

Union for Radical Political Economics 2019 Annual Report

Membership

At the close of 2019, we had 458 active members. Our membership numbers have remained steady over the past couple of years and we are making a concerted effort to bring new members on board in 2020. While we have struggled to expand our dues-paying membership in recent years, we know that the reach and impact of our work extends far beyond our membership rolls. We are committed to remaining a dues-paying organization driven by the participation of its membership.

Over the past year, we successfully transitioned to a new and far more sophisticated member database, which allows us to keep better track of member involvement, donations, and communication. This new database also provides greater account access for our members, making subscriptions, donations, and membership renewals much easier.

It is important to stress the need for formal membership (which costs \$20 per year at minimum). As a small professional association within our discipline, we are only truly stronger when we are together, and our growth as an organization can only serve to increase our influence within our field. We encourage everyone who is engaged with URPE but are not currently a member to join today.

For specific questions about your membership, please email Steve Theberge directly at urpe@urpe.org.

Review of Radical Political Economics

In 2019, the *RRPE* received 125 regular manuscripts (this does not include book reviews, conference proceedings, submissions for special issues, or submissions for special sections of the journal such as *Debating Economics* or *What “Radical” Means*). To date, 6 of the 125 have been accepted, and 60 have been rejected, for an acceptance rate of 5 percent and rejection rate of 48 percent. The remaining manuscripts are either still under review, or awaiting revision and resubmission by the author. By comparison, in 2018 the *RRPE* received 114 regular manuscripts (not including book reviews, conference proceedings, submissions for special issues, or submissions for special sections of the journal such as *Debating Economics* or *What “Radical” Means*), with an acceptance rate to date of 18 percent (20 papers have been accepted), and a rejection rate of 72 percent (82 papers have been rejected)—the remaining 2018 submissions are either still under review, or awaiting revision and resubmission. One reason for the growing submission (and rejection) rates is *RRPE*'s transition to online submissions in 2016—online submission makes the journal easier to find and submit to, including papers that are not suitable for our journal.

In 2019, the *RRPE* received 24 book reviews—to date, 3 have been accepted and 3 have been rejected, for an acceptance rate of 13 percent and rejection rate of 13 percent. The remaining 2019 book-review submissions are either still under review, or awaiting revision and resubmission by the author. For comparison, the *RRPE* received 28 book reviews in 2018, with an acceptance rate to date of 75 percent (21 have been accepted) and a rejection rate of 14 percent (4 have been rejected) (the remaining 2018 book review submissions are either still under review or awaiting revision and resubmission).

In 2019, the journal received 10 conference paper submissions from the URPE Sessions at the Atlanta ASSA and the New York EEA meetings. Six of these were accepted, for an acceptance rate of 60 percent (by comparison, in 2018 *RRPE* received 16 conference paper submissions from the URPE Sessions at the Philadelphia ASSA and the Boston EEA meetings, with 10 papers accepted, for an acceptance rate of 63

percent). The fourth issue of each volume year is the Conference Proceedings issue, and the 6 papers accepted in 2019 were published in 51(4), Winter 2019. The David Gordon Memorial Lecture (which is delivered at the ASSA meetings) was delivered in 2019 by Anwar Shaikh, but a written version of the lecture was not submitted nor then published in 51(4).

In 2019 in 51(2), the *RRPE* continued its occasional section entitled Debating Economics (edited by Fred Moseley, Mehrene Larudee, and Don Goldstien) with a debate on the political economy of mitigating climate change. Contributors to this debate were Robert Pollin on the one hand, and Juliet Schor and Andrew Jorgenson on the other.

In 2019 in 51(3), the *RRPE* published a special section of responses to its 50th Anniversary Special Issue (the latter was published as 50(3), Fall 2018, *The Past, Present, & Future of Radical Economics: URPE at 50*). The special section included an Introduction by Marlene Kim and contributions by Frank Ackerman, Lourdes Benería, and Marcus Jonathan Breen.

The *RRPE* will soon publish the special issue on *Precarious and Informal Work*. Twenty-six papers were submitted for this special issue, and to date, ten have been accepted, thirteen have been rejected, and the remaining are still under review. In addition, a Call for Papers was circulated in 2019 for a special issue on *Gender and Radical Political Economics: On the 50th Anniversary of the URPE Women's Caucus*, with paper submission deadline of 1 July 2020.

