad Positivism: All the Philosophy an Economist Needs.  
Don Ross (University of Cape Town and Alabama).

Effective Tension in Robbin’s Economic Methodology.  
D. Wade Hands (University of Puget Sound)

Basic Instinct: Robbins’s Essay and the “Physical Groundwork of Economics”.  
Harro Maas (University of Amsterdam).

16:00-16:30 Coffee Break

16:30- 18:00 *Definition and Boundaries of Economics II*

*Chair: Roger Backhouse (Birmingham)*

*Some Legacies of Robbins’s Nature and Significance of Economic Science  
Richard Lipsey (Simon Fraser University)*

Defining Economics: Robbins’ *Essay* in Theory and Practice  
Steven Medema (University of Colorado) and Roger Backhouse (university of Birmingham)

What was “it” that Robbins was Defining?  
David Colander (Middlebury College)

19:30 Dinner at Sofra

***Tuesday 11/12/2007***

**9-10:30 *Methodology II***

***Chair: Uskali Maki (University of Helsinki)***

***Lionel Robbins: Prophet or Orge?  
Ken Binmore (University College, London)***

The Status and relevance of Robbin's *Essay* after seventy five years.  
Andrew Brown and David Spencer (Leeds University)

Lionel Robbins: A Methodological Reappraisal.  
Rodrigo Zeidan and Marcelo Resende (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro)

Robbins on the Stationary State: An early attempt to distinguish idealisation from abstraction.  
Menno Rol (University of Groningen).

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break.

**11:00-12:30 *Policy Implications and the role of Evidence***

***Chair: Max Steuer (LSE)***

*The Continuing Muddles of Monetary Theory: A Steadfast Refusal to Face Facts.*  
Charles Goodhart (LSE)

Lionel Robbins, Monetary Reform and 'Keynesian Economics'  
Geoff Tily (UK Government)

A Misunderstood Robbins? The role of the economist and policy action.  
Fabio Masini (University of Rome)

Re-Reading Robbins's *Essay* 18 years after 1989: How the Great Transition Changed Economics.  
Brigitte Granville (Queen Mary College) and Judith Shapiro (LSE)

12:30 -14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:10 *Methodology III*

*Chair: Steven Medema (Colorado)*

On the Nature and Significance of Economics Redux  
Jose Cardoso (University of Lisbon) and Nuno Palma (Northwestern).

Thought Experiments, Contingent Events and Descriptive Accuracy: Agreeing  
and Disagreeing with the Methodology of Lionel Robbins  
Max Steuer (LSE)

Robbins's *Nature and Significance* and the M<sup>2</sup>T seminar.  
Jim Thomas (LSE)

15:10-15:30 Coffee Break

15:30-17:00 *Definitions and Boundaries III*

*Chair: David Colander (Middlebury College)*

*The Making of Robbins's Essay*  
Susan Howson (University of Toronto)

Value-Free Economics in Management and Engineering Education  
Kevin Christ (Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Indiana)

Robbins Revisited: The Indian Experience.  
Geeta Nair (HR College, Mumbai)

Attractive Polarities, Narrow Boundaries  
Reza Dibadji

17:00-19:00 Reception