



Det Samfundsøkonomiske Selskab

Pluralism in Economics Education

Content

- My story
- The Socio-economic Society (DSS)
- International Student Initiative for Pluralist Economics (ISIPE)
- What now?

A need for reflection

- ⊗ Financial Crisis, Climate Crisis, Poverty, Inequality etc.
- ⊗ Economists have a huge influence on society. That gives us power – and responsibility!



The Birth of DSS

- ❶ Inspired by the article in *Information* about *INET* and *Kritiske Politter*
- ❷ I ran for the study board in november 2012
 - ❶ 45 personal votes \approx 15%
- ❸ Call in our magazine, *Bladet Ø* in february 2013
- ❹ Meetings with like-minded students during spring
- ❺ DSS was founded in May 2013
 - ❶ Not political! Wants debate, not agreement.
 - ❷ Not studentpolitical. We need partners – not competitors.



Det Samfundsøkonomiske Selskab

The known unknowns

🎯 Purpose:

🎯 *"DSS exists to create a space for economic students at Aarhus University to meet more pluralism in economic theories and methods, and to promote reflection on the effects of these on society."*

🎯 Activities

- 🎯 Search for the known unknowns
- 🎯 Workshops
- 🎯 Presentations and discussions
- 🎯 Don't tell it – show it

Forårsplan  **Det Samfundsøkonomiske Selskab**

Introduktionsarrangement - Hvad er DSS? 05/03 kl. 16-18
Selvom DSS er under 1 år gammel, er vi i en rivende udvikling. Ved universiteter i hele verden findes der lignende foretagender på økonomistudierne, og derfor har vi også fået et stærkt internationalt netværk, som vi i fremtiden gerne vil samarbejde med om nogle større arrangementer. Kom og hør om hvad vi laver, hvad vi har i støbeskeen, hvorfor vi gør det, og om hvordan du kan blive en del af det. Vi sætter stor pris på inputs, og har brug din hjælp.

Bo Sandemann - Alternativer til Mainstream Økonomi, 13/03 kl. 16-18
Det er sjældent vi studerende diskuterer det, men i den offentlige debat hører man ofte om den såkaldte neoklassiske økonomiske teori, som er den økonomiske skole vi primært undervises i. Men hvad er det præcis der udgør denne skole, og hvorfor er det oftest udgangspunktet for at karakterisere diverse realekonomiske fænomener? Kom og hør Bo Sandemann fortælle om såkaldt mainstream økonomi, og om hvilke alternativer der ellers er.

DEBAT om banksektoren - Lars Pehrson and Anders Grosen, 27/03 kl. 16-18
Siden finanskrisen har der været stor diskussion om bankerne og deres ageren på finansmarkederne. Kritikken kan meget groft opdeles i to grupper: De systemkritiske, som mener et finansmarkedernes størrelse og betydning er alt for stor overfor realekonomien, og så de moralske, som mener at bankerne handler uansvarligt via tvivlsom spekulativ adfærd kombineret med eksempler på tvivlsom skatterådgivning, skytje lånninger og differentierede kundegebyrer. I denne debat beder vi medforfatter til den såkaldte "Rangvid-Rapport", Professor i Finance, Anders Grosen og Direktør ved Merkur Andelskasse, Lars Pehrson, om at give deres syn på bankerne og deres rolle i samfundet. Er bankerne uansvarlige, finansmarkederne overvurderede, eller kritikerne bare hysteriske?

Michael Svarer - Det Økonomiske Råd, 09/04 kl. 16-18
Michael Svarer er professor ved Aarhus Universitet og blev i 2012 udnævnt til økonomisk overvismand i Det Økonomiske Råd. Michael vil fortælle om, hvilken rolle Det Økonomiske Råd har i samfundet, og hvordan økonomisk teori og modeller bruges i arbejdet. Herudover vil han komme ind på noget af det konkrete arbejde, han har været en del af gennem Rådet.

Poul Thais Madsen - Det Økonomiske Paradigme, 12/05 kl. 16-18
Er vi som økonomer objektive? Økonomi handler om menneskers beslutninger, og er derfor - som enhver anden samfundsvidenskab - bundet af en overbevisning. Selvom man som økonom forsøger at beskrive ting "som de er", dvs. uden normativer, så er man underlagt et paradigme. Poul Thais Madsen vil diskutere eksistensen af paradigmer i økonomisk teori, og i den forbindelse også komme ind på betydningen af pluralistisk tankegang.

