Membership

At the close of 2023, we had 531 members. Concerted efforts to bring new members on board are being brought about in 2024, with a new social media campaign and outreach to heterodox departments and faculty members.

The membership fee structure was revised after extensive discussion in 2023. The revised structures are available here: https://urpe.app.neoncrm.com/forms/membership.

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

Review of Radical Political Economics

The RRPE publishes four issues per year (March, June, September, and December), and in 2023, the RRPE received 178 manuscript submissions, showing a 25.4 percent increase from 2022. Of the 178 submissions, over 75 percent (140 submissions) have final decisions at the time of writing this report—89 of the 140 have been rejected (for a rejection rate of 64 percent); 51 of the 140 have been accepted for publication (for an acceptance rate of 36 percent); the remaining 38 submissions are still under consideration at the time of writing this report. The journal's impact factor is 1.3 (up from 0.57 in 2018).

In 2023, 33 percent of submissions came from authors identifying North American countries as their location; 21 percent of submissions came from authors identifying European Union countries as their location; 14 percent of submissions came from authors identifying Eastern Asian countries as their location; and 14 percent of submissions came from authors identifying either Turkey, India, or Brazil as their location.

In 2023, the RRPE received 16 conference proceeding submissions—12 from the ASSA and 4 from the EEA. Of the 12 from ASSA, 9 were accepted and 3 were rejected (more information about published papers from the 2023 URPE@ASSA can be found here: https://urpe.org/the-journal/browse-content/papers-from-the-assa/). Of the 4 from EEA, 2 were accepted and 2 were rejected (more information about published papers from the 2023 URPE@EEA can be found here: https://urpe.org/the-journal/browse-content/papers-from-the-eea/). The 11 accepted papers were published in the
December 2023 issue along with the David Gordon Memorial Lecture, which was delivered by Jessica Gordon Nembhard, and discussant comments, which were delivered by Linwood Tauheed.

In 2023, the RRPE received 18 book review/essay submissions. Of these 18, 10 had final decisions—5 were accepted for publication, 5 were rejected, and the remaining 8 submissions were still under consideration at the time of writing this report.

The first issue of 2023, March 55 (1) was a special issue entitled Gender and Radical Political Economics: On the 50th Anniversary of the URPE Women’s Caucus, which is the RRPE’s eighth special issue on women and gender. The guest editorial collective for this special issue consisted of Jennifer Cohen, Marlene Kim, Sirisha Naidu, and Shaianne Osterreich. This special issue included 4 invited essays for RRPE’s occasional series entitled What “Radical” Means in the 21st Century—contributors to this series were Jen Cohen, Nancy Folbre, Heidi Hartmann, and Drue Barker.

In 2023, RRPE had three special issues in the works. Two new Calls for Papers for special issues were circulated in 2023—the special issue Anti-capitalist Pedagogies and Teaching Radical Economics has a submission deadline of April 1, 2024, and the special issue Climate Change and Capitalism has a submission deadline of December 31, 2024. In addition, the special issue COVID and Capitalism (whose call was first circulated in 2022 and is now closed) is close to being finalized.

In 2023, the URPE/heterodox economics community lost two major contributors to URPE: Jim Crotty and Herb Gintis. In the December issue of 2023, 55 (4), RRPE published a Memorial Symposium on Jim Crotty, with 7 original essays remembering Jim’s work and contributions. Don Goldstein organized the symposium and contributors were Jerry Epstein and Bob Pollin, Ray Boddy, Michele Naples, Arjun Jayadev and Josh Mason, Kang-Kook Lee, Ilene Grabel, and Özgür Orhangazi and Gary Dymski. (The March issue of 2024, 56 (1), published a series of tributes to Herb Gintis.)

Also in 2023, the Editorial Board continued its practice of selecting a paper from the previous volume year (in this case, volume 54, 2022) for the RRPE Best Paper Award. The award went to “A Reformulated Version of Marx’s Theory of Ground Rent Shows That There Cannot Be Any Absolute Rent” by Deepankar Basu, published in December 2022, 54 (4). All Best Paper award winners are available for download from the SAGE website: https://journals.sagepub.com/topic/collections-rrp/rrp-1-best_papers/rrpe.

For announcements and updates about the RRPE, please make it a habit to check the RRPE website: https://urpe.org/the-journal/.
URPE at the ASSAs 2023

The 2023 ASSAs were held on January 6–8, 2023 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday), in New Orleans, Louisiana. URPE had 16 sessions on a variety of topics of interest to radical and heterodox economists, including the David Gordon Memorial Lecture. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Jessica Gordon-Nembhard, from CUNY- John Jay on the topic “Black Political Economy, Solidarity Economics, and Liberation: Toward an Economy of Caring and Abundance.” Dr. Linwood Tauheed of the University of Missouri-Kansas City served as discussant, while Dr. Zhongjin Li of the University of Missouri-Kansas City served as the moderator. Climate justice, global capitalism, post-Keynesian finance, and taming foreign capital were some of the other sessions on offer.

