

# Money Talks: Futures for the Economic Humanities

University of Edinburgh

28–29 May 2025

Generously supported by the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences “Work and Economy” and “Data and Digital” Research Themes and the Royal Society of Edinburgh-funded “Thinking the Future of Money in the Humanities” project.

Unless otherwise noted, all venues are located in the University of Edinburgh Business School (29 Buccleuch Place). Delegates are advised to enter the building via the George Square entrance for access to the Concourse, the location for registration and coffee.

## Wednesday 28 May

9.00–9.30 Registration

### 9.30–10.30 Plenary session 1 (Auditorium)

Welcome and introductions

Keynote: Rachel O’Dwyer (National College of Art and Design, Dublin): *Asking my Boyfriend for Money (To See How He Reacts)*

10.30–11.00 Coffee

### 11.00–12.30 Panel session 1

#### **The Meaning of Monetary Innovation** (Lecture Theatre 1A)

- *Collective Meaning-Making and Alternative Currencies*  
Michelle Chihara (Whittier College)
- *Money as an Interface - A Tale of Everyday Financial Hacking*  
Belén Barros Pena (City St. George’s, University of London)
- *Future Money: Cryptonomicon, Cryptocurrency, and the Writing of Value*  
Paul Crosthwaite (University of Edinburgh)

#### **The Politics of the Digital Economy** (Auditorium)

- *The General Opinion: Finance, Value, and the Political Aesthetics of Online Reputation*  
Emily Rosamond (Goldsmiths, University of London)
- *On the Poetics of Refusal: Can Language Resist Digital Capitalism?*  
Pip Thornton (University of Edinburgh)
- *Money that Makes a Difference: Social Infrastructure and the Production of Meaning in the Crowdfunding Platform Economy*  
Rebecca Bramall (University of the Arts London)

### **Screening Money and Finance** (Lecture Theatre 2)

- *Money on Screen: Money Culture and Social Change in Contemporary China*  
Yuda Feng (King's College London)
- *Carnival of Financial Souls: Yella (Christian Petzold, 2007), Speculation, and Spectrality*  
Alasdair King (Queen Mary University of London)
- *"Time is Money": Temporal Currency, Class Mobility, and the Politics of Resistance in In Time (2011)*  
Yidan Hu (University of Edinburgh)

### **Personal Finance and Everyday Economies** (Lecture Theatre 1B)

- *FIRE (Financial Independence, Retire Early) and the History of Financial Self-Help: Cultures of Capitalism c. 1875–2025*  
Charlotte Nilsson (Lund University and Copenhagen Business School)
- *The Aesthetics of Feminised Finance: Examining Women's Financial Self-help in Australia*  
Marnie Cruickshank and Barbara Pini (both Griffith University)
- *Silicon Suburbia: Growth and Maintaining the American Dream*  
Michelle Venetucci (Yale University)

12.30–1.30 Lunch

### **1.30–3.00 Panel Session 2**

#### **Theorising Money** (Lecture Theatre 1A)

- *On Money's Nature, Economic Value, and Measurement Instruments: Between Tony Lawson and Geoffrey Ingham*  
Felipe Rodrigues Sousa (University of Coimbra)
- *Money as Symbol and Allegory via Poe and Benjamin*  
Ben Moore (University of Amsterdam)

#### **Monetary Histories and Metaphors** (Lecture Theatre 2)

- *Thinking with the Ruble: Economic Humanities at the United Nations*  
Elizabeth Banks (University of Edinburgh)
- *Decolonising Economic Metaphors: Ethnographic Vernacular Reimagination of Economic Concepts*  
Tanushree Kaushal (Geneva Graduate Institute)

#### **Economic Fictions, Nineteenth-Century and Now** (Lecture Theatre 1B)

- *Late Nineteenth-Century Recession and British Literary Naturalism: Economic Narratives in Gissing's The Whirlpool*  
Asher Gibbens (University of Edinburgh)
- *Economic Criticism from a Gender Perspective: Imagining Female Economic Agency in Hester (1883) and Equity (2016)*  
Barbara Straumann (University of Zurich)
- *Home Economics: Intimate Aspirations in Wendy Erskine and Maggie Armstrong*  
Orlaith Darling (University College Dublin)

3.00–3.30 Coffee

### 3.30–5.00 Panel Session 3

#### **Legal and Social Dimensions of Money and Finance** (Lecture Theatre 2)

- *Money Law: Time Has Come for Talking About a Distinct Area of Legal Research, Education, and Policymaking*  
Valentino Cattelan (Birmingham City University) and Gabriella Gimigliano (University of Siena)
- *The Margins of Change: Financialization, Money, and Voluntary Disengagement from the Conventional Economy*  
Inês Faria and Eduardo Ferraciolli (both University of Lisbon)
- *Investing in Pollution: Valuations of Harm with the Third-Party Litigation Funding Industry*  
Hannah Tubman (University of Edinburgh)

#### **Economic Agnosticism: Doubting Economic Knowledge in 19th-Century Literature and Sociology** (Lecture Theatre 1A)

- *What Can We Learn About Money from the Ways it is Doubted?*  
Andreas Langenohl (Justus Liebig University Giessen)
- *Money, Doubt, and the Stories They Tell: The Case of Flaubert, Gyp, and Edith Wharton*  
Kirsten von Hagen (Justus Liebig University Giessen)
- *“Le salut social est à ce prix”: Daniel-Lesueur’s Female-Coded Doubt in Economic Knowledge at the 1900 Paris Universal Exposition*  
Marie-Theres Stickel (Justus Liebig University Giessen)