Generalforsamling 17/05, Tidspunkt følger!
Her skal den kommende bestyrelse ved DSS vælges. Det er dermed din mulighed for at tage del i bestyrelsesarbejdet, og således være med til at forme foreningen i fremtiden. Mere information følger på vores hjemmeside, www.dssaarhus.dk samt på vores Facebook-side "Det Samfundsøkonomiske Selskab".

Lokalinformation følger

A bit of history

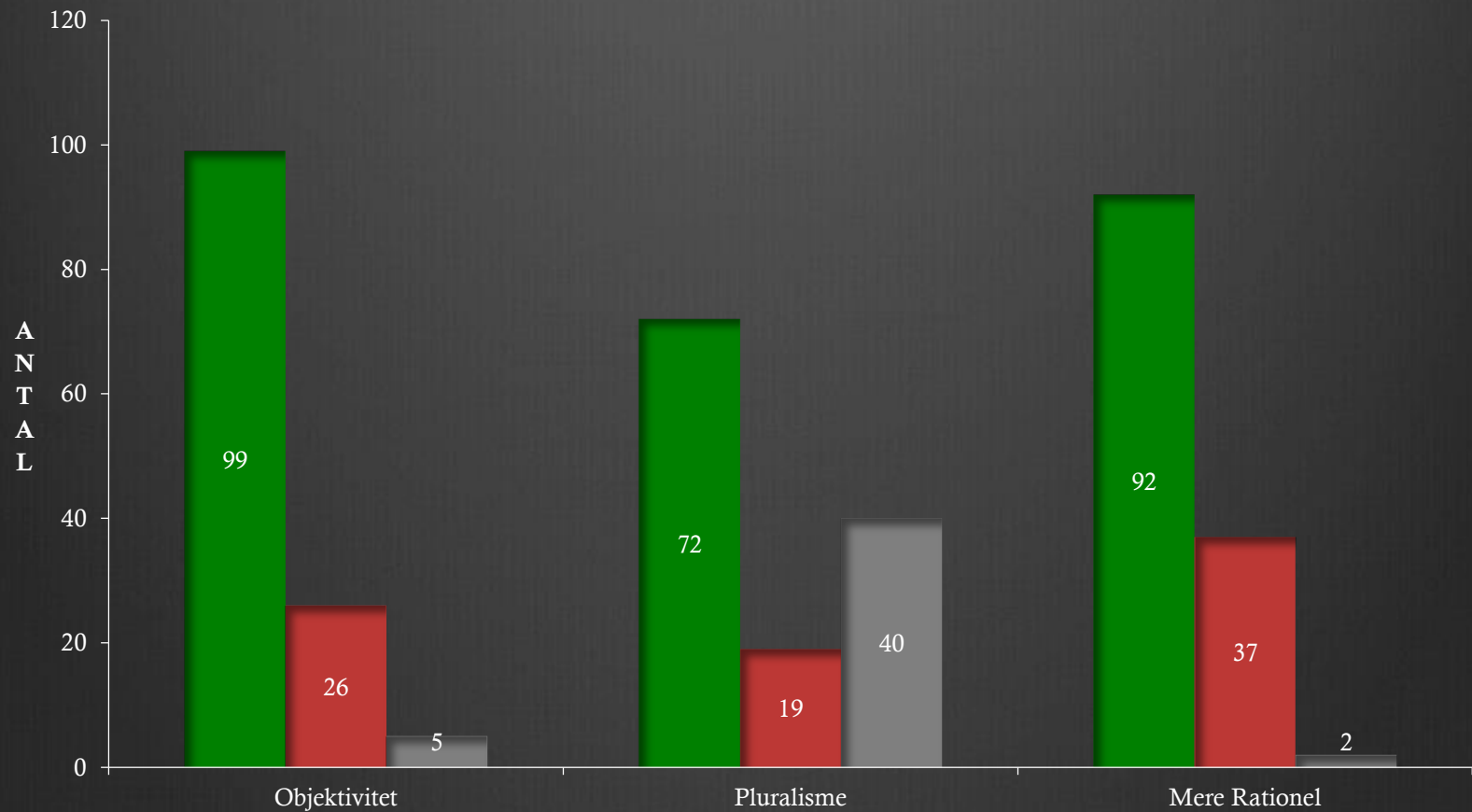
- "1992-plea" from the FEED-charity
 - Professors and nobel laureates in the journal of AEA
- Post-Autistic Economics
 - Started with students from Paris in the year 2000
- COGEE rapporten from Harvard in the year 2003
- IREE from 2009
- Walkout from Mankiw class
- Kritiske Politter 2012



