

[Real-World Economics Review Blog](#)

Posts are by authors of papers published in the RWER. Anyone may comment.

- [Home](#)
- [RWER](#)
- [The Economics Profession](#)

- [The Economy](#)

- [The Economy and the Planet](#)

- [WEA Books](#)
-

Type text to search here...



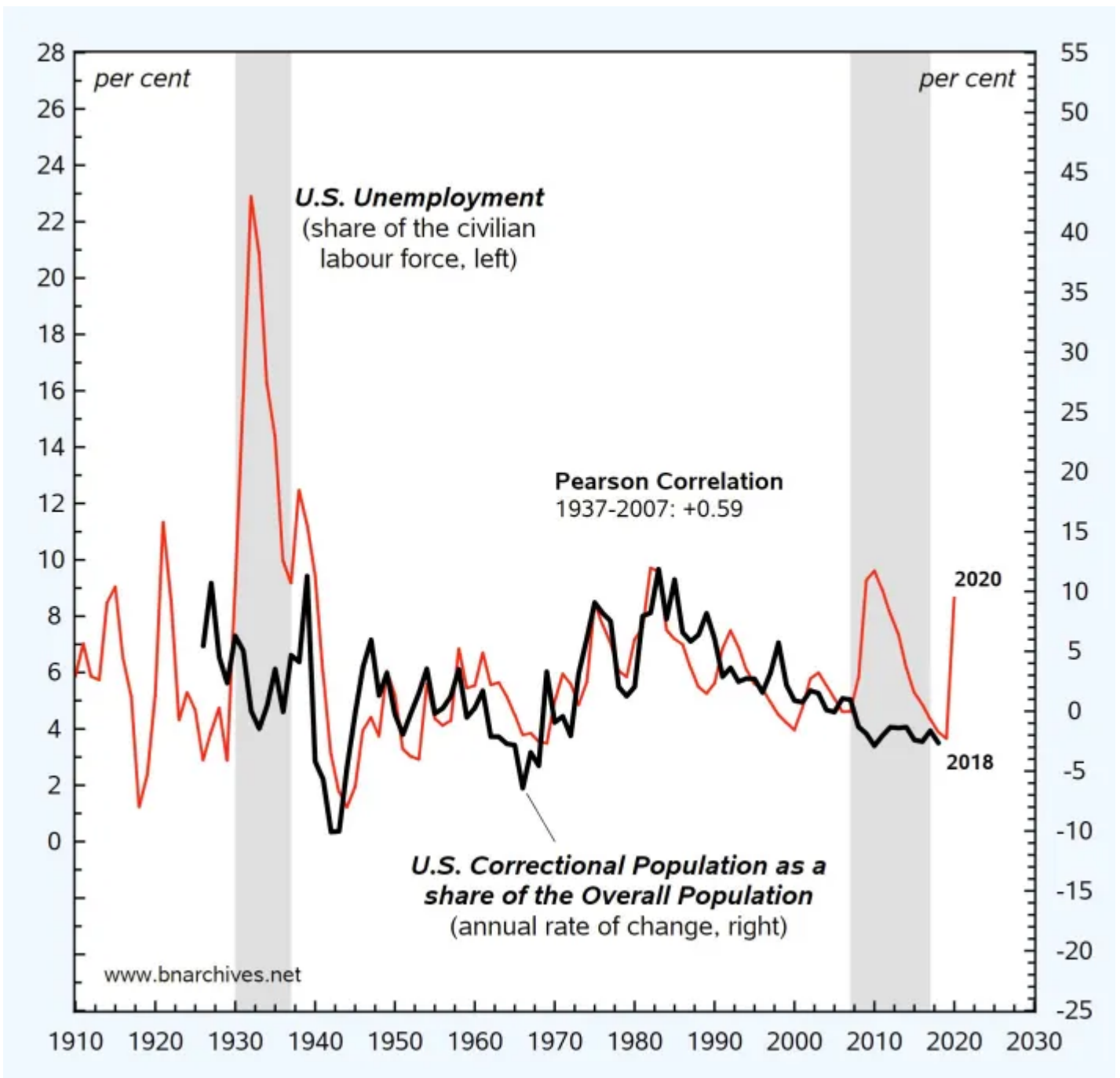
[Home](#) > [Uncategorized](#) > No way out

