
BOOK NOTES

Lindy Edwards

The Passion of Politics:

The Role of Ideology and Political Theory in Australia

Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2013, pp.244, \$35

Lindy Edwards has written an accessible introduction to political ideologies and Australian political history. As John Dryzek says on its cover, ‘This book gives us a new and compelling way to think about the past, present and future of Australian politics’. It is about the dynamics of ideas in action, examining the ways in which ideologies shape and are shaped by political experiences. To put the word ‘passion’ in the title might be considered courageous, since ideology is concerned with theories of social progress and ‘objective’ academic analyses in political science are supposed to be dispassionate (which they seldom are). What it does very nicely signal, however, is that this is a subject area in which ideals and visions clash, generating ongoing enthusiasms and frustrations, and leading to substantial political, economic and social changes.

The opening chapter identifies a familiar political trilogy – conservatism, liberalism (with its classical and modern variants) and socialism. The roots and character of these ideologies are briefly discussed before subsequent chapters explore how they have been reflected in Australian politics. Part 2 of the book, entitled ‘forgoing the Australian tradition’, traces important developments from Federation to the 1970’s, including the White Australia policy, the foundations of Australian egalitarianism, the development of the two-party system and intra-party splits. Then, in the context of the 1970’s, part 3 of the book introduces the principal ideas of constructivism and the politics of social movements, focusing on feminism, gay rights, Indigenous rights and multiculturalism. Part 4 then introduces neo-liberalism as the dominant political ideology – albeit a continually contested political practice – of the 1980’s to the present. Finally, Part 5 raises questions about ‘our future choices’, ending with a look as ‘environmentalism as a window into future debates’.

This approach to understanding the interaction of ideas and diverse political practices is much more engaging than is usual in standard textbooks for university political science courses. Beyond the groves of academe, however, this book also deserves a broader readership. It should appeal strongly to all potential readers seeking to find some thematic order in an otherwise baffling array of political controversies.

Humphrey McQueen

We Built this Country:

Builders' Labourers and their Unions 1787 to the Future

Ginninderra Press, Adelaide, 2011, pp.362, \$30.

During the last half century, Humphrey McQueen has turned his perceptive eye and distinctive analysis onto a wide range of topics in Australian history and politics. Here he focuses on the history of builders labourers and their unions since the convict era. The book is a sequel to his earlier *Frameworks of Flesh: Builders' Labourers Battle for Health and Safety*. In important respects this is a bigger picture, looking at the building workers' experiences and ambitions and how they relate to their evolving union organisations. The title of the book immediately signals a simple but significant point – that it is workers in general, and building workers in particular, who actually create the physical forms of economic development. How this process has occurred has been shaped by the evolving forms of technology – particularly important in the building and construction sector – and by class struggles, both evolving and adapting over time and shaped by the workers' own organisations.

The book takes a chronological approach, looking at the significant developments during three main periods – 1787-1900, 1901-1960 and 1961 to the end of the 20th century – and a total of 13 sub-periods therein. Material from union records is interlaced with anecdotal material and analysis of broader political economic context. Issues related to wages, working time and conditions of work are central, but with substantial attention also paid the union movement's internal tensions and to the broader conflicts in the industry between labour, capital and the state.

Readership of the book is likely to be mainly among labour historians and building workers keen to understand the historical aspects of their

ongoing struggles, but there are also matters of interest to political economists seeking to analyse the evolving character of social struggles. It is interesting, for example, to look at the treatment of the BLF-backed 'Green Bans' in the 1970s, which is perhaps the most widely cited episode of union action in support of community and environmental goals. The book puts more emphasis on the role of National Secretary Norm Gallagher, later jailed for corruption, than on the role played by Jack Munday and the NSW branch of the BLF which is of more enduring inspiration for 'red-green' activists.

McQueen is concerned to emphasise that 'nothing comes out of nothing', i.e. that struggles like the green bans reflect longer traditions of workers struggles and aspirations. To signal this emphasis he prefaces the book with a fine quotation from the Victorian Secretary of the BLF in 1915 which begins with the statement 'The union movement is idealistic in its essential arts by widening the scope of benefits derived from its ever-expanding usefulness' and ends by saying that: 'Every new demand for better physical protection of the workers ensures a great ideal development for a future generation'. As the book implies, this is an enduring mission, even in an era when unions are generally on the defensive.

