democracy versus a global economy

new challenges and threats

Friday, September 27, 2013 • Columbia University, Alfred Lerner Hall, Satow Room
8:30  Registration and coffee

9:00  Introduction: Richard Parker, moderator

9:05  Welcome and opening thoughts: Jeffrey Sachs, George Papandreou

9:20  How Global Financialization Destroys Shared Prosperity—and How Finance Can Be Contained
Robert Kuttner

9:35  Challenges in Modern Democratic Governance
Edi Rama, Prime Minister of Albania

9:50  What Happens When Essential Services Are Left in Unrestrained Private Financial Control?
Susan Crawford

10:15  Can Human Rights Norms be a Mechanism to Democratize the Economy?
Radhika Balakrishnan

10:20  Coffee break

10:30  Roundtable discussion
Participants are encouraged to pose challenges to presentations as well as present their own experiences and ideas.

12:15  Conclusions and steps ahead: Jeffrey Sachs, George Papandreou

12:30  Light lunch
First elected to Greece’s parliament in 1981, George Papandreou served as Prime Minister from October 2009 to November 2011, during the darkest hours of his country’s financial crisis. He was named one of Foreign Policy magazine’s “Top 100 Global Thinkers” in 2010 for “making the best of Greece’s worst year.” During his political career, Papandreou also held the positions of both Minister of Education and Minister of Foreign Affairs. Papandreou is also president of the Socialist International, an international association of social democratic, socialist and labour parties, of which PASOK is a member. In 2012 Papandreou was named a Visiting Fellow at Harvard University’s Institute of Politics and in 2013 he served as a Global Fellow and Adjunct Professor at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs.
Jeffrey D. Sachs is the Director of The Earth Institute, Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, and Professor of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University. He is Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the Millennium Development Goals, having held the same position under former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. He is Director of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. He is co-founder and Chief Strategist of Millennium Promise Alliance, and is director of the Millennium Villages Project. Sachs is also one of the Secretary-General’s MDG Advocates, and a Commissioner of the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Development. He has authored three New York Times bestsellers in the past seven years: *The End of Poverty* (2005), *Common Wealth: Economics for a Crowded Planet* (2008), and *The Price of Civilization* (2011).
Richard Parker is Lecturer in Public Policy and Senior Fellow of the Shorenstein Center. An Oxford-trained economist, his career before coming to the Kennedy School in 1993 included journalism (he cofounded the magazine *Mother Jones* as well as Investigative Reporters & Editors, and chairs the editorial board of *The Nation*); philanthropy (as executive director of two foundations he donated more than $40 million to social-change groups); social entrepreneurship (he grew environmental group Greenpeace from 2,000 to 600,000 supporters, helped launch People for the American Way, and raised over $250 million for some 60 non-profits), and political consulting (advising, among others, Senators Kennedy, Glenn, Cranston, and McGovern). From 2009 to 2011 he was an economic advisor to Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou.

His books include *The Myth of the Middle Class*, an early study of widening U.S. income and wealth distribution and *Mixed Signals: The Future of Global Television*, a critical assessment of the spread of satellite-based news and its political impacts. His intellectual biography, *John Kenneth Galbraith: His Life, His Politics, His Economics*, which traces the history of 20th century economic theory and policy through the career of Harvard’s most famous economist, was described by William F. Buckley as “the best biography of the century”, by Sean Wilentz as “the best progressive history I’ve read in 15 years,” and by Keynes biographer Robert Skidelsky as “an unparalleled achievement.”


He received the Kennedy School's Carballo award for outstanding teaching in 2011 and ALANA's Teacher of the Year award in 2007 from the School's students of color.
Robert Kuttner
Presenter, How Global Financialization Destroys Shared Prosperity—and How Finance Can Be Contained

Robert Kuttner is Meyer and Ida Kirstein Professor at Brandeis University's Heller School. He is co-founder and co-editor of The American Prospect magazine, a senior fellow at the think-tank Demos. He was a longtime columnist for BusinessWeek, and continues to write columns for The Boston Globe, Huffington Post, and Reuters. He was a founder of the Economic Policy Institute and serves on its board.


Kuttner's other positions have included national staff writer and columnist on The Washington Post, chief investigator of the U.S. Senate Banking Committee, and economics editor of The New Republic.