Also in 2019, the Editorial Board continued its practice of selecting a paper from the previous volume year (in this case, volume 50, 2018) for the *RRPE* Best Paper award. This year the award went to “Precarious Work in Recession and Growth: A New Structural Feature of Labor Markets in Argentina?” by Ruth Felder and Viviana Patroni, published in 50(1): 44–65. All Best Paper award winners are available for download from the SAGE website: https://journals.sagepub.com/topic/collections-rrp/rrp-1-best_papers/rrp.

For announcements and updates about the *RRPE*, please make it a habit of checking the *RRPE* website: <https://urpe.org/the-journal/>.

URPE at the ASSAs

The ASSAs took place from January 4-6, 2019 in Atlanta. URPE had 16 sessions and continued to provide a venue for the presentation and discussion of current research in heterodox economics. One of the sessions was David Gordon Memorial Lecture by Anwar Shaikh on “Social Structures and Macrodynamics.” In addition to two sessions with papers on gender, two other sessions were jointly sponsored by the International Association of Feminist Economics (IAFFE). Racial inequalities in work, health, and wealth outcomes were investigated by papers on three separate sessions. The other URPE sessions were on development economics, financial fragility, secular stagnation, distribution, and monopoly power. URPE held its annual membership meeting, a well-attended reception and Women's' Caucus meeting during the conference.

URPE at the EEA

The Eastern Economic Association (EEA) 2019 Conference was February 28 – March 3 in New York. The “Easterns” are always an excellent venue for URPE presentations, in that the EEA is much more open to “other-than-mainstream” approaches to economics than the American Economic Association (AEA), which runs the ASSA meetings each January. The size of participation in the URPE sessions had an unusual jump this year. While it has grown continually over recent years, up to 16 sessions in 2017 and 19 in 2018, it jumped to 32 in 2019. The papers presented were again of high quality, and covered a wide spectrum of topics in Radical Political Economy. Among the topics were the Political Economy of Racism, The Political Economy of Gender and Racial and Gender Discrimination, the Profit Rate and Economic Cycles, the Political Economy of the Third

World and “Underdevelopment,” Ecology and the Environment, Finance and Money, Neoliberalism, and many other aspects of Radical Political Economy.

URPE at ICAPE

For the fourth straight year, URPE organized sessions at the annual conference of ICAPE, the International Confederation of Associations for Pluralism in Economics. URPE organized 6 complete sessions, and URPE members were featured at the plenary and on many other panels. URPE continues to have the largest presence at ICAPE of any of the heterodox associations. URPE plans to continue to utilize ICAPE as an outlet for papers that we do not have space for during the ASSA conference, and to hold non-traditional sessions such as a workshop for graduate students on preparing for ASSA interviews. Contact Geoff.Schneider@bucknell.edu for more information about URPE @ ICAPE. The next ICAPE conference is on January 5-6, 2021 at Roosevelt University in Chicago. It will once again heavily feature URPE sessions.

URPE at the WSSA

URPE organized 3 panels at the Western Social Science Association meetings in San Diego in April of 2019. The panels were well attended, and attracted a diverse set of audience members including URPE members, members of the Association For Institutional Thought (AFIT), mainstream economists and interested social scientists. In 2020, URPE organized 3 sessions in conjunction with the Association For Institutional Thought. That conference will be held April 1-4, 2020 in Portland Oregon.

URPE Teaching and Job Placement Workshops

URPE has constructed materials to help graduate students and new faculty prepare for the job market. This includes advice on constructing cover letters, an online workshop on constructing a teaching philosophy, and material on preparing for job interviews. We also run workshops for those on the job market at the meetings of ICAPE. Contact Geoff.Schneider@bucknell.edu if you are interested in participating in these initiatives or if you have any questions.

Radical Political Economy Principles initiative

A working group of the URPE steering committee, including Paddy Quick, Al Campbell, Geoff Schneider, Jared Ragusett, Ann Davis, and David Fields, constructed a short critique of Mankiw’s mainstream principles of economics, and constructed a list of principles of radical political economy. These items were published in the *American Review of Political Economy*. The working group would like responses to these materials from URPE members. To participate in the conversation, you can view the list of principles at <https://urpe.org/resource/principles-of-radical-political-economics/>, and you can share your comments at <https://form.jotform.com/90384430862155>.

