
Editorial: A tribute to Fred Lee

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Biographical notes: Jack Reardon is a Professor in the School of Business at Hamline University. His research interests include energy and the environment, economic education and labour economics. His most recent book, *The Handbook of Pluralist Economics Education*, was published by Routledge in 2009. He is currently writing a principles of economics textbook to be published by Pluto Press in 2015.

1 Introduction

In Hemingway's (1954[1926]) p.136) *The Sun Also Rises*, the narrator, Jake Barnes, notes the difference between bullfighters with passion and those without,

“Aficion means passion. An aficionado is one who is passionate about the bull-fights. All the good bull fighters stayed at Montoya's hotel; that is, those with aficion stayed there. The commercial bull-fighters stayed once, perhaps and then did not come back. The good ones came each year. In Montoya's room there were photographs. The photographs were dedicated to Juanito Montoya or to his sister. The photographs of bull-fighters Montoya had really believed in were framed. Photographs of bull-fighters who had been without aficion Montoya kept in a drawer of his desk. They often had the most flattering inscriptions. Bu they did not mean anything. One day Montoya took them all out and dropped them in the waster-basket. He did not want them around.”

Fred Lee had aficion and passion – a passion for justice that was highly contagious. Fred's passion influenced my life's work, and pushed me in the direction of reformation of economics education – a direction I might not have gone without Fred's influence. Those with passion – those whose ‘photographs deserved to be framed’, are special; they are unique, for they influence us, they continue to influence us, and will influence future generations. I can think of no better compliment than to say that because of Fred, I am a more passionate teacher, a better political economist, and a more passionate human being.

I wrote the following tribute to Fred in the preface to my book, *The Handbook of Pluralist Economics Education* (Reardon, 2009) which not only was intellectually influenced by Fred, but he was immensely helpful in getting the book published,

“All pluralist economists owe a debt of gratitude to Fred Lee, an energetic unifier of the many diverse fields of heterodox economics. Fred is synonymous with the International Confederation of Associations for Pluralism in Economics (ICAPE), founded in 1993, with its guiding principle, “Pluralism and intellectual progress are complements. This is not to say ‘anything goes’, but that each tradition of thought ... adds something unique and valuable to economic scholarship.”

My debt to Fred, however, runs much deeper. I first met Fred in 2005 at the Western Social Science Association Annual Conference in Albuquerque. In addition to presenting my own paper, “Quantum Physics for Economics”, I had the daunting task of discussing Fred’s paper, “Teaching Graduate Neoclassical Microeconomics from a Heterodox Perspective”, in a panel session on economic education. What novel suggestions and/or criticisms could I, a relative unknown, possibly offer this giant of heterodox education?

Stuck in airport traffic on the way to the Conference, I developed the idea for this book as a logical outgrowth of Fred’s paper. At least for me, it was a long but productive traffic jam!

Fred’s already significant contribution does not stop there, however. After reading my initial proposal for this book, which I presented at the 2007 ICAPE Conference in Salt Lake City, Fred tersely said, “You know, this is not a book proposal”. Nevertheless, he offered helpful suggestions and was instrumental in landing Routledge as the publisher. Many, many thanks to Fred.” [Reardon, (2009), p.5]

When I began conceptualising the *IJPEE* as a new journal in economics education, Fred was one of the first people I asked to be on the Board of Editors. His commitment and presence was pivotal in Inderscience’s decision to accept my proposal.

In Fred’s honour, I am establishing the *IJPEE* Fred Lee Honorary Editorial Board Member, and given Fred’s passion for education I would like this position held by a student.

I have had the privilege of meeting numerous students throughout the world passionately committed to the reformation of economics, so selecting one student is difficult. Nevertheless, I select Hoang Nguyen, one of the founders of the Rethinking Economics. I had the privilege of meeting Hoang at the Rethinking Economics Conference in London in 2014, and was impressed by his enthusiasm, erudition, willingness to learn and his passion for the reformation of economics. I look forward to working with him on the *IJPEE* Editorial Board.

In addition, within the auspices of the *IJPEE*, I would like to establish the Pluralist Hall of Fame. The main requisite for induction is a passion for education and a passionate commitment to pluralist reform. As I wrote in the conclusion to my *Handbook* [Reardon, (2009), p.225], “Education is one of the most important endeavors we can do for us ourselves, our children and the planet”. Fred Lee easily meets and surpasses this requisite; and it is an honour for me to induct Fred as our first member.

I am thankful that I knew Fred; and I am thankful that his passion, his aficion, has made me a better person.

References

- Hemingway, E. (1954[1926]) *The Sun Also Rises*, Scribners, New York.
 Reardon, J. (2009) *The Handbook of Pluralist Economics Education*, Routledge, London.