No way out

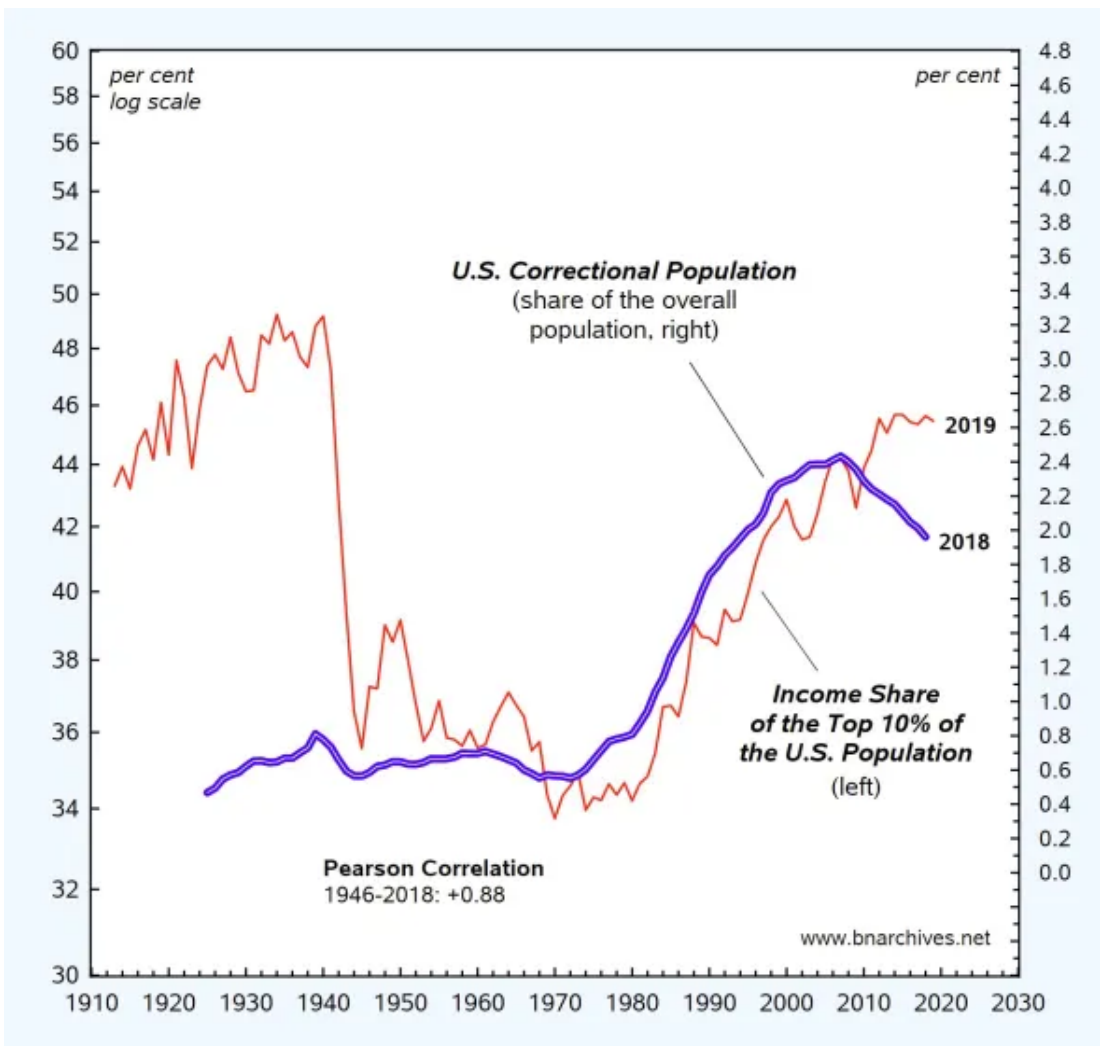
June 22, 2021 [Editor](#) [Leave a comment](#) [Go to comments](#)