URPE at ASSA also continued the robust tradition of collaborating with the International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE) on two joint sessions on ‘Capitalism, Intersectional Inequalities and Social Tensions’ and on ‘Capitalism, Gender and Work.’ While URPE’s engagement with the ASSAs will continue, especially since it is one of the few non-mainstream organizations at these conferences, one concern has been the dwindling number of participants in the ASSAs in the post-COVID period, especially since the job market has largely moved online.

URPE Demonstration on Reproductive Rights at the ASSAs

The ASSA meetings in New Orleans also saw a demonstration in support of reproductive rights on the sidewalk in front of the Hilton, the main ASSA conference hotel. URPE members who were concerned about the severe restrictions imposed on these by the government of Louisiana discussed how best to respond to these. The reproductive rights activists in New Orleans and beyond were opposed to a boycott of Louisiana, and instead supported the proposal for a demonstration at the ASSA meetings. This was organized by URPE in cooperation with AFEE (Association for Evolutionary Economics) and co-sponsored by IAFFE and ICAPE (International Coalition of Political Economists). About 40 people participated in the demonstration and urged ASSA participants to show their support for reproductive rights by wearing a button with the slogan “Economists for Choice” throughout the conference.

URPE at the EEAs

The 49th Eastern Economic Association (EEA) Annual Conference in 2023 was held between February 23 – 26 in New York City. URPE had 24 panels on offer at this conference. While this number is lower than 2019’s high of 32 panels, it is still very healthy and indicates URPE’s high degree of involvement with this conference. The
Easterns have remained a hub for URPE sessions due to the attendance of a large number of radical and heterodox economists, as well as for its greater openness to non-mainstream economic perspectives and approaches. Panels at the 2023 Easterns included topics such as Gender Inequality, heterodox perspectives on the consequences of the Pandemic, and the Global Rise of Populism and Authoritarianism as well as sessions with a focus on pedagogy such as Pluralistic Teaching and Critical Thinking.

**URPE Dissertation Fellowship**

The URPE Graduate Fellowship provides a stipend of $6,500 to support a graduate student engaged in the writing of an approved dissertation topic within any discipline in the area of radical political economics. After careful review by the Steering Committee’s Graduate Fellowship Committee of the 17 highly qualified applications from students based in many different countries, the 2023 Fellowship was awarded to Kabeer Bora, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Economics at the University of Utah. His dissertation utilizes empirical Marxian political economy, with an emphasis on time-series econometrics, to study imperialism, colonialism, and economic history. The fellowship is awarded on the basis of merit, as judged by the dissertation fellowship committee, as well as need.

**URPE Statement on Gaza**

The URPE Steering Committee responded to the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack on Israeli citizens and the massive military response by Israel in Gaza by issuing an initial statement that was intended to express what could be seen as representative of the views of URPE members as a whole. The response by URPE members on the URPE listserv to this initial statement was overwhelmingly one that saw this as a seriously inadequate expression of opposition to what was seen by many as, and would later be widely characterized as, a genocidal attack on the people of Palestine.

The URPE SC accordingly drew up a revised statement that presented a stronger perspective that placed the conflict within the broader history of Israeli-Palestinian relations and more firmly expressed its support of Palestinian rights. This statement underwent a robust discussion within the SC. Three SC members resigned since they saw the statement as inadequate in representing their personal views of the unfolding crisis in different ways (explained below). We also had a resignation from the SC at the same time for personal reasons completely unrelated to the statement.
The revised statement was approved with a majority by the remaining members of the SC with a vote in favor of 7-1 and accordingly issued on the URPE website here: https://urpe.org/statements/

Debates on the statement within the SC and amongst the membership at large took two different forms. One debate was over the content of the statement. This mirrored the debate the wider US left that was at the time, compared with much of the rest of the world, less critical of Israel and of the unconditional support being provided to it by the US government. Since then, however, opposition to the policies of the Israeli government – including but not limited to its military assault on Gaza – has taken the form of an international condemnation of the Israeli onslaught on the civilian populations of Gaza. The URPE SC’s stand on the statement has, therefore, arguably been validated. While there continue to be serious differences on this issue, there has been growing unity within the left, both nationally and internationally, in opposition to what are increasingly seen as genocidal attacks by Israel, and to US complicity.

The second debate was specific to URPE as an organization and took the form of challenging the right of the URPE SC to act and speak on behalf of its members. What was at issue was not the URPE by-laws that assigned responsibility for the organization of URPE to its elected SC, but whether URPE as an organization should or should not go beyond its role in the theoretical development of radical politics economics and participate in political activity based upon this. The URPE SC has, however, issued statements in the past, such as on Black Lives Matter, and organized demonstrations (such as the one for reproductive rights) and regards considered political activity as complementary to the theoretical work of radical political economists in promoting URPE’s goals.