The critique has a ring to it

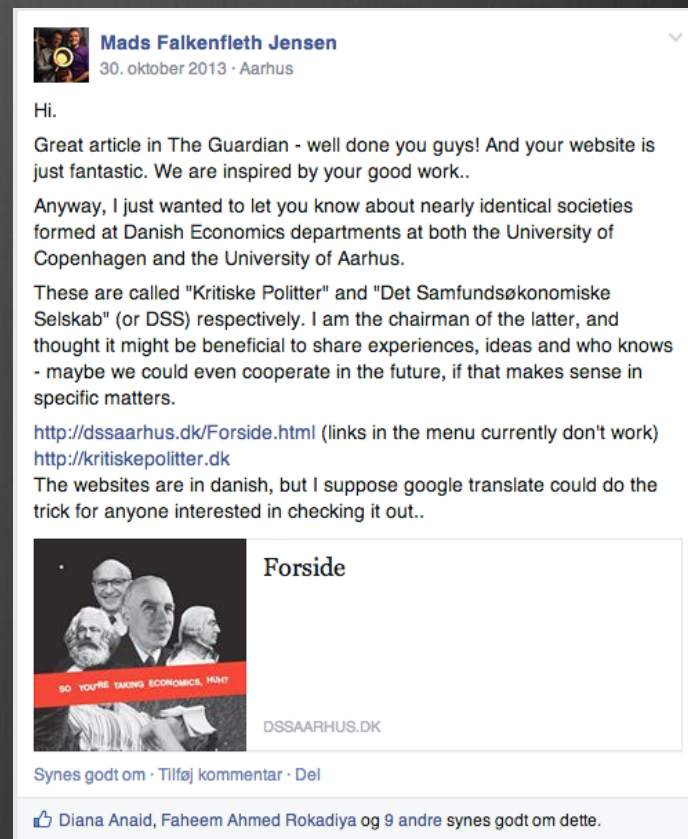


DSS survey, march 2014



The Birth of ISIPE

- Article on *PCES* in *The Guardian*
 - October 24th
- *DSS* salute to *PCES*
 - October 30th
- *PEPS* contact
 - November 13th
- International Skype-meeting
 - January 23rd
- Basecamp platform



Mads Falkenfleth Jensen
30. oktober 2013 · Aarhus

Hi.

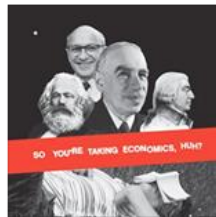
Great article in The Guardian - well done you guys! And your website is just fantastic. We are inspired by your good work..

Anyway, I just wanted to let you know about nearly identical societies formed at Danish Economics departments at both the University of Copenhagen and the University of Aarhus.

These are called "Kritiske Politter" and "Det Samfundsøkonomiske Selskab" (or DSS) respectively. I am the chairman of the latter, and thought it might be beneficial to share experiences, ideas and who knows - maybe we could even cooperate in the future, if that makes sense in specific matters.

<http://dssaarhus.dk/Forside.html> (links in the menu currently don't work)
<http://kritiskepolitter.dk>

The websites are in danish, but I suppose google translate could do the trick for anyone interested in checking it out..



Forside

DSSAARHUS.DK

Synes godt om · Tilføj kommentar · Del

👍 Diana Anaid, Faheem Ahmed Rokadiya og 9 andre synes godt om dette.

The ISIPE engine

The screenshot shows a Basecamp project page for 'International Manifesto'. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Basecamp New stuff!', 'Projects', 'Calendar', 'Everything', 'Progress', 'Everyone', and 'Me'. A search bar on the right says 'Jump to a project, person, label, or search...'. The project title 'International Manifesto' is followed by 'Invite more people' (83 people on this project) and 'Catch up' (on recent changes). Below the title, there are links for '49 Discussions', '60 Files', and '3 Text documents', along with 'Add the first: To-do list Event'. The 'Latest project updates' section lists three recent comments: Faheem R. on 'Cooperation with avaaaz.org' (May 21), Gabriel S. giving access to the project (May 19), and serge b. on 'Funding' (May 19). A 'See all updates' link is provided. The 'Discussions' section has a 'Post a new message' button and lists five discussion threads with their respective authors, titles, content snippets, file attachments (PDF, DOCX), dates, and reply counts.

