

# Announcement/Chronique

## **The Ninth International Conference on Studies in Economic Ethics and Philosophy (SEEP 2002)**

**“The Invisible Hand and the Common Good”**

June 13-16, 2002  
Trent University  
Peterborough, Ontario, Canada

The ninth annual SEEP conference will critically examine central aspects of the social ethos underlying contemporary economics and our current market culture.

The basic ethical import of neoclassical economic theory, and the competitive market order it represents, is founded on the neoclassical continuance of the classical tradition wherein a system of natural liberty gives expression to the natural harmony of each with all. In fundamental terms, individual liberty is seen as an instrument of social harmony; free, but rational, individuals, motivated solely by the concern to maximize the satisfaction of their own interests, and interacting only through voluntary exchange, nevertheless will attain an aggregate outcome that is beneficial to all. Though such an outcome may not be part of the intentions of the individual agents, the market forces of a perfectly competitive economy will so allocate resources as to lead participants, as if by an “invisible hand,” to a coherent economic order of mutual advantage. Put in terms of the neo-classical principle expressed by general equilibrium analysis: the equilibrating processes of a decentralized economy working through a competitive price system will bring about a Pareto optimal social outcome.

For more information please contact:

Prof. Bernard Hodgson  
Department of Philosophy  
Trent University  
Peterborough, ON Canada K9J 7B8

Telephone: 705-748-1011, ext. 1517  
E-mail: [bjhodgson@trentu.ca](mailto:bjhodgson@trentu.ca)