**URPE Reader on the Radical Political Economy of the Environment**

We have recently obtained a contract with Routledge to publish this reader, currently with 25 chapters incorporating a range of radical views and dealing with issues from scientific discussions to activist’s struggles, including debates on degrowth and ecologically unequal exchange. We anticipate the publication of the Reader to be in 2025. It is aimed for a range of audiences, such that it could be used in undergraduate and graduate courses but also for academics and activists interested in this area, thus including some serious debates and discussions. We negotiated with Routledge in order to have a paperback, with a reasonable price and thus making it more accessible for a broader audience.
**Newsletter**

The newsletter had been put on hiatus in Fall 2019. There are now plans to revive the same and to invite contributions in 2024. A new newsletter committee will take on the task of serving as co-editors and Steering Committee liaisons. Some names among the membership were proposed as potential editors.

**Website**

The website was redesigned in 2019 with the partnership of the Design Action Collective in Oakland, CA. The URPE website continues to be an important part of our outreach, communication, and organizing strategies. Content contributed by members – such as course syllabi – is a central component of the site, and we appreciate the ongoing contributions. We hope that these pages will become an increasingly important way of disseminating information about radical political economy.

The URPE website was also updated to include a new Member Account page. Members can now access RRPE online through the portal among other materials.

**Finances**

At the end of 2023, we are continuing with our austerity period for the coming years given the major reduction in revenue from SAGE. The Royalty portion of our income from SAGE has seen a decline from roughly $51,000 in 2021 to $19,000 in 2023, and an expected drop to roughly $10,000 for 2024. This contributed to our Net Loss of $19,295 in 2023.

The largest expenses continue to be Payroll and Benefits, for the two staff people, namely the Managing Editor of RRPE and the National Coordinator. This total was roughly $110,000 in 2023. We anticipate an unavoidable cutback in the hours of the National Coordinator for 2024, with an expected reduction of roughly $4,000 in 2024 due to the cutback in hours.

Given the somber change of revenues and the need for austerity in the short run, we have significantly reduced travel and hotel accommodation to a minimum, in order to reduce those significant areas of costs in years past for URPE. This means the usual functioning of URPE is on hold until we come up with significant alternative sources of revenue, whether a new and improved contract with another publisher or fundraising efforts through sustainers, donations, or the possibility of grants and other proposals by the Fundraising committee.
Fortunately, we still have significant assets and have made an effort to find decent certificates of deposit (CDs) and especially our account with Vanguard Brokerage. Nevertheless, we recognize that we must avoid depending on these assets to cover our deficits as they will drop down quickly with the significant deficits we currently face. As of December 31st 2023, our total current assets were $314,955.

**Fundraising**

Recognizing the dire financial situation that URPE is in, the Steering Committee discussed some fundraising strategies and launched the URPE Sustainer Program. The Sustainer program offered URPE members an opportunity to acknowledge the role that URPE has played and continues to play in their lives, through participating as ‘sustainers’ of the organization by making a small recurring monthly monetary contribution. Sustainers also have the opportunity to participate in URPE committees. Information about the Sustainer program can be found here: [https://urpe.org/become-a-sustainer/](https://urpe.org/become-a-sustainer/). Sustainers are recognized, except if they ‘opt out’ by the inclusion of their names on a list on the URPE website.

In addition, a Fundraising Committee was also established which carried out some consultation with members of URPE as well as an outside consultant. The new fundraising plan has resulted in some moderate success, largely through recurring fundraising letters such as Giving Tuesday, but it has not been enough to cover the deficits faced by the organization.

**Steering Committee Elections and Officers**

Elections were held for the Steering Committee in 2023, to fill three seats whose terms were up, and one Caucus seat. The following people were elected to the Steering Committee: Nina Eichacker, Hannah Archambault, and Ramya Vijaya. Jared Ragusett and Paul Cooney were re-appointed to the Steering Committee after two members stepped down prior to the end of their terms (Mona Ali and Daniela Cialfi). In addition, Luiza Nassif Pires was elected by the Women and Non-Binary People Caucus as their representative to the Steering Committee.

Four Steering Committee members also stepped down in Fall 2023 (Nina Eichacker, Erik Olsen, Ramya Vijaya, and Özgür Orhangazi); elections for their replacement will be one of the first tasks of 2024.
The Steering Committee also elected the following individuals to URPE’s Officer positions. Paddy Quick was elected President. Paul Cooney was elected Treasurer. Hannah Archambault was elected Secretary. Steve Theberge was elected Clerk.

**Other activities**

The Steering Committee was able to meet in-person for a two-day planning retreat for the first time since the pandemic in April 2023 in New York City. John Jay College’s Economics department kindly offered their conference rooms for this purpose. The meeting proved valuable to discuss organizational priorities and direction, and for the rejuvenation of the Steering Committee in the post-pandemic period. The budget cuts have, however, called into question the viability of in-person meetings of the RRPE Editorial Board and of the Steering Committee. These will be paused until the resolution of the current financial crisis.

**Staff**

We gratefully acknowledge the labor and efforts of the following people, who make URPE’s work possible. Their efforts, especially during the pandemic, are responsible for the continuation of the organization’s work, despite our current challenges.

Organizational Coordinator of the National Office: Steve Theberge
RRPE Managing Editor: Enid Arvidson