



**THE EVOLUTION INSTITUTE**  
UNDERSTANDING AND IMPROVING THE HUMAN CONDITION

*Quality of Life Workshop Participants: University of Memphis, November 2011*

**Erik Angner**

Dr. Angner is Associate Professor of Philosophy and Economics as well as Director of the Philosophy and Political Economy (PPE) Program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. From January 2012, he will be Associate Professor of Philosophy, Economics, and Public Policy at George Mason University. Erik studies notions of rationality and well-being, and how they can be illuminated by recent advances in decision theory and behavioral decision research. Much of his research involves exploring the philosophical assumptions implicit in contemporary social and behavioral science, and what reflection on these assumptions can tell us both about the assumptions themselves and the nature of the scientific enterprises of which they are part. He is especially interested in what the recent enthusiasm for so-called subjective measures of well-being – that is, measures designed to represent individuals' happiness, satisfaction, and so on – and the “science of happiness” – the body of work inspired by these measures – might entail for the way in which we conceptualize, value, measure, and pursue well-being.

**Stephen Bezruchka**

Dr. Bezruchka is Professor of Public Health at the University of Washington, Seattle and a US representative of the Equality Trust Organization. Stephen works with the Department of Global Health MPH program. He has spent over 10 years in Nepal working in various health programs, and teaching in remote regions. He tries to draw attention to the socioeconomic determinants of the health of populations.

## **Sarah Cook**

Dr. Cook is Director of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development. Sarah has been the Director of UNRISD since November 2009. Prior to joining The Institute, she directed the multi-country 'Social Protection in Asia' research programme for the University of Sussex's Institute of Development Studies, where she had been a research fellow since 1996. In addition to her position at IDS, Cook was a Program Officer at the Ford Foundation's Beijing office from 2000 to 2005. She received her PhD in Public Policy from Harvard University. Cook is both a development economist and a China specialist. Her research has focused principally on the social and distributional impacts of economic reform in China. Recent work includes research on gender and informal employment in China, dimensions of China's social policy reforms, and the rise of China as a development actor.

## **Pastor Daniel Dean, Sr.**

Mr. Dean moved from his native country of Jamaica at age nine to Miami, where he received his public education through high school. He spent several summers working for his father's commercial construction company, eventually attaining the status of an ironworker journeyman and becoming familiar with most aspects of construction prior to moving to Tampa in 1999. After moving to Tampa, Daniel established two non-profit, 501(c)(3) organizations. One is Project NOW Intergenerational Outreach, Inc., which addresses community outreach – including affordable housing. The City of Tampa has identified the quality and style of the units built by this company as exemplary. The other non-profit, Bible Truth Ministries, provides multiple services to the community where the church, school, and community center are located. Daniel has dedicated much of his life in service to others in seeking a fairer and more just society for all people.

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## **Kathryn Hicks**

Dr. Hicks received her Ph.D. in anthropology from Northwestern University in 2008. Her dissertation was based on 10 months of fieldwork in a primarily indigenous city in Andean Bolivia and explored the relationship between access to culturally meaningful social support and women's health; in particular, body composition and immune function. Broadly, Dr. Hicks is interested in integrating evolutionary and political economic approaches in biological anthropology by exploring how culturally constructed inequality affects human biology. She is currently working in collaboration with several University of Memphis faculty and students on the social and nutritional impact of the new South Memphis Farmers Market. She is also working on an interdisciplinary project addressing the relationship between chronic stress and social movement mobilization in El Alto, Bolivia.

## **Stanley Hyland**

Dr. Hyland is currently the Head of the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Memphis and Professor in the Department of Anthropology. Stan received his doctoral degree from the University of Illinois in cultural anthropology. In 2005 he received the University of Memphis' Excellence in Engaged Scholarship Award and currently holds the Faudree Professorship. He serves on several community boards including The Urban Child Institute. Since coming to the University of Memphis in 1976, Stan has worked with numerous governmental agencies, nonprofits, and community based organizations in a variety of community economic development initiatives. Stan has served as coordinator for several comprehensive regional and city-wide strategic planning efforts. In 1988-1990 he directed research for the federal commission on the economic development of the lower Mississippi Delta region, chaired by then governor, Bill Clinton. In

1998-99 he coordinated the University of Memphis collaborative effort with the Memphis Housing Authority's Transformation of Public Housing Initiative.

