



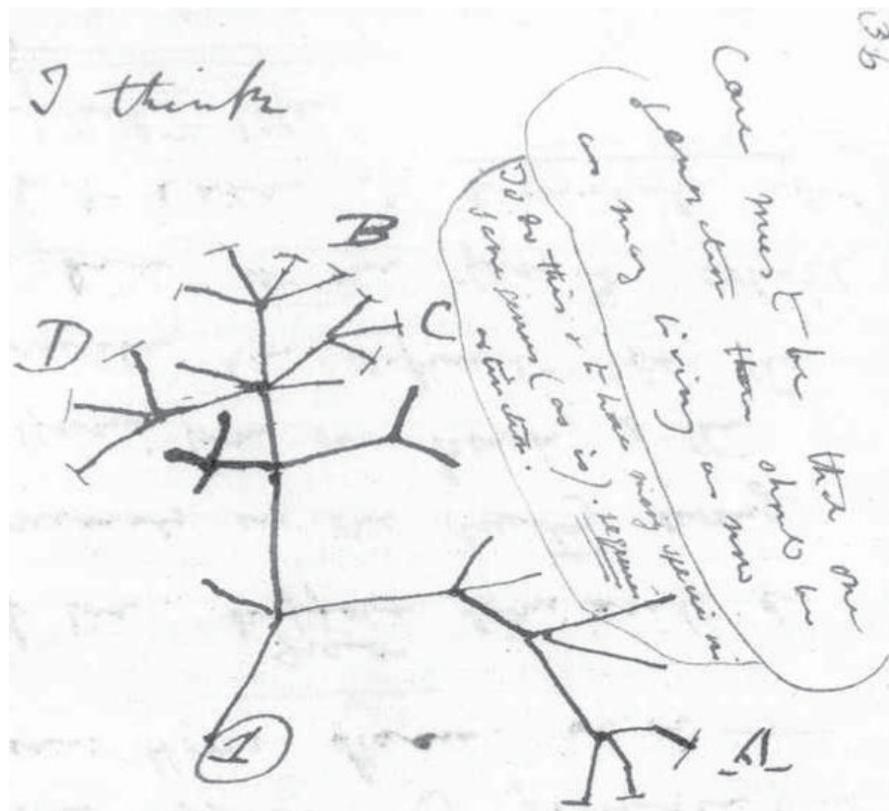
Do INSTITUTIONS EVOLVE?

Co-organized by the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies and the Department of Political and Social Sciences

Villa Malafasca
Via Boccaccio, 151
I-50133 Firenze



Florence, 8-9 May 2009



FRIDAY, 8 MAY

- 08:30 - 09:00 *Coffee informal introductions*
- 09:00 - 09:15 Welcome
Stefano Bartolini (Director, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies)
- Introduction
Sven Steinmo – *Why are we here?*
- 09:15 - 11:00 Chair – **Sven Steinmo**
Erik Beinhocker (McKinsey Global Institute – Business/Economics)
Economic (and Institutional) Evolution - More than a Metaphor
Geoffrey Hodgson (University of Hertfordshire - Economics)
The Ontology of Institutional Evolution
Discussants: **Mark Blyth, David Sloan Wilson**
- 11:00 - 11:15 *Coffee break*
- 11:15 - 13:00 Chair – **Orion Lewis**
Richard Nelson (Columbia University - Economics)
How Do Institutions Evolve?
Ugo Pagano (University of Siena - Economics)
Evolution, Complementarities and Institutions (Evolution of Social Behaviors)
Discussants: **Francisco Carrapiço, Elinor Ostrom**
- 13:00 - 14:30 *Lunch*
- 14:30 - 16:15 Chair – **Helena Carrapiço**
Ian Lustick (University of Pennsylvania – Political Science)
Evolution and Historical Institutionalism: Tropes without Theory
Henry Farrell and Cosma Shalizi (Washington U. – Pol. Sci. & Carnegie Mellon - mathematics)
Evolutionary Accounts and Rational Choice Theories of Institutional Change
Discussants : **Kathy Thelen, Tom Heller**
- 16:15 - 16:30 *Coffee*
- 16:30 - 17:30 Group discussion Chair: **Sven Steinmo**
What are Institutions and what, really, is evolution?

