Theories, events and public choices are closely interdependent factors in the production and circulation of ideas. The economic literature often singles out causal nexuses between events and economic policy reactions, implying that the latter responds to the formers. In turn, it is often underlined that policy makers “demand” economic theories in support of their choices. This is an interpretative model we may define “highly exogenous” because events represent exogenous shocks on the policy making process and, as a second step, on the search for theories. Its interpretative capacity is nevertheless weak: the relationship among theories, choices, events is much more complex, less linear, often bi-univocal, with some unforeseeable “short circuits”. In order to tackle with such complexity, it is necessary to use a model which assumes the inherent interdependence of such variables and singles out the time evolution of their reciprocal influences which, in turn, generate new events, theories and policies.

The workshop is a step within a wider international project aiming at analysing the theoretical debates and the main choices of economic policy after WWII, considering some relevant national cases and some international economic institutions. It seeks to reconstruct the relational complexity which characterizes the network of economic theory, policymaking processes and the most important events of the time span considered. Through a comparative analysis among single (nations/institutions) cases, the workshop will attempt to find some interpretative keys that make explicit such “circuits” among facts,
Wednesday 21 September 2011
09.30 First Session. Chair: M. Cristina Marcuzzo
- Piero Bini and Fabio Masini, University of Roma Tre
  Economic Theories and Policies. Setting the Table
- Harald Hagemann, University of Hohenheim
  Economic Theories and Policies in Germany
11.00 Coffee break
11.30 Second Session. Chair: Harald Hagemann
- Masazumi Wakatabe, Waseda University, Tokyo
  Central Banking, Japanese Style: Economics and the Bank of Japan, 1945-2010
- Roger Backhouse, University of Birmingham and James Forder, Balliol College Oxford
  Economic Theories and Policies in the UK
15.00 Third Session. Chair: Daniela Parisi
- Juan Zabalza, University of Saragoza
  Economic Theories and Policies throughout Dictatorship and Democracy.
  Spain 1945-2009
- Ivo Maes, University of Leuven - Belgium National Bank
  Economic Thought and Policy: Tommaso Padoa-Schioppa at the European Commission
16.30 Coffee break
17.00 Fourth Session. Chair: Annalisa Rosselli
- Piero Bini, University of Roma Tre
  Economic Theories and Policies in Italy in the 1970s
- Francesco Cattabrini, University of Roma Tre
  The Modigliani controversy: from theory to policy and back

Thursday 22 September 2011
09.00 Fifth Session. Chair: Roger Backhouse
- Johan Lönnroth, University of Goteborg
  Who came first: Politicians or academic economists?
- Erik Buyst, University of Leuven
  Economic Thought and Policy in Belgium (1944-1999)
10.30 Coffee break
11.00 Sixth Session. Chair: Piero Bini
- Bradley Bateman, Dennison University, USA
  Rethinking the Monetarist Experience: Monetary Theory and Monetary Policy in the United States
- Jean Pisani-Ferri, University of Paris-Dauphine
  French Economic Policy: Have we learned?
- Veronica Anelli, University of Florence
  IMF conditionality and the changing economic paradigms
13.15 End of Workshop