

Prospectus

In a world where the activities of both individuals and organizations transcend national boundaries, the political-economic system of any single country must necessarily be an open one that takes into account those who live in other parts of the globe. This project explores the potential for constructing such open political-economic systems by focusing on the relationship between systems and value rationality.

A system is both the product of human behavior and a set of rules that serve to determine that behavior. Consequently, such aspects of value rationality as fairness, trust, and sympathy have a profound effect on the construction of various systems and the choices people make from among them. Since these aspects vary from region to region, it is first of all necessary to identify the concrete form they take by adopting experimental methods and conducting public surveys. The next step is to use social selection theory and public philosophy to reach a deeper understanding of the universal principles—such as equity and justice—that underlie the observable manifestations of value rationality. We believe that only a system based on such universal principles deserves to be considered a truly "open" political-economic system.

An important part of this project is the sponsorship of conferences and workshops to which leading experts from Japan and around the world are invited and at which the results of research can be presented and opinions exchanged. We are confident that these opportunities will prove a source of stimulation for the intellectual community at Waseda University, both fostering additional research and enhancing the quality of our graduate-school programs.

monday

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| 10:30-12:00 | John E. Roemer, Lecture 1
Impartiality and Priority: Part 1,
The Veil of Ignorance |
| 13:30-15:00 | John E. Roemer, Lecture 2
Impartiality and Priority: Part 2,
A Characterization Theorem, with Solidarity |
| 15:30-17:00 | Geir Asheim, Lecture 1
Intergenerational Ethics under Resource
Constraints |

How Much Redistribution Should and Can We Have?

wednesday

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| 9:30-11:00 | Geir Asheim, Lecture 3
Equitable and Continuous
Intergenerational Preferences |
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MARCH 7,8,9 2005

WASEDA UNIVERSITY
NISHIWASEDA CAMPUS
BUILDING 1, ROOM 401

tuesday

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| 10:30-12:00 | Geir Asheim, Lecture 2
Equitable and Paretian Intergenerational
Preferences |
| 13:30-17:00 | Symposium |

Lecture Series by Geir Asheim

Intergenerational Distribution:
Social Choice and Welfare Economics