from **Shimshon Bichler & Jonathan Nitzan**

For much of the 20th and early 21st centuries, U.S. unemployment and incarceration went hand in hand. This is how the rulers disciplined their subjects. But during the Great Depression and Great Recession, the link broke, if only temporarily. The following figure shows these patterns.



Part of the rationale for this two-pronged discipline is illustrated in the next figure: since the Second World War, the income share of the top 10% of the U.S. population has been tightly correlated with the country's correctional population, although this correlation seems to have broken recently.



For more, see our 2004 paper ‘No Way Out’ bnarchives.yorku.ca/391/

Share this:



[Comments \(4\)](#) [Leave a comment](#)

1. [Taco Bottema](#)

June 23, 2021 at 3:26 am

[Reply](#)

(No way out) of here, said the joker to the thief.... Remember Bob Dylan? But then De Tocqueville made similar observations in the 19th century, way before this very interesting graph starts.

But serious, the connection between inequality, or rather concentration of wealth and imprisonment remains an associative one only. That sort of thing requires anthropologists raster than economists, even those of the evolutionary kind.. The inequality issue in the USA has been studied by a generation of social scientists, such as Marvin Harris, culminating in the massive report on the “An American Dilemma: the Negro Problem and Modern Democracy” made by many first rate social scientists and led by Gunnar Myrdal. Read it!

Maybe then you can share with your reader what you really mean by fielding these graphs.

2. [Jonathan Nitzan](#)

June 23, 2021 at 4:29 am

[Reply](#)

For more, see our 2004 paper ‘No Way Out’ bnarchives.yorku.ca/391/

3. [Jonathan Nitzan](#)

June 23, 2021 at 4:31 am

[Reply](#)

Correction: 2014 paper, ‘No Way Out’, <http://bnarchives.yorku.ca>

4. Ken Zimmerman

June 23, 2021 at 11:09 am

[Reply](#)

Historically societies that are unequal in one dimension (e.g., economic) often tend to be unequal in other dimensions (e.g., punishment, education, access to health care). We find this tendency generally in societies with systemic and tightly controlled stratification arrangements that stretch back many generations that disadvantage specific and well identified subgroups within the society. The US is one such society.

1. No trackbacks yet.

Leave a Reply

Enter your comment here...

This site uses Akismet to reduce spam. [Learn how your comment data is processed.](#)

[Total wealth by country in 2019](#) [Billionaires' wealth as a % of GDP](#)

[RSS feed](#)

Email subscription to this blog

Join 18,996 other followers

Enter your email address

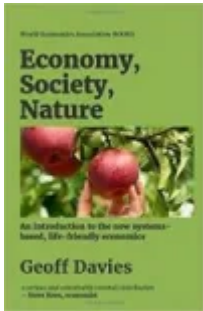
Sign me up!

RWER 26,369 subscribers

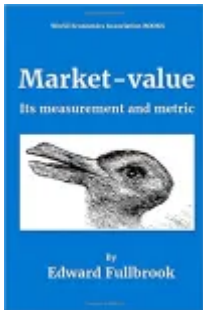
- [Current and back issues](#)
- [Subscribe](#)

START READING THESE BOOKS FOR FREE

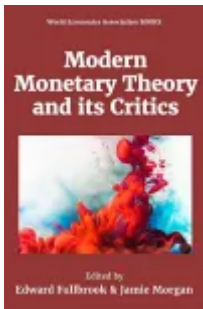
“a conceivably seminal contribution to this debate on economic systems and their place in human and natural systems.” – Steve Keen