### **Edward A. Johnson**

Mr. Johnson began his 42-year public/private career in 1963 by joining the Air Force, where he spent 20 years. Following his retirement, Mr. Johnson began attending evening classes at the University of Tampa while working as a salesman and store manager at the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management in 1987. In 1990, he accepted a position with NCNB National Bank of Florida, N.A., where his commitment to community service was rewarded with the 1995 NationsBank Corporate Leadership Excellence In Neighborhood Development (LEND) Award for his efforts in East Tampa. He was employed by SouthTrust Bank for seven years as the West Coast Regional Manager for Community and Business Development, and he has been employed as the City of Tampa Urban Development Manager for East Tampa for the past eight years.

### **Katherine Lambert-Pennington**

Dr. Lambert-Pennington received her Ph.D. in anthropology and a certificate in African and African American Studies from Duke University in 2005. Her teaching, research, and community engagement focuses on identity, social inequality, power, community building, and social justice in Australia and the United States. Since 2008 she has helped coordinate a multi-disciplinary research team currently engaged in two projects focusing on the dynamics of power and inequality in neighborhood redevelopment processes. The South Memphis Revitalization

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Action Plan Project (SoMe RAPP) and the Vance Avenue projects are collaborations between a team of faculty and students from the

University of Memphis and with community stakeholders, primarily residents and local institutional leaders to produce redevelopment plans for these neighborhoods that are driven by local voices and visions.

### **Jerome Lieberman**

Dr. Lieberman is past president of the Humanists of Florida Association and co-founder of the Evolution Institute. Before retiring, Jerry served as a university professor and administrator. He also was the principal of an investment banking company and an importer with the former Soviet Union. He has served on numerous government and corporate boards and has raised over \$100 million from public and private resources to support activities that elevate QOL measures in depressed neighborhoods. He was a HUD Community Opportunity Partnership Center director at the University of South Florida when Ken Reardon, while at the University of Illinois, was the director of an equivalent program in East St. Louis. Stan Hyland and David Cox were concurrently co-directors of COPC at the University of Memphis before David became HUD's national director, with whom Jerry worked closely.

### **Virginia “Gin” Kohl Lieberman**

Dr. Kohl taught biology and chemistry in Chapel Hill, NC during the progressive 1970s, was a stay-at-home mom and a public school volunteer during the regressive 1980s, and attended graduate school in the 1990s, earning a master's degree in Journalism Studies and a doctorate in Communication from the University of South Florida. Prior to assuming responsibilities as the Humanists of Florida Association's executive director in January 2010, Gin spearheaded a number of initiatives for at-risk student education in Tampa that includes authorship of the educational programs for the Carl Sagan Academy, which opened in 2005 as the first Humanist charter school in the nation, and two Department of Education GEAR-UP (Gaining Early Awareness

and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) grants in 1999 and 2002.

### **Nancy Martin**

Dr. Martin serves on the board of the Evolution Institute and leads an active retired life as a grandmother, volunteer and board member for LEDA and Red Butte Gardens (SLC, UT). Previously, Nancy was an independent consultant having retired gracefully at age 65. Her main consulting activity involved a retainer with Warburg Pincus for whom she performed technology due diligence and technology consulting. Prior to joining Warburg Pincus, she was Vice President for Research and Development for MCI Systemhouse. Additionally, Nancy was executive director for Advanced Technology for Melville Corporation, a partner with Coopers & Lybrand where she directed advanced technology nationally, and CEO and founder of SoftPert Systems. As an academic, she was founding professor of Software Engineering at Wang Institute of Graduate Studies and Visiting Professor of Computer Science at Stanford University as well as tenured professor and department chair at University of Michigan (Flint) and tenured Associate Professor at University of New Mexico. In the mid-70s, Nancy was cofounder of the New Mexico Network for Women in Science and Engineering. An organization dedicated to mentoring young girls and women in their academic choices, this organization remains strong today. She received a B.A. in mathematics (with distinction) from Stanford University and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan in Computer and Communication Science.

### **Daniel Nettle**

Dr. Nettle is Professor of Psychology at Newcastle University. Daniel is a behavioral scientist interested in applying ideas from ecology and evolution to human behaviour. He has worked on such topics as cooperation, reproductive decisions, parenting and

families, personality, and health. His research uses theoretical modelling, as well as behavioural data from several countries, especially the UK. He is currently working on socioeconomic inequalities in contemporary Britain.

### **Kenneth M. Reardon**

Dr. Reardon is the director of the Graduate Program in City and Regional Planning, and co- director with Katherine Lambert-Pennington of the South Memphis Revitalization Action Plan Project (SoMe RAPP) and the Vance Avenue project. He came to Memphis from Cornell University where he served as an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of City and Regional Planning. Ken is a nationally renowned expert in community organizing, community- based neighborhood planning, and university-community partnerships. He received the American Institute of Certified Planners President's Award for his role in establishing and directing the highly-regarded East St. Louis Action Research Project and more recently has been involved in recovery planning for New Orleans' Ninth Ward in collaboration with a group of planning students.

