



SECTION ON SOCIO-ECONOMICS NEWSLETTER

December 14, 2019

23-1

Socio-Economics Events and Programs Marriott Wardman Park Hotel

1. **Saturday, January 4, 2020: 3:30 - 5:15 PM (See Page 2)**
**“Socio-Economic Pedagogy and Electoral Politics
in an Increasingly Polarized Society”**
Room: Taft, Mezzanine Level
2. **Sunday, January 5, 2020: 9:00 - 10:30 AM (See page 2)**
**“Roundtable on the Economic Growth,
Regulatory Relief and the Consumer Protection Act”**
Room: Washington 6, Exhibition Level
3. **Sunday, January 5, 2020: 10:30 AM - 12:15 PM - (See page 2)**
“Populism, Electoral Politics, and Socio-Economic Justice in 2020”
Room: Washington 6, Exhibition Level
4. **Sunday, January 5, 2020: 12:15 - 1:30 PM - (See box below and page 3)**
Socio-Economics Luncheon: “Racial and Economic Justice”
Location: Stone’s Throw Restaurant - Marriott Wardman Park Hotel

Panels Co-Sponsored by the Sections on Minority Groups and Socio-Economics

5. **Sunday, January 5, 2019: 1:30 - 3:15 PM - (See Page 3)**
**“Achieving Greater Economic Justice as a Means to Greater
Racial Justice”**
Room: Virginia Suite C, Lobby Level
6. **Sunday, January 5, 2019: 3:30 - 5:15 PM - (See Page 3)**
The (Ir)Relevance of Law in a Minority-Majority America
Room: Virginia Suite C, Lobby Level

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Socio-Economics Luncheon

Sunday, January 5, 2020

12:15 - 1:30A PM

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Annual Meeting and Dinner of the Society of Socio-Economists (SOS)

Sunday, January 5, 2020

6:30 - 9:00 PM

**All AALS Registrants, Family & Friends
Welcome!**

(See Page 3)

*For more information contact Robert Ashford, Syracuse University, 315-491-4888, rhashford@aol.com
(Please share with colleagues, friends, and interested persons.)*

Saturday, January 4, 2020: 3:30 - 5:15 P

Room: Taft, Mezzanine Level

***“Socio-Economic Pedagogy and Electoral Politics
in an Increasingly Polarized Society”***

Program Description

The 2020 election promises to be one of the most intensely fought and politically polarized elections in our lifetime. The election campaign itself is likely to involve a re-arming of the approach to socio-economic issues, particularly those that involve racial, gender, and economic justice. At the same time, our students may reflect a variety of political perspectives, and they may feel particularly passionate -- or particularly vulnerable -- during the upcoming election season. This panel will identify important and sensitive issues likely to arise during the election campaign and strategies for addressing them constructively in the classroom.

Moderator: Deleso A. Alford, Southern University Law Center

Moderator: June Rose Carbone, University of Minnesota Law School

Speaker: Natalie M. Gomez-Velez, City University of New York School of Law

Speaker: Susan S. Kuo, University of South Carolina School of Law

Speaker: Russell McLain, University of Maryland School of Law

Sunday, January 5, 2020: 9:00 - 10:30 AM

Room: Washington 6, Exhibition Level

***“Roundtable on the Economic Growth,
Regulatory Relief and the Consumer Protection Act”***

Program Description

In the second year of the Trump administration, Congress enacted the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act. Among other things, the act purports to improve consumer access to mortgage credit by removing regulatory requirements applicable to lenders. However, there is no explicit statutory condition that requires expanded consumer lending in exchange for eased regulatory requirements. This panel will address the strategies embedded in the Act and alternative perspectives on economic growth.

Moderator and Speaker: Michael P. Malloy, University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law

Speaker: Robert Ashford, Syracuse University College of Law

Speaker: William K. Black, University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law

Speaker: Andrea J. Boyack, Professor of Law, Washburn University School of Law

Sunday, January 5, 2020: 10:30 AM - 12:15 PM

Room: Washington 6, Exhibition Level

“Populism, Electoral Politics, and Socio-Economic Justice in 2020”

This panel will discuss the way that the upcoming 2020 election campaign is framing issues of socioeconomic justice, with special attention to modern monetary theory, the Green New Deal, and racial and economic inequality.

