Call for Papers:

Rethinking Economics with John Maynard Keynes

90 years after the publication of the General Theory

University of Picardie Jules Verne

Amiens, December 2-3, 2026

In 1988, *Cahiers d'Économie Politique / Papers in Political Economy* devoted a double issue (nos. 14–15) to the fiftieth anniversary of *The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money*, focusing on the evolution of its interpretations and comparing contemporary readings with John Maynard Keynes's earlier and later writings. Ten years later, another double issue (nos. 30–31) addressed the relationship between Keynes's economics and philosophy.

On the occasion of the ninetieth anniversary of *The General Theory*, this conference aims, first, to provide a "state-of-the-art" assessment of Keynesian scholarship in its theoretical and methodological diversity and, second, to analyze its interactions with other traditions of economic thought.

To address these aims, contributions will be organized around three main analytical perspectives: (i) the contemporary relevance of the concepts and analytical tools developed in *The General Theory*; (ii) the evolution of Keynesian traditions; and (iii) Keynes and contemporary capitalism.

Submissions in French or English are welcome. Contributions may fall within the fields of economic theory, the history of economic thought, economic philosophy, and interdisciplinary approaches.

This conference is organized by the Laboratory of Economics, Finance, Management and Innovation (LEFMI) at the University of Picardie Jules Verne, in partnership with *Cahiers d'Économie Politique / Papers in Political Economy* and the Association for the Development of Keynesian Studies (ADEK). It will be held in Amiens on December 2–3, 2026. A selection of papers presented at the conference will be considered for publication in a special issue of *Cahiers d'Économie Politique / Papers in Political Economy* and will be subject to the journal's standard double-blind peer-review process.

1. The Contemporary Relevance of the Concepts and Tools of *The General Theory*

This theme explores the enduring relevance of *The General Theory* as a conceptual framework.

At the heart of the *General Theory* lies radical uncertainty: investment, saving, and money-holding decisions take place within a fundamentally unstable and unknowable environment. This insight remains central in a context shaped by financialization, geopolitical, climatic, and technological shocks, as well as persistent financial instability. Within this framework, the concept of animal spirits highlights the role of psychological factors, social conventions, and institutional norms in shaping economic decisions and macroeconomic coordination under uncertainty. Liquidity preference also remains crucial for understanding financial instability, financial cycles, monetary policy developments, and banking behavior.

Other key concepts retain strong analytical relevance. The marginal propensity to consume continues to play an important role in analyzing the effects of redistribution and inequality, while the marginal efficiency of capital underscores the inherent instability of investment and the limited effectiveness of low interest rates in stimulating productive activity. More broadly, the theory of effective demand challenges the notion that supply creates its own demand and shows how involuntary unemployment can persist in equilibrium when demand is insufficient. It sheds light on phenomena such as secular stagnation, the limits of austerity policies, and ongoing debates surrounding growth regimes, job guarantees, and the role of the state as employer of last resort. In this perspective, the Keynesian multiplier remains essential for assessing the impact of public expenditure.

This list is not exhaustive; other concepts drawn from *The General Theory* and Keynes's broader body of work may also be mobilized.

2. The Evolution of Keynesian Traditions

The 1980s witnessed both the emergence of New Keynesian Economics and the renewal of Post-Keynesian approaches.

How have schools of thought inspired by Keynes evolved since then? Which have been strengthened or revitalized, which have declined or disappeared, and for what theoretical, historical, or institutional reasons?

What role have successive financial, health, and climate crises, coupled with the renewed prominence of active fiscal and monetary policies, played in shaping these developments?

To what extent have convention-based approaches contributed to a renewed understanding of coordination mechanisms under uncertainty?

This theme also invites reflection on how related frameworks, such as the financial instability hypothesis, post-Kaleckian approaches to growth and distribution, Modern Monetary Theory (MMT), and institutionalist or ecological approaches, contribute to the ongoing renewal of Keynesian thought. Particular attention may also be given to perspectives combining insights from Keynes and Schumpeter, especially with regard to entrepreneurship, innovation, and the dynamics of capitalism.

3. Keynes and Contemporary Capitalism

The General Theory was developed in a specific historical and institutional context, leading some commentators to characterize it as historically contingent. Nevertheless, Keynes wrote his major work in the midst of the Great Depression, widely regarded as one of the most severe

crises in the history of capitalism. The book primarily seeks to explain mass unemployment and to justify public intervention through fiscal and monetary policies, as well as the socialization of investment.

These themes resonate strongly today, particularly when combined with the ecological imperative and the global challenge of climate change, which call for a profound rethinking of production systems, lifestyles, and multi-level public action.

This raises the question of how far *The General Theory* and its analytical framework remain adaptable to contemporary challenges. While certain structural features of capitalism persist, profound transformations, such as global hyperconnectivity, platform capitalism, advances in artificial intelligence, the rise of crypto-assets, the risks of secular stagnation, and the need for ecological planning, pose significant challenges for Keynesian analysis.

Beyond *The General Theory*, Keynes's work also engaged early on with the international dimension of economic activity, notably in *Indian Currency and Finance* and, more significantly, in *A Treatise on Money*, which laid the groundwork for later reflections developed in the context of the Bretton Woods agreements. His proposals for reforming the international monetary and financial system, as well as his analyses of wartime economies and the economic consequences of peace, remain highly relevant for thinking about contemporary multilateralism and geopolitical fragmentation.

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Submission Deadline: Proposals should be submitted by July 15, 2026.

Submission email: comitecoordinationkeynes90tg@gmail.com