

Abstracts

Roots and dynamics of the Asian crisis

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Though the early 90's financial liberalisation in Asia weakened most of the growth regimes in the area, the 1997-1998 crisis stems from structural imbalances of different nature. Thailand and Korea were, to this point, in full opposition to one another. While a classical asset price bubble hit the first country, the other experienced overinvestment in underperforming export industries. Accordingly, spillovers and resolution mechanisms should have been very different for the two countries. In both of them, weak banking system with large foreign exchange exposures, as bursting out, developed banking crises into balance of payment crises. The deepening of financial systems fragilities then homogenised the economic collapse of the area through a self-fulfilling dynamic. Initial misunderstandings on the nature of the crisis amongst officials amplified dramatically the adjustment costs for Asian countries. The analysis of spillover channels, through which the crisis spread out, clearly underlines the peculiar complexity of managing a major private international debt crisis. On the domestic side, the most affected countries have to restructure as quickly as possible their whole economies institutional framework, henceforth a major risk of stalemate. On the international field, Asian crises proved the deficiency of the present international monetary and financial system in tackling promptly systemic disorders. Without a clearly specified international lender of last resort in this part of the world, a second wave of foreign exchange crises could extend largely outside Asia. Indeed, the favourable conjunction of economic circumstances that helped contain deflation risks amongst Asian countries could well disappear.

**Chasing the Ghost of the System:
International Political Economy and the French school of regulation**

Ronen PALAN

The essay maintained that there are useful synergies between the regulationist approach and the emerging field of IPE, indeed, critical IPE relies heavily on the insight of the early regulationists. However, such synergies are not to be found in the currently espoused link between mainstream IPE of Krasner and Gilpin and the French school of regulation. I argue that such link has locked the regulationist approach into a largely outdated concept of national mode of regulation, whereas a different interpretation of the relationship between the regulationist approach and IPE offers an interesting interpretation of the processes and the character of the new phase which we call globalisation. A regulationist reading of the processes of globalisation is possible, however, only within a theory that does not differentiate between the domestic and the international but treats them as dimensions of an holistic theory of change.

The theory of regulation and international regimes

Gérard KÉBABDJIAN

This article sums up the present situation concerning works in «international political economy» concerning «international regimes», that is, institutions intended to stabilise conflicts in different fields of international relations (money or trade regimes for instance). This works tend to explain why and how some only partly complete structures do appear, alter, and can disappear in the field of international economy. In spite of their great interest, such analyses reach a limit since they examine international regimes as an autonomous sphere where organisations concerning inter-states or inter-national relations function separately from «intra-national» situations. Such a point of view do not allow a good understanding of some fundamental dynamics of world economy and national economies. Bringing this approach closer to the French theory of regulation appears rather disappointing, for, unlike it, this later theory is centred on national forms of regulation, neglecting the heavyweight of different determinants playing a role at an international level. The article explores the ways of overtaking the dichotomic model of national versus international structures and suggests different ways to renew usual conceptions of international regimes and regulation.

Structural forms and growth regimes of the post-fordist era

Pascal PETIT

The objective of the paper is to set up a theoretical analysis of the contemporary institutional changes in order to characterise a post-fordist growth regime. One starts to recall some stylised facts about the present growth regime and to comment the main theoretical tools provided by the Regulation theory. The framework of analysis of institutional change that we derive insist on the predominance at each period of one of the five structural forms that are distinguished. As did the dynamics of institutional changes in the wage labour relationships in the previous period, to-day's evolutions in the forms of competition (broadly taken) condition all institutional changes. This gives us a general grid to define the fabric of a post-fordist regime. Still differences in history and structures leave room for sizeable differentiation in the national trajectories of the developed economies, all the more so that competition between nation States much prevent them to launch the structural policies that would be relevant with the new regime.

Profit sharing: Relevance at the firm level and macroeconomic validity

Xavier RAGOT, Jean-Philippe TOUFFUT

A remarkably strong interest in profit sharing salary policies emerged throughout the nineties. An increasing number of researchers has espoused a positive view of «Profit-Related-Pay»: how virtuous is it really? In a monographic study, we first argue that both the firm and its employees can derive an advantage from a remuneration policy where profit sharing is an additional source of income. However, the generalisation of such a policy faces the problem of an economy's response to exogenous macro-economic shocks. Depending on the elasticity of consumption to revenues, the impact of profit sharing can indeed be negative on salaries and employment, and increase fluctuations.