He is the two-time winner of the Sidney Hillman Journalism Award, the John Hancock Award for Business and Financial Writing, the Jack London Award for Labor Writing, and the Paul Hoffman Award of the United Nations Development Program for his lifetime work on social justice and economic efficiency. He has been a Guggenheim Fellow, Woodrow Wilson Fellow, German Marshall Fund Fellow, and John F. Kennedy Fellow.

Robert Kuttner was educated at Oberlin College, The London School of Economics, and the University of California at Berkeley. He has taught at Brandeis, Boston University, the University of Massachusetts, Harvard's Institute of Politics, and the University of Oregon. He lives in Boston with his wife, Joan Fitzgerald, dean of the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs at Northeastern.
Edi Rama began his political career in 1996 as Minister of Culture. In 2000, he was elected Mayor of Tirana. During his eleven years at the Municipality of Tirana, he transformed the city with new services and green spaces, while empowering its citizens. In 2004, he earned the top spot in the World Mayor award. Since 2005, Rama has led the Socialist Party of Albania. He was elected as Prime Minister on September 15, 2013. He also currently serves as Vice President of the Socialist International. He is a renowned painter and artist and has exhibited his work all over the world.
Susan Crawford

Presenter, What Happens When Essential Services Are Left in Unrestrained Private Financial Control?

Susan Crawford is a professor at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, a fellow at the Roosevelt Institute, and a co-director of the Berkman Center. She is the author of Captive Audience: The Telecom Industry and Monopoly Power in the New Gilded Age, and a contributor to Bloomberg View and Wired. She served as Special Assistant to the President for Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy (2009) and co-led the FCC transition team between the Bush and Obama administrations. She is a member of Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Advisory Council on Technology and Innovation.
Radhika Balakrishnan, Executive Director, Center for Women’s Global Leadership, and Professor, Women’s and Gender Studies, Rutgers University, has a Ph.D. in Economics from Rutgers University. Previously, she was Professor of Economics and International Studies at Marymount Manhattan College. She has worked at the Ford Foundation as a program officer in the Asia Regional Program. She is currently on the Board of the Center for Constitutional Rights and the International Association for Feminist Economics and was the Chair of the Board of the US Human Rights Network from 2008 to 2012. She is the co-editor with Diane Elson of Economic Policy and Human Rights: Holding Governments to Account (Zed Books, 2011). She is the author of Why MES with Human Rights: Integrating Macro Economic Strategies with Human Rights (Marymount Manhattan College, 2005). She edited The Hidden Assembly Line: Gender Dynamics of Subcontracted Work in a Global Economy (Kumarian Press, 2001), co-edited Good Sex: Feminist Perspectives from the World’s Religions, with Patricia Jung and Mary Hunt (Rutgers University Press, 2000), and also authored numerous articles that have appeared in books and journals. Professor Balakrishnan’s work focuses on gender and development, gender and the global economy, human rights and economic and social rights. Her research and advocacy work has sought to change the lens through which macroeconomic policy is interpreted and critiqued by applying international human rights norms to assess macroeconomic policy.

Radhika Balakrishnan
Presenter, Can Human Rights Norms be a Mechanism to Democratize the Economy?
The Earth Institute’s mission is to mobilize the sciences, education and public policy to achieve a sustainable Earth. Through interdisciplinary research among more than 500 scientists in diverse fields, the Institute is adding to the knowledge necessary for addressing the challenges of the 21st century and beyond. With over two dozen associated degree curricula and a vibrant fellowship program, the Earth Institute is educating new leaders to become professionals and scholars in the growing field of sustainable development. We work alongside governments, businesses, nonprofit organizations and individuals to devise innovative strategies to protect the future of our planet.

The Symi Symposium was launched by former Greek Prime Minister George A. Papandreou and is dedicated to bringing together leading intellectuals, politicians, and professionals to discuss the most pressing issues of the day and their impact on democracy. It works to promote continuous dialogue, develop lasting networks between participants, and create meaningful professional collaborations.

Cambridge Foundation for Peace
Cambridge Foundation for Peace is a US-based foundation that actively works to promote peace and reconciliation in conflicted regions of the world, including the US itself. It has worked extensively in the Balkans, Greece, Eastern Europe, Israel, sponsoring conferences, publications, and educational materials designed to expand peace-building capacities, political, ethnic, racial and religious tolerance. Its work has been funded by the US, British, Canadian, German, and Greek governments, the United Nations, and the Episcopal, Methodist, Congregational, and Presbyterian church.