Frederic Lee and Wolfram Elsner (eds)

Evaluating Economic Research in a Contested Discipline

Wiley-Blackwell, Chichester, 2010, pp.314, \$37.

That university economics departments are biased towards a very limited range of theoretical perspectives will come as no surprise to readers of this journal. Modern political economy exists substantially as a response to this abysmal situation, seeking to develop heterodox alternatives to mainstream economics. This book edited by Lee and Elsner shows how the long-standing mainstream dominance is now being reinforced and compounded by the processes of 'academic auditing' by which economics publications and departments are assessed. Official rankings reinforce the exclusionary bias. So criticism of these assessment processes has to be an ongoing task for political economists and proponents of pluralism in economics education.

Eleven chapters in the volume, written by various authors from the USA, UK, Italy, Poland and Australia, carefully explore the nature of the problem and what is to be done. Some chapters, like those by Alan Freeman and Novarese & Pozzali, emphasise the reasons for favouring pluralism, as an antidote to the problems of an otherwise introverted discipline and as the basis for a more genuinely scientific approach. Others explore the obstacles to achieving this goal, with particular reference to how the official research assessment exercises operate to reinforce orthodoxy and marginalise heterodoxy. These exercises have been introduced in many countries during the last couple of decades and have made a troubled start in Australia. They rank publication outlets (particularly academic journals) according to their 'quality' and then – making the heroic assumption that an article's quality is indicated by the journal in which it is published – evaluate the quality of the work of individual academics, academic departments or research clusters during a specified period of time on a numerical scale. League tables constructed on this basis then determine government funding and, increasingly commonly, the extent to which university administrators will favour or dis-favour particular departments or faculties. Elements of arbitrariness pervade these processes. 'Gaming' the system becomes commonplace. Worse, an inbuilt bias towards the *status quo* is reinforced. The elite universities (e.g. the 'top eight' in Australia) inevitably fare better than the rest. Departments favouring orthodoxy fare better than those with more liberal, pluralist and heterodox approaches.

This volume provides a valuable compendium of articles on how these processes work. Harry Bloch's chapter capably details the Australian case. Another interesting chapter by Corsi, D'Ippoliti and Lucidi explains why Italy, a country where heterodox economics has quite strong traditions, is also being squeezed into the same homogeneous mould. Fred Lee (with other co-authors) has also published a more recent article in the *Cambridge Journal of Economics* (June 2013), showing how the research assessment exercises in the UK have had particularly damaging consequences for heterodoxy.

It is, of course, doubly ironic that orthodox economics should be tightening its institutional grip at the very time that it is widely held to have been a contributory factor to the GFC and ongoing economic difficulties in many countries. Evidently it is time for a fightback, although that raises the enormously difficult strategic question of how to play in a card game where the deck is stacked.

Anthony van Fossen

Tax Havens and Sovereignty in the Pacific Islands

University of Queensland Press, Brisbane, 2012, pp.411, \$21.

Contrary to popular perceptions, the small island states of the Pacific are not just 'local' economies with international tourist add-ons. As this book explains, they are integrated into global capitalism through their distinctive role as tax havens. Not all are 'offshore financial centres'(OFCs) – to use the more sanitised label – but a surprising number are.

Vanuatu has the most offshore insurers, banks, casinos and tax-free estate businesses. Samoa allows assets held by international companies registered there to be sold without taxes being incurred on profits, dividends, rents or interest. The Cook Island facilitates the formation of trusts that protect assets from seizure by courts or creditors. Other states such as Nauru, Niue, Tonga, the Northern Marianas, Guam, Pulau, Tuvalu and Kiribati also provide tax-advantaged services that facilitate global wealth accumulation. The Marshall Islands is now the third largest nation in the world for shipping registrations, providing a 'flag of convenience' for ship-owners, big and small.

Anthony van Fossen's book begins by describing these arrangements and goes on to look in detail at how they have been developed and operate. The principal beneficiaries are the companies and the wealthy people who take advantage of the arrangements, but evidently the small island states also see themselves benefiting through government fees, employment, investment, improved telecommunications and high-end tourism. How widely these hoped-for benefits are shared within local populations is a moot point. As van Fossen recounts, there have been some bizarre episodes, such as where successionist tax haven movements have occurred on islands away from the capital towns where the tax haven operations are normally centred.