SATURDAY, 9 MAY

- 09:00 - 10:45 Chair – **Jeppe Olesen**
Samuel Bowles (University of Siena, Santa Fe Institute - Economics)
The Holocene revolution: the co-evolution of agricultural technologies and private property institutions
Rosaria Conte (CNR, Institute of Cognitive Science and Technology, Rome)
The Evolution of Norms an Agent Based Modeling Approach
Discussants: **Ian Lustick, Henry Farrell**
- 10:45- 11:15 *Coffee*

11:15 – 1:00	<p>Chair -- Furio Stamati</p> <p>Elinor Ostrom (Indiana University, Bloomington – Political Science) <i>Studying the Evolution of Rule-Systems</i> (with Xavier Basurto, Duke University)</p> <p>Ellen Immergut (Humboldt-University, Berlin – Political Science) <i>Mechanisms of Change in Institutions and Biology</i></p> <p>Discussant: Rikard Stankiewicz, Desmond King</p>
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch</i>
14:30 – 16:15	<p>Chair – Todor Arpad</p> <p>Robin Dunbar (Oxford University - Institute of Cognitive & Evolutionary Anthropology) <i>Cognitive constraints on the evolution of human social organization</i></p> <p>David Sloan Wilson (Binghamton University - Biology) <i>Multilevel Selection Theory and its Relevance to the Evolution of Institutions</i></p> <p>Discussants: Mark Blyth, Kathy Thelen</p>
16:15 – 16:30	<i>Coffee</i>
16:30 – 17:30	<p>Group discussion</p> <p>Chair -- Sven Steinmo</p> <p>Group discussion <i>Do Institutions Really Evolve?</i> <i>If so, what are the mechanisms for institutional variation, selection and retention?</i></p>

Format

Each panel is allotted 1 hour 45 minutes. This time will be divided as follows: Each author will be given 20 minutes to present their respective paper. This will be followed by a 10 minute presentation from each discussant (discussants will be responsible for a particular paper but should not reserve their comments to that paper alone). Discussant comments will be followed by a group discussion of 45 minutes. We hope to engage in substantive general conversations throughout the two day period, but specific general discussion period is scheduled at the end of each day.

Panel chairs

Todor Arpad	European University Institute todor.arpad@eui.eu
Helena Carrapiço	European University Institute helena.carrapico@eui.eu
Orion Lewis	Colorado University orion.lewis@colorado.edu
Jeppe Olesen	European University Institute jeppe.olesen@eui.eu
Furio Stamati	European University Institute furio.stamati@eui.eu
Sven Steinmo	European University Institute sven.steinmo@eui.eu

Eric Beinhocker (McKinsey Global Institute, MGI, London)

Eric Beinhocker is a senior fellow at the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI), McKinsey & Company's economics research arm, where he leads research on economic, management, and public policy issues. He was previously a partner at McKinsey and a leader in its Strategy Practice. His career has bridged both the business and academic worlds. He has held research appointments at the Harvard Business School and the MIT Sloan School and has been a visiting scholar at the Santa Fe Institute. Eric has written extensively on business and economic issues, and his work has appeared in *Fortune*, the *Financial Times*, *The McKinsey Quarterly*, and various academic publications. He is author of the widely praised book *The Origin of Wealth*, published by Harvard Business School Press and Random House, which was selected as a "Top Ten Business Book of 2006" by Amazon. Beinhocker argues that neoclassical and that the strong assumptions the theory requires serve to make economics of less relevance to real world issues than the field otherwise might be.

Mark Blyth (The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore)

Mark Blyth is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. His research interests lie in the fields of comparative and international political economy, particularly the political economy of finance and institutional change. He is the author of *Great Transformations: Economic Ideas and Institutional Change in the Twentieth Century* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2002) which examines the interaction of environmental uncertainty and economic ideas in the construction of economic institutions. He has recently finished three projects on institutional change, *The Transformation of Great American School Districts: How Big Cities Are Reshaping Public Education*, (Cambridge: Harvard Education Press 2008), on knowledge production, *The Handbook of International Political Economy: IPE as a Global Conversation* (New York: Routledge Press 2009) and on constructivist theory and political economy, *Constructing the International Economy* (Cornell University Press 2010). His most recent work increasingly draws from literatures on randomness and uncertainty in complex systems. He is a member of the Warwick Commission on international financial reform and is writing a book called *The End of the (Liberal) World?* His articles have appeared in, *The American Political Science Review*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Comparative Politics*, *World Politics*, and *West European Politics*.

