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Call for Papers, Special Issue of the *Forum for Social Economics*, Issue 3-2014 (November)

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Deadline for Abstracts: November 15, 2013. Rather than submitting a short abstract, consider submitting a detailed abstract or a proposal that outlines how the article plans to address the topic/s below. You may email these directly to: [tnatarajan@smcvt.edu](mailto:tnatarajan@smcvt.edu)

### **Formal Methods for Integrated Socio-Economic Analysis**

The Special Issue of the *Forum for Social Economics* invites papers on the following topics:

- a) Use and applications of the Social Fabric Matrix Approach (SFM-A): Descriptive and analytical uses, applications and extensions of the SFM-A to recent domestic/ international/ global socio-economic problems, and contemporary policy matters. Use and applications of other integrated methodologies such as Ostrom's Institutional Analysis and Development Framework (IAD) to recent domestic/ international/ global socio economic problems, and contemporary policy matters are also sought.

Employing contextually relevant quantitative methods such as econometrics, complex modeling, embedded game theory, system dynamics and/ or computer simulations to the integrated framework of choice is particularly encouraged. Discussions of internal consistency, extensions between the integrated framework of choice, and quantitative analytical technique are highly encouraged.

- b) Discussions: Are there congruencies between integrated frameworks (e.g., SFM-A and IAD)? Can integrated methodologies reach beyond case studies and heterodox schools of thought? Perspectives on the question of broader applicability of integrated approaches in the field of economics are highly encouraged. Are these integrated approaches largely limited to heterodox thought? Are there certain sub-fields within economics that find a natural congruence with holistic frameworks? What are some of the critical questions that need to be asked of holistic methodologies, frameworks, and approaches in the interest of broader applicability within and beyond heterodox economics?

### **Motivation and Description**

The SFM-A (Hayden) and IAD (Ostrom) are two examples of integrated approaches to analysis and policy making that help delineate, distill, and analyze complex socio economic issues in a holistic, non-reductionist framework. These frameworks are designed to help researchers understand institutions and evolutionary socio-economic processes and allow for embedding the complexity of social interaction into the analysis. The SFM-A (Hayden 2006) is designed to identify cultural values, social beliefs, institutions, technology, prevailing attitudes, and

environmental context of any socio economic process (Natarajan, Fullwiler, and Elsner 2009). The IAD framework comes out of the Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis and focusses on understanding institutions at all scales (Ostrom 2005). While there are divergences between the SFM-A and IAD, there is a convergence in their goal; both seek to retain institutional complexity and thus expand the informational base of analyzing any socio-economic process. Both methodologies seek to identify institutional rules and reasons for individual and social behaviors.

#### Reference

Hayden, Gregory F. 2006. *Policy Making for A Good Society: The Social Fabric Matrix Approach to Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation* Springer.

Natarajan, Elsner and Fullwiler (Eds.). 2009. *Institutional Analysis and Praxis: The Social Fabric Matrix Approach*, Springer.

Ostrom Elinor. 2005. *Understanding Institutional Diversity* Princeton University Press