

## ContractsProf Blog

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### **GLOBAL K: Socio-Economics Programs at the AALS Annual Meeting**

By Kprofs2013

As you may have read in Jeremy's recent post, there are a number of programs at the AALS Annual Meeting in January 2014 that will be of interest to the *Contracts*-minded. I want to alert you to two unusual offerings that have a cross-over interest for *Contracts* scholars and teachers – (i) the day-long Annual Meeting of the Society of Socio-Economists (SOS) on the opening day of the AALS meeting on Thursday, 2 January 2014, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., at the New York Hilton Midtown; and, (ii) the extended program of the AALS Section on Socio-Economics on Sunday, 5 January 2014, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. One can drop in and out of sessions on either day.

I believe that the socio-economics approach to economic analysis enhances the understanding of the dynamics of contracts law and policy, and as a result I have become a member of SOS and expect to participate actively in these programs. The interdisciplinarity of the approach and its integration of economic analysis with other related methodologies make this approach particularly productive in the context of contracts. Socio-economics begins with the assumption that economic behavior and phenomena are not wholly governed or described by any one analytical discipline, but are embedded in society, polity, culture, and nature. Hence, drawing in an integrated fashion on economics, sociology, political science, psychology, anthropology, biology and other social and natural sciences, and other disciplines, socio-economics regards competitive behavior as a subset of human behavior within a societal and natural context that both enables and constrains competition and cooperation. Instead of assuming that individual pursuit of self-interest automatically or generally tends toward an optimal allocation of resources, socio-economics assumes that societal sources of order are necessary for people and markets to function efficiently. People are not only rational actors pursuing only self-interest, and socio-economics seeks a more encompassing interdisciplinary understanding of economic behavior open to the assumption that individual choices are shaped not only by notions of rational action but also by emotive and humane expectations.

The following link leads to the SOS Annual Meeting web page and describes the Thursday program and provides an additional link that leads to a registration form (separate from the AALS Annual Meeting registration): [SOS Annual Meeting](#).

To cover the expenses of the SOS Annual Meeting, there is a \$75 registration fee (\$10 for students). Registration allows the registrant and one additional person to attend. However, I understand that there is a partial reduction or complete waiver of the registration fee available, by making a request to [socioeconomics@aol.com](mailto:socioeconomics@aol.com) (click or paste). The registration fee does not include the \$15 cost of the box luncheon. However, participants may attend the luncheon address without purchasing a box lunch.

For the Thursday SOS Annual Meeting, I would particularly direct your attention to certain topics introduced during the morning plenary session and then picked up in concurrent sessions later in the day: (i) *Socio-Economic Theory*; (ii)

*Sustainable Economic Recovery and Growth; and, (iii) Ownership and Wealth Distribution.*

During the extended Section Program on Sunday, I would especially commend your attention to the following concurrent session from 9:50 - 10:50 a.m.: *Exposing the Myth of Consent: Strictures from Neuroscience, Economics, and Relational Contracting*, featuring Jennifer Drobac (Indiana - Indianapolis), Oliver Goodenough (Vermont), Robin Kar (Law and Philosophy, Illinois), Amanda Pustilnik (Maryland), and Margaret Ryzner (Indiana - Indianapolis).

Michael P. Malloy

[http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/contractsprof\\_blog/2013/12/global-k-socio-economics-programs-at-the-aals-annual-meeting.html](http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/contractsprof_blog/2013/12/global-k-socio-economics-programs-at-the-aals-annual-meeting.html)

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