“Some of his insights will no doubt become the key building blocks of the new economics the world needs so desperately today.” – Richard Koo



“This remarkable volume presents the full range of opinions on MMT, from its enthusiastic proponents to its severest critics” – John King



Regular Contributors

- [Peter Radford](#)
- [Merijn Knibbe](#)
- [Mark Weisbrot](#)
- [Dean Baker](#)

- [Maria Alejandra Madi](#)
- [Editor](#)
- [David Ruccio](#)
- [Lars Syll](#)
- [Asad Zaman](#)
- [Norbert Häring](#)

follow this blog on Twitter

- [RealWorldEcon](#)

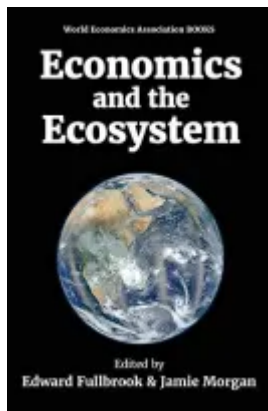
Top Posts- last 48 hours

- [Piketty and a minimal inheritance for all](#)
- [‘New Keynesian’ macroeconomics — worse than useless](#)
- [Power 1917-2019: U.S. income inequality and union membership](#)
- [Billionaires' wealth as a % of GDP](#)
- [Effort to save humankind from impending catastrophe](#)
- [Why the idea of causation cannot be a purely statistical one](#)
- [Ideological engineering for the 1%](#)
- [Total wealth by country in 2019](#)
- [The Bitcoin transactions tax](#)
- [No way out](#)

Real World Economics Review

The RWER is a free open-access journal, but with access to the current issue restricted to its 25,952 subscribers (07/12/16). Subscriptions are free. Over one million full-text copies of RWER papers are downloaded per year.

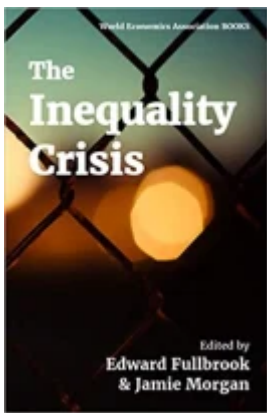
— look inside — \$5.94 / \$20.00



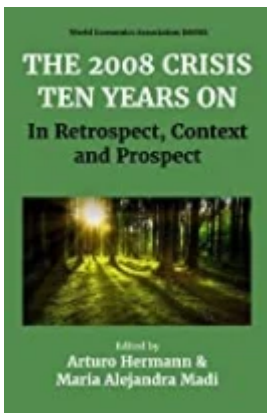
— look inside — \$4.90 / \$8.00



— look inside — \$15.99



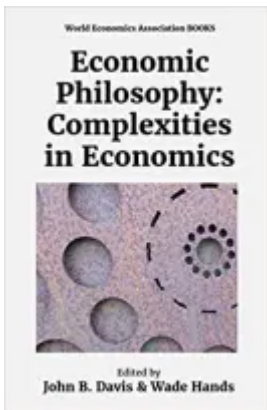
— look inside — \$5.99 / 12.99



— look inside — \$5.93 / \$12.99



— look inside — \$4.97 / \$9.90



WEA online conference: Trade Wars after Coronavirus

- [find out how to take part](#)

Comments on recent RWER issues

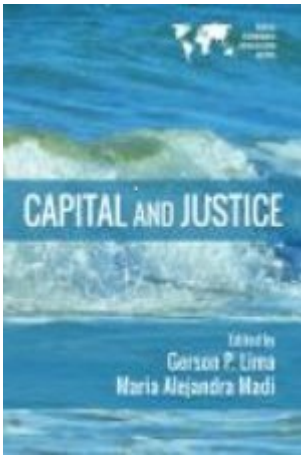
- [Comments on RWER issue no 78](#)
- [Comments on RWER issue no 79](#)
- [Comments on RWER issue no 80](#)
- [Comments on RWER issue no 81](#)
- [Comments on RWER issue no 82](#)