### **Laura Saija**

Dr. Saija received her Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning and Design at the University of Catania, where she also worked as full time researcher while teaching environmental and historic preservation planning studios. Since 1995 has collaborated to Participatory Action Research projects carried out by the Laboratory of Environmental and Ecological Design (LabPEAT), University of Catania. Currently, she is carrying out as Primary Investigator a 3-year-long research project comparing University of Catania, Italy and University of Memphis, TN, USA scholarships of engagement with distressed communities.

### **Richard R. Shaker**

Dr. Shaker's main scientific investigation is in the realm of human-landscape co-evolution and global ecology. As *Homo sapiens* continues to stretch the Earth beyond its bio-capacity, it is integral to elucidate their patterns and processes in space and/or time. My past research has actively investigated the interaction between natural and social systems. Projects include the investigation of aquatic ecological stressors, investigation and implementation of sustainable urban/landscape design, spatial crime analysis and risk mapping, geomorphological processes and susceptibility mapping, and non-point pollution modeling. Due to the rapid advances in geospatial technology, I have worked remotely on domestic and international projects. Furthermore, I have been involved with or conducting field research in the Upper Mississippi and Great Lakes Watersheds, and Romania and the Republic of Moldova in Eastern Europe. Integrating Internet 2.0 technology and scientific theory from landscape sciences, macroecology, and evolutionary biology, my future research looks at real time sustainable development indicators for "movie mode" hypotheses testing.

### **Joseph Sirgy**

Dr. Sirgy is Professor of Marketing and Virginia Real Estate Research Fellow at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and he is Editor-in Chief Journal of Applied Research in Quality of Life. Joseph has published extensively in the area of quality-of-life research and has

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been invited frequently by academic institutions and conferences as a distinguished scholar to speak on quality-of-life issues in relation to business, philosophy, measurement, and public policy.

### **Peter Turchin**

Dr. Turchin is Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Connecticut. Peter was trained as a population

biologist and is now applying his theoretical and empirical skills to develop the field of Cliodynamics – the quantitative study of human history. His books include *Historical Dynamics: Why States Rise and Fall* and *War and Peace and War: The Life Cycle of Imperial Nations*.

### **David G. Westendorff**

Dr. Westendorff is Associate Professor of City and Regional Planning and Director of the University of Memphis Mid-Sized Cities Policy Research Institute. Prior to joining the University of Memphis faculty in 2010, David spent the previous decade in Beijing and Shanghai China, where he founded in 2006 China's first public interest consulting firm, Urban China Partners to disseminate information about public participation in urban planning and governance. He also worked frequently with international organizations and foundations, connecting domestic and European universities seeking to establish research programs with Chinese counterparts. Throughout the 1990s, David served as a research coordinator at the Geneva –based United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD). There he was responsible for global research on urban governance, focusing principally on community based action research projects undertaken by low-income communities seeking to enhance the quality of life in communities that were frequently left entirely to their own devices to protect life, livelihoods and community.

### **David Sloan Wilson**

Dr. Wilson is SUNY Distinguished Professor of Biology and Anthropology at Binghamton University. He applies evolutionary theory to all aspects of humanity in addition to the rest of life, both in his own research and as director of [EvoS](#), a unique campus-wide evolutionary studies program that recently received NSF funding to expand into a [nationwide consortium](#). His books include [Darwin's Cathedral: Evolution, Religion, and the Nature of](#)

Society, Evolution for Everyone: How Darwin's Theory Can Change the Way We Think About Our Lives, and The Neighborhood Project: Using Evolution to Improve My City, One Block at a Time. Wilson's background makes him ideally suited to direct the Evolution Institute.

### *Quality of Life Community of Interest*

**Andrei Abramov**- Principal Social Affairs Officer in the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women at the United Nations.

**Andrew Clark**- Professor of Economics at Paris School of Economics.

**Alex C Michalos**- Professor Emeritus at The University of Manitoba and Director, Institute for Social Research and Evaluation

**Lesley Newson**- Research Fellow, School of Psychology at Exeter University

**Jonathan Rowson**- Associate Director, Connected Communities, Social Brain, Royal Society for the encouragement of the Arts, Manufacturing and Commerce

**James Gustave "Gus" Speth**- Dean of the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University