Samuel Bowles (Santa Fé Institute, New Mexico & University of Siena)

Samuel Bowles is Professor of Economics, University of Siena and Research Professor and Director of the Behavioral Sciences Program, Santa Fé Institute. His research focuses on two areas. The first concerns the co-evolution of preferences, institutions and behavior, with emphasis on the modeling and empirical study of cultural evolution, the importance and evolution of non-self-regarding motives in explaining behavior, and applications of these studies to policy areas such as intellectual property rights, the economics of education and the politics of government redistributive programs. The second research area concerns the causes and consequences of economic inequality, with emphasis on the relationship between wealth inequalities, incomplete contracts, and governance of economic transactions in firms, markets, families and communities. Included are studies of the use and abuse of power in competitive exchange, the transmission of inequality across generations, wealth inequality as a source of allocative inefficiency, the very long term evolution of hierarchical institutions, transitions between egalitarian and unequal institutional regimes, and the relationship between globalization and redistribution. Much of this work is undertaken as part of the MacArthur Research Network on the Effects of Inequality on Economic Performance, co-headed with Pranab Bardhan.

Francisco Carrapiço (University of Lisbon)

Francisco Carrapiço was born in Lagos (1951), Portugal, and has a B.Sc. in Biology from the University of Lisbon, a Ph.D. in Cell Biology (1985) from the same university and a post-doc from the Arizona State University, USA. Assistant Professor with tenure at the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon, and Researcher of the Centre for Environmental Biology, his main field of research is Symbiomics, namely the *Azolla-Anabaena*-bacteria symbiotic system. Currently, he is part of the research team based at Utrecht University in The Netherlands studying the *Azolla* discovered in the Middle Eocene marine sediments from the Arctic and incorporated in the *Azolla Darwin* Project (<http://www.bio.uu.nl/~palaeo/Azolla/Azolla.htm>). He also has the position of Secretary of the International Symbiosis Society (ISS).

Rosaria Conte (CNR – Rome)

Rosaria Conte is president of AISC, Italian Association of Cognitive Science, and of ESSA, the European Social Simulation Association, as well as head of the LABSS (Laboratory of Agent Based Social Simulation) at the ISTC (Institute for Cognitive Science and Technology) of the Italian Research Council, and teaches Social Psychology at the Univ. of Siena. She is a cognitive and social scientist, with a special interest for the study of positive social action (altruism, cooperation and social norms), and reputation-based social regulation. Quite active in the MAS field, she contributed to launch the field of social simulation in Europe by organising amongst the field's main events held in the last ten years or so, editing collective volumes. Rosaria Conte is president of AISC, Italian Association of Cognitive Science, Vice-President of ESSA, the European Association of Social Simulation, and head of the LABSS (Laboratory of Agent Based Social Simulation) at the ISTC (Institute for Cognitive Science and Technology), and teaches Social Psychology at the Univ. of Siena. She is a cognitive and social scientist, with a special interest for the study of positive social action (altruism, cooperation and social norms), and reputation-based social regulation. Quite active in the MAS field, she contributed to launch the field of social simulation in Europe by organising amongst the main events held in the last ten years or so, editing collective volumes and coordinating a EU-funded Special Interest Group on Agent-based Social Simulation. She is coordinating several national and international research projects. She has published about 120 among scientific articles and books on cognitive social agents, norms representation and reasoning, and agent-based simulation. Her research interests range from Agent Theory to Multi Agent Systems, and from Agent-Based Social Simulation to Cultural Evolution.

Robin Dunbar (Oxford University)

Robin Dunbar Professor of Evolutionary Anthropology and Director of the Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology in the School of Anthropology, and a Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford University. Robin Dunbar is an anthropologist and evolutionary biologist, specialising in primate behaviour. He is best known for formulating Dunbar's number, roughly 150, a measurement of the cognitive limit to the number of individuals with whom any one person can maintain stable relationships. He was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1998. He is co-Director of the British Academy's Centenary Research Project 'Lucy to Language: The Archaeology of the Social Brain', a multi-disciplinary project involving, in addition to the University of Oxford, research groups at Liverpool University, Royal Holloway (University of London), Southampton University, and the University of Kent. His principal research interest is the evolution of sociality, with specific focus on humans, nonhuman primates and ungulates. Currently, there are five main projects: (1) The behavioral ecology of social and reproductive decision-making (in particular, mate choice and parental investment decisions) (2) Modeling socio-ecological systems and their evolution (3) The structure and dynamics of social networks in humans and other mammals (EPSRC Project) (4) The nature of social bonding (5) The cognitive and neural underpinnings of social behavior (including cognitive differences between species, the nature of specialized social cognitive abilities like theory of mind, and the evolution of the mammalian brain).

