



Cambridge Research Seminar in Political Economy

Emmanuel College

Convened by Ivano Cardinale (Emmanuel College)

Co-convenors: D'Maris Coffman (Centre for Financial History and Newnham College) and Roberto Scazzieri (University of Bologna and Gonville and Caius College)

Societies face challenges that require understanding the entrenchment of the economic and political spheres. However, both political economy and the public debate often use categories of analysis developed for different historical contexts. As a result, they are often stuck in dichotomies and disputes no longer relevant.

The Cambridge Research Seminar in Political Economy aims to develop new categories of analysis that make it possible to explore the interface between the economic and political spheres of modern societies. It aims to do so by combining structural analysis of political-economic systems and historical analysis, drawing on the conceptual tools of political economy classical and modern, the institutional and structural analysis of economic systems, and economic history.

By investigating the internal configuration of systems, understanding how causal mechanisms work differently in different socio-historical conditions, and making relevant comparisons, the structural and historical approach makes it possible to explain the status quo, but also to identify alternative courses of action that are possible in a given context, although not realised.

The Seminar thus aims to advance our understanding of political-economic systems and to contribute to the public debate by pointing to perspectives and solutions that overcome received categories and solutions, but are firmly grounded in what is possible in a given socio-historical context.

Programme for Easter term 2014

Bill Janeway (University of Cambridge and Warburg Pincus)

"The Innovation Economy: What It Is/Where It Is"

Tuesday 13 May, 5.30-7pm, Emmanuel College, Gardner Room

Avner Offer (All Souls College, Oxford)

"Economic Theory and Social Democracy: The Nobel Prize Economists"

Thursday 22 May, 5.15-7pm, Emmanuel College, Camden House Drawing Room

Michael Dempster (Centre for Financial Research, University of Cambridge)

"A Behavioural Theory of Government Expenditure"

Wednesday 28 May, 5.15-7pm, Emmanuel College, Gardner Room