

Call for Papers
JSPE 54th Annual Conference, 2006,
On
Transfigurations and Pathology of Contemporary Corporate Capital
To be held on October 21-22, 2006, at Aichi University (Kurumamichi Campus, Nagoya)

The 54th annual conference of the JAPAN SOCIETY OF POLITICAL ECONOMY (JSPE) will be held on October 21 (Saturday) and 22 (Sunday), 2006, at the Kurumamichi Campus of Aichi University, Nagoya. As stated above, the theme of the plenary session in this conference will be: *Transfigurations and Pathology of Contemporary Corporate Capital*. Under this theme, we intend to seek analyses of the new pathological trends stemming from financial strategies that contemporary corporations and investors increasingly tend to adopt.

Indeed, the financial sector has grown hugely in recent years relative to the real economy, exerting on it influences that have not been sufficiently accounted for in theoretical terms. We are made to observe, among other things, uncontrolled speculations leading to bubbles and busts in securitized financial markets in the progressing information age. Elevated share prices are sought as supreme virtues. Financial management of firms are undergoing radical changes, especially in view of the rapidly growing combinations of internet-related firms via mergers and acquisitions, and of the institutional and private investors, investment funds, etc., which, as owners, now increasingly interfere with firms' management decisions, including their labor relations. Such trends affect organizational mechanisms that may lend themselves to distortions and decay in sound economic activities.

What is the nature of these changes? Are the classical concepts of finance and monopoly capital in Marxian economics adequate to grasp these novel phenomena? Or must we develop new approaches to satisfactorily elucidate them? We surely need to thrash out all our theoretical potentialities so as to come to grips with the state of affairs that now stands against us and challenges us. We are also concerned with the impact of new corporate and financial capitalist behaviors on the ethical aspects of our social lives. Corporate and financial capitalist strategies abet speculation, parasitism, dysfunctions and ruin in business. The gap between the winners and the losers is increasingly widening. Under such pressures, people are led to engage in complicities, so that deceptions and disloyalties replace solidarity with mutual suspicion in society. Thus what happens in financial markets cannot stay aloof from ethical life in society; it has pernicious and even pathological effects on human beings.

We call for papers from JSPE members and from others interested in taking part in this conference, which is based on the aforementioned theme. We are interested in participants with a wide range of interests and methodological approaches. While the main conference language is Japanese, we will organize English-language sessions on December 21, especially aimed at those from overseas who are willing to participate in the following two categories:

English Sessions 1: Topics relating to the general theme of the conference.

This sessions are designated to the topics relating to the conference general theme: *Transfigurations and Pathology of Contemporary Corporate Capital*.

English Sessions 2: Other specific topics

These sessions will be organized focusing on such other specific topics as environment, gender, the critique of new liberalism, and regional economies (including China and others), while remaining completely open to suggestions and proposals.

Submission Procedures and the Deadline

All those wanting to present a paper at the conference, please send by no later than May 31, 2006 in a abstract of their paper [in 200 words] with (1)your name, (2)address (E-mail and mailing address), (3)affiliation and other relevant data to:

Dr. Shinjiro HAGIWARA or Dr. Tomohiko SEKINE

E-mail: Jspeice@mml.gssm.musashi.ac.jp

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*Notification of acceptance will be sent by June. 21. Attendants will pay their conference fee (5000 yen including the conference buffet), as well as their own transportation, accommodation and other personal expenses.

Dr. Tetsuji Kawamura, Hosei University

Chairman of the JSPE Committee for International Communication and Exchange

JSPE URL: <http://wwwsoc.nii.ac.jp/jspe/en/index.html>