Henry Farrell (Washington University, Saint Louis)

Henry Farrell has been Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Relations at the George Washington University since 2004, where he is affiliated with the Center for International Science and Technology Policy. Previously he was Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto from 2002-2004, and Senior Research Fellow at the Max-Planck Project Group on the Law of Common Goods in Bonn, Germany from 2000-2002.

In addition to a book that is forthcoming with Cambridge University Press, Professor Farrell has authored or co-authored nineteen peer reviewed articles for journals including *International Organization* and *Comparative Political Studies* and eight chapters for edited volumes. His non-academic publications include articles for *The American Prospect*, *Foreign Policy*, the *Financial Times*, the *Boston Review*, the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, and *The Nation* and a policy paper for the German Marshall Fund.

Professor Farrell's primary areas of research are the international governance of e-commerce, the EU-US relationship, the internal governance of the European Union, and the political consequences of new information technologies such as weblogs and wikis. In addition to numerous academic publications on these topics, Professor Farrell is a co-founder of *Crooked Timber* (<http://www.crookedtimber.org>), an academic weblog with approximately 35,000 page views daily.

Geoffrey Hodgson (University of Hertfordshire, UK)

Geoffrey Hodgson is Research Professor in Business Studies at the University of Hertfordshire and Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Institutional Economics*. His research focuses on the theoretical and methodological foundations of institutional and evolutionary economics. How are institutions built up and sustained? What are their economic and other effects? How do they evolve? This research agenda has immediate applications for the understanding of learning, routines, technological change, and economic development. One focus is on the theory and nature of the firm, and its place in a broader theory of institutions and institutional change. Another focus is on the evolution of institutions, the application of Darwinian principles to socio-economic evolution, the conditions underlying increasing socio-economic complexity, and the impact of increasing complexity in capitalist development.

Ellen M. Immergut (Humboldt-University, Berlin)

Ellen M. Immergut holds the Chair in Comparative Politics at Humboldt-University in Berlin. Previously she held academic position at MIT and University of Konstanz. Ellen M. Immergut became well known with her book *The Political Construction of Interests: National Health Insurance Politics in Sweden, France, and Switzerland, 1930-1970* (Cambridge University Press, 1990) where she analyzed the challenges to welfare-state given the macro-level characteristics of nations. She is the Co-editor (with Karen, M. Anderson, and Isabelle Schulze) of *The Handbook of West European Pension Politics* (OUP 2007). The book provides a complete overview of the political and policy issues involved in pension policy, and well as case studies of contemporary pension politics (1980 to present) in 16 countries.

Desmond King (Oxford University)

Desmond King is the Andrew W Mellon Professor of American Government at the University of Oxford, where he is a Fellow of Nuffield College, and formerly Professor of Politics at St John's College, Oxford. He is the author of seven books including *Separate and Unequal: African Americans and the U.S. Federal Government* (2nd ed 2007), five co-edited books including *Democratization in America* (Hopkins, 2009), and numerous papers in such professional journals as *BJPS*, *CPS*, *Journal of Politics*, *Past and Present*, and *World Politics*, including (with Rogers M Smith) "Racial Orders in American Political Development," *American Political Science Review* 99 (2005). During 2005-08 he held a Leverhulme Trust Major Research Fellowship for his project on the American State, one of the products of which is (coedited with Lawrence Jacobs) *The Unsustainable American State* (OUP 2009). He is a Fellow of the British Academy.

Ian Steven Lustick (University of Pennsylvania)

Ian Steven Lustick is the Bess W. Heyman Professor of Political science at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Lustick is interested comparative politics, international politics, Middle Eastern politics, and agent-based, computer assisted modeling for the social sciences. He is a founder and past president of the Association for Israel Studies and past president of the American Political Science Association Politics and History Section. Lustick is well-known for his 2006 book *Trapped in the War on Terror* in which he argues that the War on Terrorism is an irrational policy for fighting America's enemies. He argues that the War on Terrorism was initially conceived of by neo-conservatives at the Project for a New American Century who were determined to shift the direction of U.S. foreign policy towards unilateralism. But because of political features unique to the US system, Lustick argues, the War on Terror has ultimately turned into something beyond anyone's control.