Moderator: June Rose Carbone, University of Minnesota Law School

Speaker: Jeremy Bearer-Friend, George Washington University Law School

Speaker: Rohan Grey, The Children’s Law Center, Cornell Law School

Speaker: Robert C. Hockett, Cornell Law School

Speaker: Alfreda Robinson, George Washington University Law School

Speaker: Harold A. McDougall, III, Howard University School of Law

Socio-Economics Luncheon

**Sunday, January 5, 2020
12:15 - 1:30 PM**

Location: Stone's Throw Restaurant - Marriott Wardman Park Hotel

A Conversation on Racial and Economic Justice with ...

***Dr. Yolanda Pierce, Dean of the Divinity School, Howard University
Rev. Dr. Rodney Sadler, Jr. Union Presbyterian Seminary***

Two Panels Co-Sponsored by the Sections on Minority Groups and Socio-Economics:

Sunday, January 5, 2019: 1:30 - 3:15 PM

Room: Virginia Suite C, Lobby Level

“Achieving Greater Economic Justice as a Means to Greater Racial Justice”

Program Description: In the last years of his life, based on his words and deeds, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. seemed to place ever greater emphasis on achieving economic justice for all American citizens, regardless of race, as an effective strategy for achieving greater racial justice for African-American citizens. This roundtable will present various perspectives from panelists and participating members of the audience regarding this strategy and other strategies in light of today's political and economic realities.

Moderator and Speaker: Robert Ashford, Professor of Law, Syracuse University College of Law

Speaker: Philip L. Harvey, Professor of Law and Economics, Rutgers Law School

Speaker: Eric J. Miller, Loyola Law School, Los Angeles

Speaker: Yolanda Pierce, Dean and Professor Howard University School of Divinity

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Rodney S. Sadler, Jr., Associate Professor, Union Presbyterian Seminary

Speaker: Carlton M. Waterhouse, Professor of Law, Howard University School of Law

Sunday, January 5, 2019: 3:30 - 5:15 PM

Room: Virginia Suite C, Lobby Level

The (Ir)Relevance of Law in a Minority-Majority America

Program Description: Due to a combination of socio-economic and legal factors, the United States population is transitioning from a white majority to a minority-majority population. By 2045, demographers predict the population will be comprised by less than fifty percent of white people for the first time in U.S. history. The political consequences of this shift are already being felt through the rise of white nationalist politics and legal maneuvers to impede the growing political influence of racial minorities. Whether through changes to elections, immigration, or the Census, the law is being weaponized to maintain political and economic power within the nation's white elite. At the same time, racial minorities and their white allies are challenging such efforts that ultimately undermine the nation's majoritarian democratic system. This panel explores the extent of the law's impact in a racialized political struggle that could arguably change the composition and operating principles of the nation's elites.

Speaker: Sahar Aziz, Rutgers Law School

Speaker: Norrinda Hayat, Rutgers Law School

Speaker: Kevin R. Johnson, University of California, Davis, School of Law

Moderator: L. Song Richardson, University of California, Irvine School of Law

Speaker: Joshua Sellers, Arizona State University College of Law

Annual Meeting and Dinner of Society of Socio-Economists (SOS)

Sunday, January 5, 2020 - 6:30 - 9:00 PM

Location: Stone's Throw Restaurant - Marriott Wardman Park Hotel

All AALS Registrants, Family, and Friends Are Welcome!