URPE Doctoral Fellowship

In June 2019 URPE awarded a Dissertation Fellowship in the amount of \$5,000. The URPE Dissertation Fellowship receives a significant number of applications, and we received six completed applications for the 2019 fellowship. These applications were received from students in five different universities (New School for Social Research, UMass Amherst, University of Ljubljana, Colorado State, and the University of Toronto). Five of these applications were from students writing dissertations in economics departments, and one was from a student writing a dissertation in geography.

The 2019 URPE Dissertation Fellowship was awarded to Ivan Rubinić, doctoral candidate, Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana (Republic of Slovenia). Mr. Rubinić dissertation is “The Dynamics of Economic Inequality in Euro Area Based on the Marxist Theory of Exploitation,” and is being supervised by Dr. Maks Tajnikar, University of Ljubljana.

The Steering Committee voted in the Fall 2019 meeting to increase the funding for the 2020 Dissertation Fellowship to \$6,500. The fellowship is awarded both on the basis of merit, as judged by the dissertation fellowship committee, and need.

"NY-URPE" meetings

New York URPErs have been meeting once a month for the past year, with presentations from URPE members and invited speakers on a variety of topics, from current theoretical work to the Democratic primary to local trade union activity. Meetings are open to everyone, whether or not they are URPE members. For more information contact paddyquick8@gmail.com

Newsletter

At the Fall 2019 Steering Committee meeting we decided to put the URPE newsletter on hiatus in order to focus our energy on the URPE blog. Stay tuned to the blog and website for some new exciting content. As always, we welcome your submissions and articles for publication.

Website

Our new website is up and running! We partnered with Design Action Collective in Oakland, CA for this full redesign and are excited to share it with our members and supporters in the new year. The changes to the site are primarily about functionality and design and are focused on making our website more intuitive, user friendly, and contemporary. The new site included all the content featured on the old site, along with some exciting new materials in a much more user-friendly format.

The URPE website continues to be an important part of our outreach, communication, and organizing strategies. Content contributed by members is a central component of the site, and we appreciate the ongoing contributions. The course syllabi pages, the new books page, and the newsletters are among the most popular website pages. We hope that these pages will become an increasingly important way of disseminating information about radical political economy.

Social Media

The official twitter handle of URPE (@urpe1968) gained over 1000 new followers in 2019 and now has 3406 followers. The RRPE twitter account has 1527 followers. The URPE Facebook group continues to grow and currently has 6,869 members. The URPE blog has been incorporated into the new website and is accessible at www.urpe.org.

Listserve

The URPE list serve is used for any sort of internal communication of information related to political economy that would be of interest to a significant number of URPE members, for example, job announcements, calls for papers, and announcements of conferences, and sharing resources such as syllabi or teaching methods. It is the best way to connect with more than 1,500 people in the URPE community via email.

Financial

At the close of 2019 URPE is in good financial health and we continue to operate with a surplus

Our largest expenses continue to be the salaries and health insurance for our two paid staff people (URPE Coordinator and Managing Editor of the RRPE). In addition to salaries, travel expenses make up a significant part of our budgeted expenses. We provide travel subsidies to Editorial Board and Steering Committee members to participate in regular annual or semiannual meetings.

As for investments and assets, URPE has reserves available in a savings account as well as \$105,088 invested in a 48-month CD. This CD does not offer more than 1.5% interest. We currently have \$42,669 in Equal Exchange shares and this investment has returned an average of 6% each year. The breakdown of URPE assets are: \$147,757 in investments, and approximately \$69,604 in liquid reserves (as of Dec 31st 2019).

Staff

We would like to acknowledge the following people whose efforts make URPE possible.

Organizational Coordinator, National Office: Steve Theberge

RRPE Managing Editor: Enid Arvidson

The URPE Steering Committee is made up of twelve members serving staggered three-year terms; the following are the current steering committee members:

Mona Ali (18-21)

Scott Carter (18-21)

Jennifer Cohen (19-22)

Paul Cooney (17-20)

Ann Davis (18-21)

Armağan Gezici (17 – 20)

Sirisha Naidu (19-22)

Erik Olsen (16-19)

Ozgur Orhangazi (19-22)

Paddy Quick (16-19)

Jared Ragusett (17-20)

Geoff Schneider (17-20)