The book is not quite a 'ripping yarn' but its research base and attention to detail is admirable. It handsomely shows how OFCs in the Pacific have become 'a prime arena for conflict over inequalities of wealth, income and resources in the modern world' (p333).

J.K. Gibson-Graham, J. Cameron and S. Healy

**Take Back the Economy:
An Ethical Guide for Transforming our Communities**

University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 2013, pp.222, \$25

Previous publications by J.K.Gibson-Graham have challenged the principal currents of political economy that treat capitalism as an all-encompassing system. Indeed, that sort of analysis can be disempowering. Not surprisingly, people may feel overwhelmed when told that a root-and-branch transformation of an entire economic system is a prerequisite for human progress, although a minority is reliably excited by the magnitude of the challenge. For many people radicalism is more likely to grow out of their lived experience in their own communities. Simultaneously though, there is a recurrent need for need for broader understandings that provide guidance and linkages for people engaged in locally-based activities.

In this book Kathy Gibson links up with two other geographers to point some ways forward in dealing with these possibilities for developing progressive and activist politics. The book echoes the familiar theme of 'think global, act local', especially in the opening chapter where the authors posit the need for 'thinking big', 'thinking ethically' and 'thinking small'. This introduction is followed by a chapter in which the authors seek to explain the nature of economic activities, challenging the common perception of the economy as a machine and positing an alternative view of it as an iceberg, with wage-labour under capitalism as a small tip on a much bigger set of other useful and productive activities 'below the waterline'.

Subsequent chapters explore this range of activities, seeing them as different focal points at which progressive actions may be addressed. A chapter on work has 'surviving well' as its central theme, linking up with contemporary concerns about tackling excessive working time and achieving better work-life balance. A chapter on business looks at how cooperatives and social enterprises can redistribute the surplus that would otherwise be appropriated as profit. A chapter on markets discusses the ethical basis for moving from 'free trade' to 'fair trade' - and, more generally, towards processes of exchange that involve 'encountering others' rather than relying only on impersonal market mechanisms. A chapter on property looks at the advantages of common property and

makes a case for ‘commoning’ rather than privatization. Turning then to financial arrangements, emphasis is put on ethical investment and on how productive and sustainable community activities can be funded.

Throughout the book there are many examples of where these more local and ethically-based alternatives have been effective in practice. There are also numerous graphics and illustrations designed to make it attractive to read and easy to digest. Trying to give the book’s content and appearance appeal to grass-roots activists is clearly integral to the authors’ ambitions and the publication process.

Richard Tomlinson (ed)

Australia’s Unintended Cities: the Impact of Housing on Urban Development

CSIRO publishing, Melbourne, 2012, pp.194, \$89.95.

David Harvey

Rebel Cities: from the Right to the City to the Urban Revolution

Verso, London, 2012, pp.187, \$22.95.

Looking at political economic issues through a spatial lens necessarily directs attention to distributional inequalities. It also directs our attention to the physical form of the built environment, including housing, transportation systems and other physical infrastructure. The management of cities and regions – whether ‘top-down’ neoliberalism or ‘bottom-up’ participatory social democracy – comes into view, as do the challenges thrown up by urban social movements. These two recent books interpret and develop spatial analysis in quite different ways, both of interest to political economists seeking a better understanding of the tensions generated by contemporary capitalism.

The book edited by Richard Tomlinson covers an array of topics that are relevant to the quality of life of people living in Australian cities. It puts particular focus on the problem of unaffordable housing, with chapters provided by leading contributors to the field of housing studies such as Terry Burke, Judith Yates, Vivienne Milligan and Tony Gilmour. Chapters written by other urban researchers look at how the physical

form of the cities compounds housing difficulties, particularly in suburbia, and the problems arising from inadequacies of metropolitan planning and urban governance. Two concluding chapters look at the need to reduce energy and carbon footprints and at the effects of urban form on human capital and productivity (albeit with, in the latter case, a somewhat uncritical acceptance of the conventional notion of 'labour productivity'). There is a wealth of empirical data in each chapter. The editor seeks overall coherence through the 'unintended cities' theme that is signaled by the title of the book, stating right at the outset that 'federal and state governments would be more likely to achieve their policy goals if they remedied the unintended structure of incentives and disincentives that emerges from existing policies, governance practices and programs' (p9).