RSVPs Helpful But Not Necessary:

SocioEconomics@aol.com (or contact Robert Ashford: 315-491-4888)

Statement of Socio-Economic Principles

Socio-economics begins with the assumption that economic behavior and phenomena are not wholly governed or described by any one analytical school, but are embedded in society, polity, culture, and nature. Drawing upon economics, sociology, political science, psychology, anthropology, biology and other social and natural sciences, philosophy, history, law, management, and other disciplines, socio-economics regards competitive behavior as a subset of human behavior within a societal and natural context that both enables and constrains competition and cooperation. Rather than assume that the individual pursuit of self-interest automatically or generally tends toward an optimal allocation of resources, socio-economics assumes that societal sources of order are necessary for people and markets to function efficiently. Rather than assume that people act only rationally, or that they pursue only self-interest, socio-economics seeks to advance a more encompassing interdisciplinary understanding of economic behavior open to the assumption that individual choices are shaped not only by notions of rationality but also by emotions, social bonds, beliefs, expectations, and a sense of morality.

Socio-economics is both a positive and a normative science. It is dedicated to the empirical, reality testing approach to knowledge. It respects both inductive and deductive reasoning. But it also openly recognizes the policy relevance of teaching and research and seeks to be self-aware of its normative implications rather than maintaining the mantle of an exclusively positive science. Although it sees questions of value inextricably connected with individual and group economic choices, socio-economics does not entail a commitment to any one paradigm or ideological position, but is open to a range of thinking that treats economic behavior as involving the whole person and all facets of society within a continually evolving natural context.

Unique among interdisciplinary approaches, however, socio-economics recognizes the pervasive and powerful influence of the neoclassical paradigm on contemporary thought. Recognizing that people first adopt paradigms of thought and then perform their inductive, deductive, and empirical analyses, socio-economists seek to examine the assumptions of the neoclassical paradigm, develop a rigorous understanding of its limitations, improve upon its application, and develop alternative, perhaps complementary, approaches that are predictive, exemplary, and morally sound. With modest amendment, this description of Socio-Economics was the substance of the petition signed by more than one hundred twenty law professors from over fifty AALS member schools, to establish the AALS Section on Socio-Economics. It serves as the constitution of the Section For a fuller description of socio-economics, see http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=882751]

Introductory Socio-Economic References

1. Paul Stern, "The Socio-Economic Perspective and Its Institutional Prospects," *The Journal of Socio-Economics*, Volume 22, No. 1, 1993, pp. 1-11.
2. Richard Coughlin, "Whose Morality? Which Community? What Interests? Socio-Economic and Communitarian Perspectives," *The Journal of Socio-Economics*, Volume 25, 1996, pp. 135-55.
3. Robert Ashford, "Socio-Economics: What Is Its Place in Law Teaching?" *Wisconsin Law Review*, Volume 1997, p. 611-623.
4. Jeffrey L. Harrison, "Law and Socio-Economics," Volume 49, *Journal of Legal Education*, 224 (1999).
5. Richard E. Hattwick, "The Future Paradigm for Socio-Economics: A Call for Papers," Volume 28, *The Journal of Socio-Economics*, 1999, pp. 511-532.
6. Robert A. Solo, *The Philosophy of Science, and Economics* (1991) and *Economic Organizations and Social Systems* (2000).
7. Steve Keen, *Debunking Economics - The Naked Emperor of the Social Sciences* (2001).
8. Socio-Economics and Corporate Law Symposium: The New Corporate Social Responsibility, 76 *Tulane Law Rev.* 1187 (2002).
9. Symposium: Teaching Law and Socio-Economics 41 *San Diego Law Review* 1 (2004).
10. Lynne Dallas, *Law and Public Policy: A Socio-Economic Approach* (2004).
11. Robert Ashford, "Socio-Economics" *Encyclopedia of Law & Society*, 2007, pp. 1405-1407 (2007)
12. "Law and Socio-Economics: A Symposium," 49 *Akron Law Review* 287 (2016)

Join Today!

Section of Socio-Economics

<https://www.aals.org/sections/join/>

**Chair: Dean Michael Hunter Schwartz
(University of the Pacific
McGeorge School of Law)**

**Chair-Elect: George B. Shepherd
Professor of Law and Economics
Emory University School of Law
Program Chair:**

Professor Robert Ashford (Syracuse)

Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Section and do not necessarily represent positions of the AALS.