International Manifesto ☆ [Invite more people](#) [Catch up](#)
83 people on this project on recent changes

[49 Discussions](#) [60 Files](#) [3 Text documents](#) Add the first: [To-do list](#) [Event](#)

Latest project updates

- May 21** Faheem R. commented on [Cooperation with avaaaz.org](#)
- May 19** Gabriel S. gave obermans@gmail.com access to the project: International Manifesto
- May 19** serge b. commented on [Funding](#)

[See all updates](#)

Discussions

- Faheem R. [Cooperation with avaaaz.org](#) - let me know. rokt54 May 21 24
- serge b. [Funding](#) - As promise I made the balance sheet to summarize (the only 2 expenses...) https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1kUNekVfvKc_F2lwNUih4AYOHkYpG9KQQ12Gv_6HRc May 19 18
- Neil L. [Viral Marketing](#) - We have another social media editor... Alexander. Can one of the more established groups (Chile? Sociedad de Economía Crítica Argentina y Uruguay?) help out in Spanish May 19 58
- Neil L. [Translations of the Manifesto](#) - Can we also put the signatures in alphabetical order so you can search for specific names? Then we could use May 18 102
- Nicolo' F. [Website](#) - Faheem, just one thing. In the website every language is written in its own language (like for german there is written "deutsch" an not "german") May 18 204

[44 more discussions](#)



One-size-fits-all approach

- ⊗ Common ground: "Student initiatives promoting pluralism"
- ⊗ Consensus-based decisions.
 - ⊗ Everyone has a veto.
 - ⊗ Takes time!
- ⊗ No spokesmen – Every group is 100% autonomous
 - ⊗ Change is needed on 4 different levels
 1. Internationally (journals, textbooks etc.) ISIPE's only level
 2. Nationally (university laws, budgets etc.)
 3. Locally (curricula, research, hiring etc.) DSS' level
 4. Individually (professors, students etc.)



Current curricula

- ⊗ Year 1
 - ⊗ Introduction to economics (often divided in micro and macro)
 - ⊗ Introduction to mathematical techniques for economists
 - ⊗ Additional Courses

- ⊗ Year 2
 - ⊗ Intermediate Microeconomics
 - ⊗ Intermediate Macroeconomics
 - ⊗ Econometrics
 - ⊗ Additional Courses

- ⊗ Year 3
 - ⊗ Four to six optional courses (sometimes incl. research projects)

Proposals \neq demands

<u>Year 1</u> <i>Width</i>	Economics of the real world	Basic concepts	Basic tools	Continuing debates in econ & econ history
<u>Year 2</u> <i>Competencies</i>	Intermediate Micro	Intermediate Macro	Econometrics	Language of econ & alternative approaches
<u>Year 3</u> <i>Depth</i>	Case studies	Economic electives	Internship	Dissertation

The global call on May 5th



Mediastorm

- ⊗ 36 international newspaper articles in 48 hours
- ⊗ Ongoing – We have simply lost count!



www.ISIPE.net

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT INITIATIVE FOR PLURALISM IN ECONOMICS

ARGENTINA - AUSTRALIA - AUSTRIA - BRAZIL - CANADA - CHILE - DENMARK - FRANCE - GERMANY - INDIA -
ISRAEL - ITALY - PAKISTAN - RUSSIA - SLOVENIA - SPAIN - SWEDEN - SWITZERLAND - UNITED KINGDOM - USA
- URUGUAY

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français - deutsch - dansk - norsk - español - עברית - italiano
русский - polski - 日本の - svenska - português

We are a collaboration of 65 associations of economics students
from 30 countries around the world.

Pluralism is our motto. We want to bring about a more open,
diverse and pluralist economics.

Read our open letter to find out more.

[MAP OF MEMBER GROUPS](#)



Det Samfundsøkonomiske Selskab

Organizational challenges

- ⊗ Structure – currently very time-consuming
 - ⊗ Response to enquiries
 - ⊗ Response to criticism
 - ⊗ Simon Wren-Lewis: "Fundamentally misguided"
 - ⊗ John Kay: "Heterodoxy is like creationism"
 - ⊗ Diane Coyle: "Math-phobia"
- ⊗ Funding
 - ⊗ From the initiatives – which are mainly funded by their department

What now?

- ⊗ Create awareness and debate
 - ⊗ Do we want academic freedom? Do we want change?
 - ⊗ Collaborations with professors, alumne and businesses.
- ⊗ Analysis
 - ⊗ When and how has curricula changed to be what they are?
 - ⊗ Quantify our claims – What is the actual current status?
- ⊗ Conferences – a huge asset for any department!
 - ⊗ Rethinking Economics in London (June) and New York (Sept)
 - ⊗ International – several proposals
 - ⊗ Nationally with our departments, professors and businesspeople



#ChangeEconomics

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

- Margaret Meads