Richard Nelson (Columbia University, NY) – Emeritus

Richard Nelson is George Blumenthal Professor of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University. Currently Visiting Professor at the University of Manchester. Previous he was Professor of Economics at Yale University and served as staff economist on the Council of Economic Advisors, and at the RAND Corporation. From the beginnings of his career one of his central research interests has been in understanding differences in the pattern of economic growth over time and across countries, and how these differences have been molded by and mold economic and political institutions. Another principal interest has been the complex intertwining of government, for-profit institutions, and not-for-profit institutions, which one sees in many important sectors of modern economies. His work has been both empirical and theoretical. His best known book is *An Evolutionary Theory of Economic Change*, co-authored with Sidney Winter. He is also widely cited for his, *National Innovative Systems: A Comparative Analysis* (OUP 1993).

Elinor Ostrom (Indiana University Bloomington)

Elinor Ostrom is the Arthur F. Bentley Professor of Political Science, and Co-Director of the Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis at Indiana University Bloomington. In 1973 she co-founded The Workshop in Political Theory and Public Policy at Indiana University with her husband, Vincent Ostrom. Considered an expert on collective action, trust, and the commons, her institutional approach to public policy was considered distinct enough to be thought of as a separate "school" of Public Choice Theory. She has authored many books in the fields of organizational theory, political science, and public administration. Ostrom is a member of the United States National Academy of Sciences and past president of the American Political Science Association. Among her publications is the highly praised *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action*. In 1999 she became the first woman to receive the prestigious Johan Skytte Prize in Political Science and in 2005 received the James Madison Award by the American Political Science Association. At the moment her research interests focus on integrating the research findings in cognitive science into a workable set of models for exploring and explaining human choices in various institutional settings, including: social dilemmas, collective choice arenas, bureaucracies, and complex multitiered public economies.

Ugo Pagano (University of Siena)

Ugo Pagano is Director of the Doctoral School in Economics and President of the Graduate School S. Chiara at the University of Siena, and Visiting Professor at CEU (Budapest) where he was also Head of the Department of Economics. He obtained his PhD at the University of Cambridge, where he was later University Lecturer and a Fellow of Pembroke College. One of the founding Editors of the Journal of Institutional Economics, his current research interests include also corporate governance, economic integration, economic analysis of legal orderings and bioeconomics.

Cosma Shalizi (Carnegie Mellon University, Pennsylvania)

Cosma Shalizi is Assistant Professor at Statistics Department at Carnegie Mellon University. He focuses on information theory; Most of my work involves stochastic aspects of nonlinear dynamical systems, unsupervised machine learning, or some combination of the two; almost all of it uses information theory, which I find to be an invaluable tool for proving probabilistic results. With Kristina Klinkner they devised an algorithm, CSSR, which exploits the formal properties of the optimal predictive states to efficiently reconstruct them from discrete sequence data, and used large deviations arguments to show asymptotic convergence. This innovation is used in several applied fields like anomaly detection, crystallography, geophysics, natural language processing, communications and ecology.

Rikard Stankiewicz (University of Lund, Sweden) – Emeritus

Rikard Stankiewicz is Professor Emeritus at the Research Policy Institute of the University of Lund. He was Professor of Science and Technology Governance at the European University Institute in Florence until 2008. Born in 1941 he studied at Warsaw University and subsequently at Lund University in Sweden where he received a PhD in sociology. In 1988 he became Associate Professor of R&D Management and Policy at the Research Policy Institute, Lund University. Between 1996 and 1998 he served as Professor of Technology Dynamics at the Copenhagen Business School, Denmark. In 1998 he became Professor of Science and Technology Policy and the director of Research Policy Institute at Lund University. He has conducted research on the organisation and management of research and development in both public and private sectors, university and industry relations, comparative science and technology policy, and technological innovation systems. His most recent research and publications are concerned with the evolutionary models of technological change, science technology-relations, the structure and dynamics of the knowledge base of technology, and the impact of the new biotechnologies on innovation in the healthcare sector.

Sven Steinmo (European University Institute)

Sven Steinmo holds the chair in Public Policy and Political Economy at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. Professor Steinmo has a wide array of research and teaching interests, which can be broadly characterized as in the fields of political economy and comparative public policy. He is probably most noted for his work in "Historical Institutionalism" together with his co-author Kathleen Thelen. His first book, *Taxation and Democracy*, won the Riker Award for the best book in Political Economy from the American Political Science Association. His more recent books include: "Growing Apart? America, Canada and Europe in the 21st Century" (co-edited with Jeffrey Kopstein) and "Restructuring the Welfare State" (co-edited with Bo Rothstein). He is currently finishing a major project that examines the political, social and economic consequences of economic integration or "globalization" in Japan, Sweden, Germany and the United States titled, *The Evolution of the Modern State*. Other research topics include: Evolutionary Theory, Institutional Theory; the Political Economy of Aging and Immigration; and American Exceptionalism. He is currently president-elect of the Politics and History section of the American Political Science Association.