#### **Data, Design, and Infrastructure in the Economy** (Lecture Theatre 1B)

- *The Value and Role of Design Research for the Economic Humanities*  
Chris Elsdon (University of Edinburgh)
- *Is (Digital) Money Still the Purest Tool? Simmel, Agency, and Resistance in the Emergence of Neobanks*  
Yuening Li (National University of Ireland, Maynooth), Aphra Kerr (University College Dublin), and Linzi Ryan (National University of Ireland, Maynooth)
- *What Makes Money “Real” for Children in a Data-Driven Digital Economy?*  
Valentina Andries, Harvey Everson, Caroline McKinley, Cara Wilson, and Chris Elsdon (all University of Edinburgh)

## Thursday 29 May

9.15–9.30 Registration

### 9.30–10.30 Plenary Session 2 (Auditorium)

Keynote: Devin Singh (Dartmouth College): *The Study of Money in the Study of Religion*

10.30–11.00 Coffee

### 11.00–12.30 Laboratory of Economic Concepts

Various rooms (Auditorium, Lecture Theatre 1A, Lecture Theatre 1B, Lecture Theatre 2, Boardroom, various rooms in 50 George Square)

12.30–1.30 Lunch

### 1.30–3.00 Panel Session 4

#### **Capitalism, Crisis, and Right-Wing Extremism** (Auditorium)

- *Cycles of Fascism?: Gramsci, Conjunctures, and the Situational Analysis*  
Stephen Shapiro (University of Warwick)
- *The Interwar Dystopias and Early Welfare Economics*  
Signe Leth Gammelgaard (Lund University)
- *Apocalyptic Futures of the Economy – Thinking After the “Red Pill”*  
Philip Roscoe (University of St Andrews)

#### **Institutions of Financialization** (Lecture Theatre 2)

- *The Darkening Moves of Institutional Investment: Suburban Malls, Town Centres, Internet Logistics, and Railway Arches*  
Liz McFall (University of Edinburgh)
- *The Rise of the Creditor State: Authoritative Financialisation in the UK’s Higher Education Sector*  
Tamar Nir (University of Warwick)
- *Pension Funds as Change Agents? Exploring the Limited Agency of Pension Funds in Driving Fossil Fuel Phaseout*  
Clara McDonnell (University of Amsterdam)

#### **Economies of Faith, Belief, and Enchantment** (Lecture Theatre 1A)

- *Disagreements about Enchantment: An Exploration of Diverging Historiographic Commitments*  
Samuel O'Connor Perks (University of Manchester)
- *Believing in Characters: Homo Economicus and the “Truth” Function of Character Licensing*  
Dario Lolli (Durham University)
- *Sacred Excess: Money Between Fraud and Forgiveness*  
Joshua Ramey (Haverford College)

### **Literature, Language, and Economics** (Lecture Theatre 1B)

- *Literary Economics, Economic Criticism, and the Economic Humanities: Branding Econo-Literary-Cultural Research in the 21st Century*  
Joanna Rostek (Justus Liebig University Giessen)
- *“Eating Money”: How Money Metaphors Can Convey Critiques of Consumption*  
Rachel E. Smith (University of Aberdeen)
- *“Splenic Indifference” Curves: The Literary Origins of Modern Microeconomics*  
Dominic Walker (University of Cambridge)

3.00–3.30 Coffee

### **3.30–5.00 Panel Session 5**

#### **Forecasting, Financialization, and Futurity** (Auditorium)

- *From Pluvius Policies to Wildfire Markets: A History of Weather Gambling and the Financialization of Catastrophe*  
Jamie Pietruska (Rutgers University-New Brunswick)
- *Modelling Sustainable Futures in Literary and Economic Narrative*  
Stefanie Mueller (Freie Universität Berlin)
- *Futures of Work: Storytelling and Scenario Thinking in the Workplace*  
James Dorson (Freie Universität Berlin)

#### **Theory, Philosophy, and Economy** (Lecture Theatre 1B)

- *Nihilism – Philosophical, Economic, Financial*  
Amin Samman (City St George's, University of London)
- *Feminism, Marxism, Commoning: An Argument against Confusion in Contemporary Art*  
Angela Dimitrakaki (University of Edinburgh)
- *Uprising Marks: Inflation and Bare Life*  
Kieran Brown (University of Oxford) and Wayne Stables (University of South Africa)

#### **The Political Economy of Gender, Sexuality, and the Family** (Lecture Theatre 1A)

- *The Sex of Economics: Beauty Contests, Masculine Oversight, and the Subject of Value*  
Laurine Lièvremon and Fabian Muniesa (Mines Paris – PSL)
- *Women, Economic Inequalities, and the Narratives that Shape their Understanding*  
Sophie Knowles (Middlesex University)
- *“The Future Lies in Children”: Commodifying Childbearing and the Discursive Construction of “Ideal Families” Through Family Policy in Hungary*  
Jorge Andres Quintero-Sanchez (University of Bristol) and Eirini Ktori (University of Edinburgh)

#### **Literature and Planetary Economic Visions** (Lecture Theatre 2)

- *At the Limits of Capital: Globalizing Libidinal Economies and the Deterritorialization of Desire in Hermann Broch and Leslie Marmon Silko*  
Alwin Franke (Stetson University)

- *World Literature, a planned economy of*  
Sándor Hites (HUN-REN Research Center for the Humanities, Budapest)
- *Apocalyptic Capitalism: The Capitalocene in Octavia Butler's Parable of the Sower*  
Elsa Bouet (Edinburgh Napier University)