———— WEA Paperbacks ————— available at low prices —————
———— on most Amazons —————

———— Ugarteche, Puyana and Madi —————



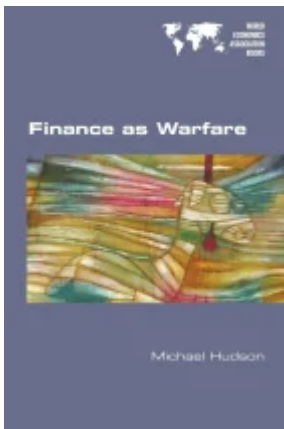
Gerson Lima / Maria Alejandra Madi



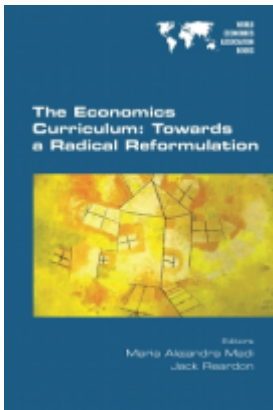
Edward Fullbrook and Jamie Morgan



————— **Michael Hudson** —————



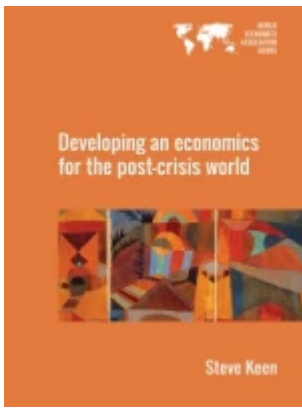
Maria Alejandra Madi / Jack Reardon



————— **Edward Fullbrook** —————



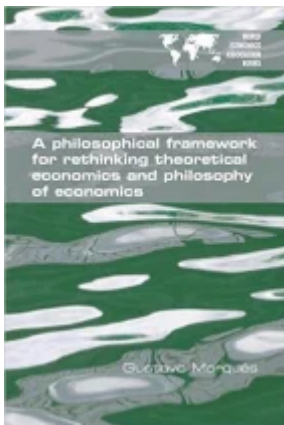
————— **Steve Keen** —————



Richard Smith



Gustavo Marques



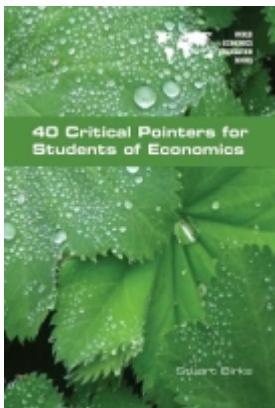
– Victor Beker and Beniamino Moro –



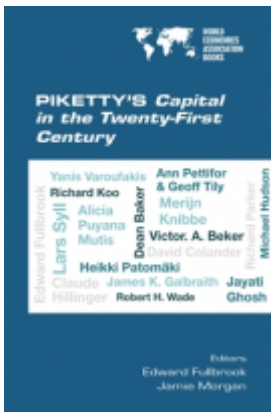
————— **Lars Pålsson Syll** —————



————— **Stuart Birks** —————



Edward Fullbrook and Jamie Morgan



Search

WEA Periodicals

- [Economic Thought](#)
- [Real-World Economics Review](#)
- [WEA Commentaries](#)
- [World Economic Review: Contemporary Policy Issues](#)

----- World Economics Association ----- founded 2011 – today 13,800 members

- [join](#)
- [WEA Pedagogy Bog](#)
- [WEA Young Economists Network](#)

