Contributors

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Bob Davidson is a researcher and private consultant who has had extensive experience in the government, community, and corporate sectors in Australia across a range of economic, social, and environmental fields. He has held senior positions with national and state government agencies, government business enterprises, and as an adviser to ministers. He couples the management of his company that specializes in policy, program and organizational development and review, with conducting academic research. His current research at the Social Policy Research Centre (University of New South Wales), Australia, is concerned with the economics of human services and organizational theory and practice.

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Frederic S. Lee died from lung cancer while completing this edited volume, holding the post of Professor of Economics at the University of Missouri–Kansas City, USA. A major figure in the foundation of heterodox economics, his research interests were heterodox microeconomic theory, heterodox production and price models, and the history of heterodox economics. He was the author of Post Keynesian Price Theory (Cambridge University Press, 1998), A History of Heterodox Economics (Routledge, 2009), and in recent years published articles in the Cambridge Journal of Economics, Journal of Post Keynesian Economics, Review of Political Economy, Journal of Economic Issues, Review of Social Economy, Review of Radical Political Economy, American Journal of Economics and Sociology, Bulletin of Political Economy, and other heterodox journals. Finally, he was the founder and editor of the Heterodox Economics Newsletter and the editor of the American Journal of Economics and Sociology.

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Dedication

The first editor of this Handbook, Professor Frederick S. Lee, died during the final stages of its preparation, following the rapid onset of lung cancer. The Handbook represents the culmination of a tenacious academic career engaging thousands of economists in a project to construct a heterodox alternative to the aggressive monolithism of orthodox economics.

Fred had an infectious enthusiasm and doggedness in his heterodox mission; he is remembered by colleagues for his firm opinions solidly grounded in a broad interdisciplinarity yet thorough scholarship; by his students for his generous, inspirational teaching and mentoring; and by his opponents for his tenaciousness. He was not content to be an armchair academic but built institutions to carry heterodox research and teaching forward independently of any individuals. He established the Association of Heterodox Economics, originally conceived as a fringe event at the Royal Economic Association, in 1999; the Heterodox Economics Newsletter in 2004; he served on the boards of numerous heterodox organizations and journals; and documented the growth of the movement in his History of Heterodox Economics (Lee, 2009). In his last weeks, he fondly recalled lines from the ballad of ‘Joe Hill’: ‘Says Joe, “What they forgot to kill/Went on to organize . . .”’ (Hayes and Robinson 1936).

Fred saw the future of heterodox economics in the emerging generations of graduate students and always went out of his way to welcome new faces at the various heterodox conferences worldwide. There are numerous accounts of conference newbies being approached by Fred with the question, ‘What have you brought here?’ On hearing of his cancer diagnosis, Fred’s reaction was not to wallow in regret but to immediately establish a Heterodox Economics Scholarship Fund, to support graduate student studies in heterodox economics: http://heterodoxnews.com/leefs/fsl-scholarship.

The Handbook of Research Methods and Applications in Heterodox Economics was a vitally important project for Fred in this context; graduate student access to mixed methods training was critical to challenging the monolithic hand of orthodox econometric modeling. A Handbook with a solid introduction to a wide range of methods would provide tools for emergent heterodox economists to find their own way in the absence of formal training programs, and to spur the development of mixed methods training in existing programs.

I am greatly honored to have worked with Fred in the past and on this final project.

Bruce Cronin

REFERENCES

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