Readers of this journal will not be surprised that David Harvey's book takes a more radical tack, emphasising problematic tendencies deeply embedded in capital accumulation processes and class relations rather than the 'unintended' consequences of government policies. Harvey's contributions to modern Marxian political economy over nearly half a century have recurrently emphasised urban conflicts and their manifestation, potential or actual, in an anti-capitalist politics of resistance and transformation. This was illustrated in the latter parts of the interview that David Primrose conducted with Harvey, appearing as the leading article in the last issue of this journal (*JAPE* 71). Here Harvey offers a comprehensive analysis of how the quest for capital accumulation shapes urban form and of how struggles over access to urban resources arise as part of a dialectical process. He begins with a delightfully engaging preface that reconsiders Henri Lefebvre's vision of a 'right to the city'. The book then goes on to look at some urban history and the urban roots of capitalist crises, with reference to the proliferation of shaky 'sub-prime' mortgages and the associated financial legerdemain that led to the GFC. Next comes analysis of the 'urban commons' (presenting a very different view to Hardin's 'tragedy of the commons' thesis that has become a central pillar of neoliberal ideology), the analysis of struggles over monopoly rent and urban culture, and discussion of movements 'reclaiming the city for anti-capitalist struggle'. Vignettes on riots in London in 2011 and on the challenge to Wall Street posed by the Occupy Movement complete the volume. Harvey writes engagingly, as ever, resulting in a book that can read for pleasure as well as insight and inspiration.

These two books show that there are useful alternatives to ‘the new urbanology’ that Davidson and Gleeson criticise so comprehensively in their article earlier in this issue of *JAPE*. They are very different, one empirical in content and reformist in tenor, the other with a broader historical and geographical sweep leading to more revolutionary conclusions. ‘The right to housing’ and ‘the right to the city’ are recurrent themes. Whereas the former is asserted as an all-too-elusive goal in Tomlinson’s volume, however, the latter is treated in Harvey’s volume as ‘a way station’ on the road to challenging structures of exploitative class and state power.

Caner Bakir

Bank Behaviour and Resilience: the Effect of Structures, Institutions and Agents

Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke, 2013, pp.214, \$109.

Lina Rethel & Timothy J. Sinclair

The Problem with Banks

Zed Books, London, 2012, pp.147, \$21.80.

There is a widespread view, in the wake of the global financial crisis, that the banking system needs to come under critical scrutiny, if not comprehensive regulation. These two books are among the contributions from political economists, seeking to analyse what banks do and under what conditions and regulatory arrangements they are most likely to operate without creating major social damage. In both cases, the primary focus is on systemic stability at a macroeconomic scale, rather than on more ‘micro’ level concerns about individual banks’ lending practices that periodically generate charges of ‘unconscionable behaviour’.

The two books address similar themes but within different analytical frameworks and with different styles. Their shared concern is to cast light on the behaviour of the banking sector and how it fits into the broader functioning of the economy – for better or worse.

Caner Bakir’s book pays particular attention to Australia, based on the research he did for his PhD at Monash University. This adds to its local

interest, but his analysis of the Australian situation also should be of international interest because the financial turmoil here was so much less than in most other capitalist nations. Can Australia be regarded as a role model for monetary stability? Was it's relatively sound banking system or it's more effective structure of banking regulation partly responsible for avoiding the worst excesses of the GFC, as conservative financial analysts and journalists have tended to assume?

Bakir holds the Australian banking system to be the leading example of 'what went right?' during the GFC. Indeed, the sector was more resilient than virtually any other OECD nation and was spared the bank collapses that were so devastating in other nations (Lehman Brothers, Bear Sterns and Merrill Lynch in the US and HBOS, Northern Rock and Bradford & Bingley in the UK, for example). Bakir asks 'why did the Australian banks, like Canadian and Japanese banks, not take on the increased risk that led to the downfall of so many well-known institutions in the US, UK and Germany?' (p4). He argues that this is not explicable in terms of a 'varieties of capitalism' (VOC) analysis that seeks to differentiate between liberal market economies that have capital market-based financial systems ('impatient capital') and coordinated market economies that have bank-based financial systems ('patient capital'). His preferred conceptual framework emphasises 'how interdependent and dynamic processes among structures, institutions and agents affect the nature of bank behaviour, financial system resilience and institutional outcomes' (p6). He concludes that 'the key variable affecting institutional outcomes such as prudential regulation and competition regulation is domestic political economy which still continues to shape the impact and trajectory of financial globalisation. In other words, individual state regulation still matters today' (p169).