Recent Comments

- Ikonoclast on [Piketty and a minimal inheritance for all](#)
- [gracchibros](#) on [Piketty and a minimal inheritance for all](#)
- [gracchibros](#) on [Ideological engineering for the 1%](#)
- Ken Zimmerman on [Piketty and a minimal inheritance for all](#)
- [tabeles](#) on [Piketty and a minimal inheritance for all](#)
- Craig on [Effort to save humankind from impending catastrophe](#)
- Craig on [Effort to save humankind from impending catastrophe](#)
- Ikonoclast on [‘New Keynesian’ macroeconomics — worse than useless](#)
- Gerald Holtham on [Why the idea of causation cannot be a purely statistical one](#)
- Ikonoclast on [Power 1917-2019: U.S. income inequality and union membership](#)
- [bruceolsen](#) on [‘New Keynesian’ macroeconomics — worse than useless](#)
- John Jensen on [‘New Keynesian’ macroeconomics — worse than useless](#)
- [Per Kurowski](#) on [‘New Keynesian’ macroeconomics — worse than useless](#)
- Patrick Newman on [Power 1917-2019: U.S. income inequality and union membership](#)
- John Hermann on [Power 1917-2019: U.S. income inequality and union membership](#)

Comments on issue 74 - repaired

- [post and read comments on issue 74](#)

Comments on RWER issues

- [Comments on issue 66](#)
- [Comments on issue 67](#)

- [Comments on issue 68](#)
- [Comments on issue 69](#)
- [Comments on issue 70](#)
- [Comments on issue 71](#)
- [Comments on RWER issue no 78](#)
- [Comments on RWER issue no 79](#)
- [Comments on RWER issue no 80](#)

WEA Online Conferences

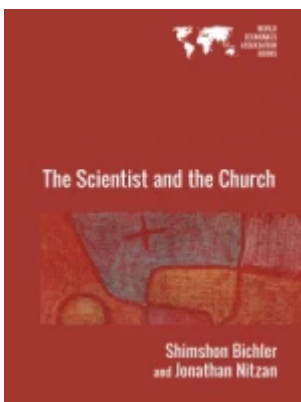
- [Economics in Society: The Ethical Dimension](#)
- [Rethinking Financial Markets](#)
- [Submissions for WEA online conference: Trade Wars after Coronavirus](#)
- [Sustainability – Missing Points in the Development Dialogue](#)
- [The economics curriculum: towards a radical reformation](#)
- [The political economy of economic metrics](#)

