



Call for Papers

PHILANTHROPY AND THE ECONOMIC WAY OF THINKING

November 6-8, 2014

Troy University, Alabama

The Philanthropic Enterprise and the Johnson Center for Political Economy at Troy University are issuing a call for original research papers to be presented at a conference on “Philanthropy and the Economic Way of Thinking.”

Submissions should seek to deepen our understanding of the relationships among philanthropic enterprises, the economy, and public policy. Conference papers may be considered for publication in *Conversations on Philanthropy*.

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Recent research on philanthropy has suggested that charitable donations and nonprofit enterprises generate significant economic impact in communities. Such claims, however, seem to ignore the question “compared to what?” and furthermore ignore the complex interactions between the contemporary nonprofit sector and government. We seek studies that will help us tell a more accurate story about the social and economic functions of our philanthropic enterprises.

We seek theoretical, empirical, and/or historical studies—especially those that utilize the “economic way of thinking” and the methodologies of public choice scholarship—to enhance our understanding of the political economy of philanthropy. In particular, we seek papers that:

- 1) take up Tocqueville’s challenge to develop a science of voluntary association by which we may understand the significant role of social enterprises and institutions that are neither commercial nor governmental in nature;
- 2) explore, critique, and offer new alternatives to the predominant paradigms for understanding the political economy of the nonprofit sector (e.g., Salamon’s third-party government, Berger’s and Neuhaus’ mediating structures);
- 3) explore the logic of charitable action and investigate how government policy and direct expenditures influence philanthropic decisions, impact the management of charitable entities, and/or affect the processes of social learning in communities;
- 4) focus on how non-profits actually engage in rational activity without engaging in rational economic calculation, including case studies that examine social learning in non-profits or the use of social networks/social media to foster a more robust civil society; and/or
- 5) shed light on contemporary issues in public policy such as the rationale for tax-exemption and the charitable deduction or the recent claims that government support for charitable activity makes for good economic policy.

Deadline for Submission: June 1, 2014

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Conference Committee

Scott Beaulier, *Troy University*
Peter Boettke, *George Mason University*
Christopher Coyne, *George Mason University*
Lenore T. Ealy, *The Philanthropic Enterprise*
Robert Garnett, *Texas Christian University*

Steven Grosby, *Clemson University*
Heather Wood Ion, *The Epidemic of Health*
David Prychitko, *Northern Michigan University*
Virgil Storr, *George Mason University*
Daniel Sutter, *Troy University*

Submission Instructions

Please submit abstracts or papers to the conference committee at conference@tpeinc.org. To be considered for inclusion in the conference program, all proposals must be submitted by June 1, 2014. Acceptance decisions will be made by July 1, 2014.

Conference Program

Participants are encouraged to attend the entire program, which will open with a keynote address and reception on Thursday night, November 6, 2014 and continue through lunch on Saturday, November 8, 2014.

Further details regarding travel stipends for presenters, lodging, and other logistics will soon be available on the [conference web site](#).

Non-presenters interested in attending should contact Lenore Ealy (Lenore@tpeinc.org) or 888-894-8400.

The Manuel H. Johnson Center for Political Economy at Troy University provides a dynamic and rigorous education program focused on the moral imperatives of free markets and individual liberty, as well as relevant policy research on current and local issues. The Center was founded in 2010—with gifts totaling \$3.6 million from Manuel H. Johnson, the BB&T Charitable Foundation, and the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation—to support the exploration of economic freedom and its role in promoting the economic well-being of people. The center is built on the assumption that liberty is valuable in its own right and plays a crucial role in economic development.

The Philanthropic Enterprise is an independent research institute that works to identify, educate, and support a new generation of scholars and philanthropic leaders striving to understand and explain to others the vital importance of an independent philanthropy and civil society and its proper relationship to commerce and government. We seek to advance what Tocqueville called the “science of association,” which must be the “mother science” in democratic countries.

<http://www.thephilanthropicenterprise.org/2014-troy-conference/>