The book by Lena Rethel and Timothy Sinclair is less concerned with discussion of the diversity of banking experience in different national contexts. It has a simpler, more direct, aim of explaining banks and banking in general. It posits that 'banks of all sorts are troubled institutions' and seeks to explain why they are in crisis 'time and time again' (p6). Its basic argument – and principal element of jargon in an otherwise very easy to read text – is that a fundamental tension arises because the interests of bank depositors are *synchronic* (concerned with short-term returns) while the relationship of banks to their borrowers are *diachronic* (concerned with long-term commitments, often involving investment in expansion of real productive capacity). Accordingly, banks

can lend many times the value of their deposits and, as is well known, this makes them vulnerable to 'runs' by depositors if faith in the 'confidence game' is shaken for whatever reason.

What Rethel and Sinclair emphasise is the far greater tendency to instability that now exists because of how banks have responded during the last half century to the growth and complexity of capital markets and shadow banking institutions. The banks have ditched their conservative prudential practices in favour of 'pursuing the yield curve' through extreme forms of financial innovation and disintermediation (meaning 'eliminating the middleman'). In the USA the amount of money held in mutual funds 'which sweep depositors' money directly into securities and money markets' (p58) is now bigger than the amount held in conventional bank deposits. Risk and systemic instability increases under these conditions because of the lack of institutional checks and balances.

By the same token, self-regulation is inadequate. The whole system is a creation of policies enacted by the state – such as the decision in the US during President Clinton's Administration in the 1990s to repeal the Glass-Steagall Act which formerly enforced separation between investment banking and retail banking and thereby provided a partial buffer against systemic instability. As the authors' conclude, 'states help make banks, and do not just regulate them', so the key question is what is 'the collective responsibility we all share to make a useful and viable industry out of banking that serves our purposes' (p131).

Together, these two books help to make some sense of the global financial turmoil that has been evident in recent years but which few people understand. It is useful to read them in conjunction with other works that develop reasons to be skeptical about the capacity of states for effective regulation, e.g. *The Development of American Finance* and *The Great Credit Crash* (ed.) by Martijn Konings. We can thereby get a better understanding of the conditions conducive to relative financial instability and the inadequacies of the regulatory arrangements that gave us the last GFC - and could well give us another.

Meanwhile, at least in the Australian context, the profits of the banks and the remuneration of their CEOs continue to soar ...

Costas Panayotakis

Remaking Scarcity: From Capitalist Economic Inefficiency to Economic Democracy

Pluto Press, London, 2011, pp. 209, \$44

This book deserves to be better known. It challenges capitalism on the grounds of its proponents – the claim to superior efficiency than any other imaginable economic system. Panayotakis notes the significance of Lionel Robbins' widely influential definition of 'economics' as being concerned with inherent scarcity, the necessity of choice and the quest for allocative efficiency. Neoclassical economic theory purports to show that the market economy is best suited for meeting these challenges. Economic resources are said to be used efficiently in dealing with the inherent problem of scarcity because market prices act as signals and incentives for resources to flow to where they are most needed and best suited. Thus, neoclassical economic theory, as the dominant ideology of the competitive market economy, depicts the system as a want-satisfying machine, supplying consumers with what they want and at the lowest attainable price (subject to some minor caveats that usually appear in the penultimate or final chapter of microeconomics textbooks).

But what if the economic system itself creates scarcity? What if, for example, relentless commercial advertising causes perceived needs and desires to recurrently outstrip the actual growth of production and consumption? Or what if the cyclical character of the economy periodically causes financial crises and economic recessions that leave resources idle and needs unsatisfied? Or what if the extreme inequality in the distribution of income consigns many people to live in perpetual poverty while others have almost unimaginable wealth? Or what if the quest for capital accumulation butts up against ecological constraints, creating resource scarcity and perhaps even destroying the environmental necessities for a healthy life? Panayotakis explores each of these four concerns and more, arguing that it is in the nature of an economic system based on 'the search for profit and capital expansion' (p.57) to relentlessly remake scarcity. The claims of modern capitalism's apologists, such as neoclassical economists, are left in tatters. The system does not overcome scarcity through economic efficiency and growth; rather, it creates and reproduces scarcity because that is both a condition

for growth and an inherent feature of a system based on class inequalities of wealth and power.