— Forthcoming WEA Paperbacks —

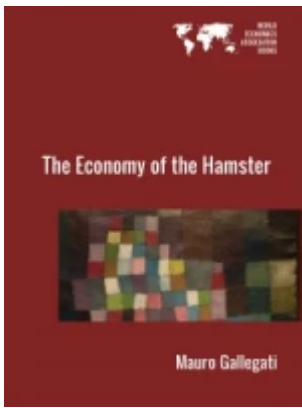
————— Armando Ochangco —————



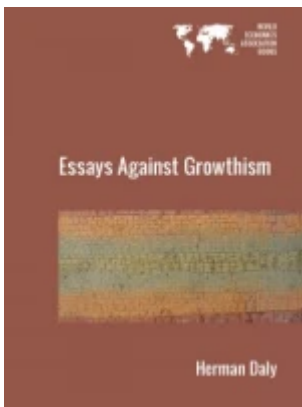
Shimshon Bichler / Jonathan Nitzan



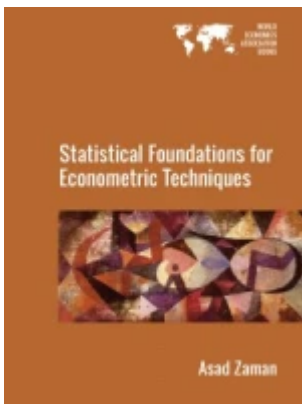
————— Mauro Gallegati —————



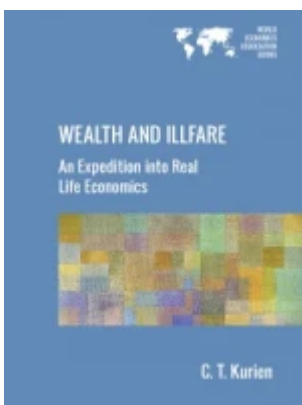
————— **Herman Daly** —————

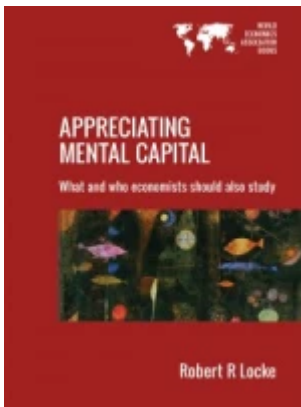


————— **Asad Zaman** —————



————— **C. T. Kurien** —————





Guidelines for Comments

- This blog is renowned for its high level of comment discussion. These guidelines exist to further that reputation.
- Engage with the arguments of the post and of your fellow discussants.
- Try not to flood discussion threads with only your comments.
- Do not post slight variations of the same comment under multiple posts.
- Show your fellow discussants the same courtesy you would if you were sitting around a table with them.

Most downloaded RWER papers

- [New thinking on poverty \(Paul Shaffer\)](#)
- [The state of China's economy 2009 \(James Angresano\)](#)
- [Trade and inequality: The role of economists \(Dean Baker\)](#)
- [The housing bubble and the financial crisis \(Dean Baker\)](#)
- [Green capitalism: the god that failed \(Richard Smith\)](#)
- [Global finance in crisis \(Jacques Sapir\)](#)
- [Debunking the theory of the firm—a chronology \(Steve Keen and Russell Standish\)](#)
- [What Is Neoclassical Economics? \(Christian Arnsperger and Yanis Varoufakis\)](#)
- [Why some countries are poor and some rich: a non-Eurocentric view \(Deniz Kellecioglu\)](#)

Family Links

- [C. P. Chandrasekhar's Blog](#)
- [David Ruccio's Blog](#)
- [Dean Baker – Beat the Press](#)
- [Economics from the Top Down](#)
- [Jayati Ghosh's Blog](#)
- [Lars Syll's Blog](#)
- [Norbert Haering' Blog](#)
- [real-world economics review](#)
- [The Radford Free Press](#)
- [Thomas Palley](#)
- [WEA Pedagogy Bog](#)
- [WEA Young Economists Network](#)

Contact

pae_news@btinternet.com

follow this blog on Twitter

- [RealWorldEcon](#)

RWER Board of Editors

Nicola Acocella (Italy, University of Rome) Robert Costanza (USA, Portland State University) Wolfgang Drechsler (Estonia, Tallinn University of Technology) Kevin Gallagher (USA, Boston University) Jo Marie Griesgraber (USA, New Rules for Global Finance Coalition) Bernard Guerrien (France, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne) Michael Hudson (USA, University of Missouri at Kansas City) Frederic S. Lee (USA, University of Missouri at Kansas City) Anne Mayhew (USA, University of Tennessee) Gustavo Marqués (Argentina, Universidad de Buenos Aires) Julie A. Nelson (USA, University of Massachusetts, Boston) Paul Ormerod (UK, Volterra Consulting) Richard Parker (USA, Harvard University) Ann Pettifor (UK, Policy Research in Macroeconomics) Alicia Puyana (Mexico, Latin American School of Social Sciences) Jacques Sapir (France, École des hautes études en sciences sociales) Peter Söderbaum (Sweden, School of Sustainable Development of Society and Technology) Peter Radford (USA, The Radford Free Press) David Ruccio (USA, Notre Dame University) Immanuel Wallerstein (USA, Yale University)

WEA e-books

- [WEA e-books](#)

[Top](#)
[Blog at WordPress.com.](#)