Kathleen Thelen (Harvard University) (get new bio)

Kathleen Thelen has just moved to MIT from Northwestern University. Thelen studies the origins, development, and effects of institutional arrangements that define distinctive "varieties of capitalism" across the developed democracies. Her two most recent books are *Beyond Continuity: Institutional Change in Advanced Political Economies* (edited with Wolfgang Streeck, Oxford University Press, 2005) and *How Institutions Evolve: The Political Economy of Skills in Germany, Britain, the United States and Japan* (Cambridge University Press 2004), which was selected as co-winner of the 2005 Woodrow Wilson Foundation Award of the American Political Science Association for "the best book on government, politics, or international affairs," and the 2006 Mattei Dogan Award of the Society for Comparative Research for the "best book published in the field of comparative research in 2004-05." Her co-edited book, *Structuring Politics: Historical Institutionalism and Comparative Politics*, is widely considered to be one of the key texts which framed the "Historical Institutional" approach in political science.

David Sloan Wilson (Binghamton University, NY)

David Sloan Wilson (1949-) is an American evolutionary biologist. He is a prominent proponent of the concept of group selection (aka multi-level selection) in evolution. He has, along with Elliott Sober in their book *Unto Others* proposed a framework called multilevel selection theory, which incorporates the more orthodox approach of gene-level selection and individual selection. This framework argues that while genes serve as the means by which organisms' designs are transmitted across generations, individuals and groups are vehicles for those genes and both are arenas for genes to act on. Indeed, genes themselves can be affected by selection, not just because of their effects on the design of their vehicle (the organism) but also because of their effect on the functioning of the DNA on which they reside. Hence, the notion of multilevel selection. Wilson has also coined the concept of a trait-group, a group of organisms linked not permanently as a group but having a shared fate due to interactions that they have. Wilson's book *Darwin's Cathedral* proposes that religion is a multi-level adaptation, a product of cultural evolution developed through a process of multi-level selection. His latest book *Evolution for Everyone: How Darwin's Theory Can Change the Way We Think About Our Lives* attempts to give an introduction to evolution for a broad audience, detailing the various ways in which evolution can be applied to everyday affairs.

Wilson started the Evolutionary Studies (EvoS) program at Binghamton University to provide a program that unifies diverse disciplines under the theory of evolution. Students in the program take evolution-themed courses in a variety of disciplines including biology, anthropology, psychology, bioengineering, philosophy, religion and the psychology of religion. SUNY New Paltz has started a similar program.

List of Participants

8-9 May 2009

Do Institutions Evolve?

Eric Beinhocker	McKinsey Global Institute, London eric_beinhocker@mckinsey.com
Mark Blyth	Johns Hopkins University mark.blyth@jhu.edu
Samuel Bowles	Santa Fé Institute, New Mexico samuel.bowles@gmail.com
Francisco Carrapiço	University of Lisbon fcarrapico@fc.ul.pt
Rosaria Conte	CNR – Rome rosaria.conte@istc.cnr.it
Robin Dunbar	Oxford University robin.dunbar@anthro.ox.ac.uk
Henry Farrell	Washington University henry.farrell@gmail.com
Tom Heller	Stanford University tcheller2001@yahoo.com
Geoffrey Hodgson	University of Hertfordshire g.m.hodgson@herts.ac.uk
Ellen Immergut	Humboldt-University, Berlin immergue@cms.hu-berlin.de
Desmond King	Oxford University desmond.king@nuffield.ox.ac.uk
Orion Lewis	University of Colorado orion.lewis@colorado.edu
Ian Lustick	University of Pennsylvania ilustick@sas.upenn.edu
Richard Nelson	Columbia University rrn2@columbia.edu
Elinore Ostrom	Indiana University, Bloomington ostrom@indiana.edu
Ugo Pagano	University of Siena pagano@unisi.it
Cosma Shalizi	Carnegie Mellon University cshalizi@stat.cmu.edu
Rikard Stankiewicz	University of Lund, and European University Institute rikard.stankiewicz@eui.eu
Sven Steinmo	European University Institute sven.steinmo@eui.eu
Kathy Thelen	MIT kthelen@mit.edu
David Sloan Wilson	Binghamton University dwilson@binghamton.edu