Panayotakis seeks to take yet one further step – to sketch-out the principles for an alternative form of economic organisation in which these problems would not bedevil human development and social progress. His final two chapters argue that this preferable alternative must come from some form of socialism in which economic democracy prevails. His approach is not dogmatic, being quite open-minded in considering alternative views of democratic planning, market socialism and the anarchist and autonomist strands of the anti-capitalist movement. The tone of the book is exploratory but positive, concluding that it is by synthesizing insights from currently fragmented progressive ideals and experiences that the movement for economic democracy can become central to proving that ‘another, non-capitalist, world is indeed possible’ (p.148). There is no scarcity of appetising food-for-thought here.

Eckhard Hein

The Macroeconomics of Finance-Dominated Capitalism – and its Crisis

Edward Elgar, Cheltenham, 2012, pp.232, \$33.60.

Eckhard Hein is a Professor of Economics at the Berlin School of Economics and Law and a Research Associate of the Levy Economics Institute of Bard College. Rather than a narrative or a unified theory of financialisation, this book is made up of a number of separate but related studies. Many draw from previously published work, but it is not a collection of reprints. It is a survey of themes ranging from distribution, accumulation and productivity growth to instability and macroeconomic policy, linked together by the financial perspective. The author deploys a wide range of basic models from the post-Keynesian toolkit, and his reviews of the literature show the continued vibrancy of that tradition.

Hein adopts Epstein’s definition of financialisation as “the increasing role of financial motives, financial markets, financial actors and financial institutions”. ‘Finance-dominated capitalism’ is, then, the outcome of this process, which Hein dates from the early 1980s, and sees as overlapping

with, but distinct from, the rise of the neoliberal policy program. The definition being somewhat vague, the book fleshes it out by relating it to three more specific trends: rising inequality, increasing shareholder power, and wealth based and debt financed consumption.

The core of each chapter is a basic model adapted from the post-Keynesian literature. The point is not to estimate the parameters econometrically, but to use the models as frameworks for understanding the relationships and reviewing the theoretical and empirical literature. For example, in the chapter on distribution, Hein uses a Kaleckian framework to decompose shifts in the functional (*i.e.* wage-profit) share into three components: changes in firms' average mark-up of prices over unit costs, in the relationship of material to labour costs, and in the sectoral composition of the economy. With the aid of this basic framework, Hein moves to a theoretical discussion of the determinants of each component, and finally reviews empirical studies of their trends. From this he concludes that financialisation has exacerbated inequality in three main ways: (1) a sectoral shift from the public and non-financial business sector to the financial sector, with a lower labour share; (2) an increase in overhead costs driven by management pay and the profit claims of rentiers; and (3) a weakening of worker bargaining power due to shareholder value imperatives, sectoral shifts away from areas of union strength, and labour market deregulation.

Other chapters follow a similar format, using models as a springboard for discussion and description. One expands on the idea of shareholder power, relating pressures for a higher rate of return on bonds and equity to a decline in management 'animal spirits' for real investment – but goes beyond this familiar idea to set it in the context of a Kaleckian stock-flow consistent model, discovering the different conditions under which 'finance-led growth', 'profits without investment' or 'contractive' accumulation regimes will develop. Another chapter uses Godley-Lavoie- style balance sheet and transaction flow matrices to explore the macroeconomic effects of credit relationships between rentier and worker households.

In later chapters, Hein moves from diagnosis to prescription, calling for a 'Global Keynesian New Deal', *i.e.* a strategy for macroeconomic recovery based on downward redistribution to wages, rather than a return to debt-led consumption or an austerity-driven export-led strategy. This requires a reversal of the trends identified in the chapter on rising

inequality, alongside re-regulation of finance and a return to international policy co-ordination.

Book notes contributed by Frank Stilwell and Mike Beggs

New JAPE Blogspot

The JAPE website has been updated to include a new blogspot. This feature will be regularly updated with posts by prominent Australian political economists reflecting



in real-time on key contemporary issues. In addition, space has been provided for readers to contribute their own thoughts on each post.

Recent posts include:

The 2013 Federal Election

The State of Australian Housing Policy

The Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement

Contributions are now being sought for the blogspot. If you would like to propose a topic, please email frank.stilwell@sydney.edu.au or david.primrose@sydney.edu.au

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