

THE SCOTTISH POLITICAL ECONOMY TRADITION PROJECT

1. Purpose

The **overall aim** of this project is

to contribute to a re-orientation of economic studies in Scotland and elsewhere by drawing on important elements of a Scottish tradition in such work.

We set out to further that aim by exploring the nature, history and current and future relevance of the Scottish political economy tradition (SPET). This involves a number of strands of enquiry:

- Consideration of what is entailed in a tradition
- study of the work of the early Scottish political economists and the environment which conditioned their approach to the subject
- study of the subsequent development of the subject in Scotland and in the work of those trained in Scotland
- chronicling of the institutional/cultural [especially educational] context within which economics has been taught and practiced in Scotland
- assessing the degree to which SPET is still in evidence, in Scotland and in other national traditions influenced by the Scottish tradition
- examining the relationship between SPET and the policy application of theory
- examining the relationship between the philosophy of science implicit in SPET and modern methodological debates
- pursuing economic studies ourselves which draw on the SPET

Crucial to this programme of work is the dissemination of our findings through the formal channels of seminar and conference presentations and of academic publication in journal and book form; through teaching; and through web-based resources.

2. Personnel

Lead researchers:

Professor A C Dow, Glasgow Caledonian Business School; Senior Research Fellow of SCEME

Professor S C Dow, Department of Economics, University of Stirling; Director of SCEME

A Hutton, Glasgow Caledonian Business School; Senior Research Fellow of SCEME

Research assistance: M Keaney (1994-96) and J Donald (1997), (1997-98)

Editorial assistance: J Donald (1997), (1997-98); A Nye (1998); K Taylor-Duncan (1998-9)

3. *Outputs*

A. Refereed Publications:

Dow SC (1987) 'The Scottish Political Economy Tradition', *Scottish Journal of Political Economy*, 34.4. 335-48]

Dow A, Dow A & Hutton A (1997) 'The Scottish political economy tradition and modern economics' *Scottish Journal of Political Economy* 44 (4) Sept, 368-383

Dow A, Dow S, Hutton A & Keaney M (1998) 'Traditions in economics: the case of Scottish political economy' *New Political Economy* 3(1) March. 45-58

Hutton A (1998) 'The Relation between Old and New Institutionalism' in O'Hara, P (ed) *Encyclopedia of Political Economy*, Routledge, 532-535

Dow A, Dow S, Hutton A & Keaney M (1998) 'John Rae and the Scottish Political Economy Tradition' in O Hamouda, C Lee and D Mair (eds) *The Economics of John Rae* London: Routledge, 243-58.

Dow, S (1999) 'Rationality and Rhetoric in Smith and Keynes', in R Rossini, G Sandri and R Scazzieri (eds), *Incommensurability and Translation*. Aldershot: Elgar, 189-200.

Keaney M & Hutton A (2000) 'Devolved politics in a globalising economy: the economic significance of the Scottish Parliament' *Journal of Economic Issues* XXXIV (2) June, 463-470

Dow AC, Dow SC and Hutton A (2000) 'Applied Economics in a Political Economy Tradition: The Case of Scotland from the 1890s to the 1950s', *History of Political Economy*, 32 (Annual Supplement), 177-98

Dow, S (2001) 'Hume: A Re-assessment', in R Scazzieri, P L Porta and A S Skinner (eds), *Knowledge, Division of Labour and Social Institutions*, Elgar

Dow, S (2002) 'Interpretation: The Case of Hume', *History of Political Economy*, 34.2, 399-420.

Dow AC & Dow SC (2002) 'The relevance of historical experience for economics' in P.Arestis, M.Desai and S.Dow (eds.) *Methodology, Microeconomics and Keynes* London: Routledge

Dow, S (2002) 'Hume and Critical Realism', *Cambridge Journal of Economics*, 26.6, 683-97.

Dow AC, Dow SC & Hutton A (2003) 'Thomas Chalmers and the economics and

religion debate' in D Hum (ed.), *Faith, Reason and Economic* Winnipeg: St John's College Press

Dow AC (2004) 'James Anderson', in *A Biographical Dictionary of British Economists* Rutherford D (ed) Thoemmes Press

Hutton A (2004) 'James Bonar' in *A Biographical Dictionary of British Economists* Rutherford D (ed) Thoemmes Press

Hutton A (2004) 'Sir Robert Giffen' in *A Biographical Dictionary of British Economists* Rutherford D (ed) Thoemmes Press

Hutton A (2004) 'WR Scott' in *A Biographical Dictionary of British Economists* Rutherford D (ed) Thoemmes Press

Hutton A (2004) 'William Smart' in *A Biographical Dictionary of British Economists* Rutherford D (ed) Thoemmes Press

B. Forthcoming:

Dow A & Dow S (eds) *A History of Scottish Economic Thought* London: Routledge (2005 Forthcoming) to include:

Dow A and Dow S, 'Introduction'

Dow A & Hutton A 'Economics in the Scottish Universities at the end of the nineteenth century'

Hutton A 'Applied economics in the twentieth century'

Dow S 'Postscript'

Dow SC 'Smith's Philosophy and Economic Methodology' in J Young (ed.), *Elgar Companion to Adam Smith* (Edward Elgar, forthcoming)

C. Conference/Seminar Presentations:

Keaney M, Hutton A, Dow A, Dow S 'The Scottish Tradition of Political Economy: Discourse, Persuasion and Society.' at *History of Economics Society* at University of Notre Dame Indiana, June 1995

Dow, S, 'Rationality and Rhetoric in Smith and Keynes', *Languages of Science Conference*, University of Bologna, October 1995

Dow A Dow S, Hutton A, & Keaney M 'Traditions in Economics: The Case of Scottish Political Economy' *Annual European Conference on the History of Economics*, Technical University of Lisbon, February 1996

- Hutton A, Keaney M Dow A 'Political Economy to Economics and Back Again?' *Dept of Economics Research Workshop GCU*, Dec. 1995
- Dow A, Dow S, Hutton A, & Keaney M 'The Scottish Political Economy Tradition and Economics in 20th Century Scotland', *History of Economic Thought Conference*, Durham University, Sept. 1996
- Dow A, Dow S, Hutton A, & Keaney M 'John Rae and the Scottish Political Economy Tradition' *John Rae Bicentenary Conference*, University of Aberdeen, March 1996
- Dow A, Dow S & Hutton A 'The Scottish political economy tradition' *Scottish Economic Society Annual Conference*, University of Stirling, April 1997
- Hutton A 'Appropriate economics education for business: the need for a return to political economy' Paper at *EDINEB Conference*, Napier University, Edinburgh, Sept 1997
- Dow S 'Hume: A Reassessment', European Society for the History of Economic Thought Conference, Bologna, March 1998
- Keaney M & Hutton A 'John Kenneth Galbraith and the Scottish Economy' *Scottish Economic Society Annual Conference*, Glasgow Caledonian University, April 1998
- Hutton A, Contribution to Roundtable on 'The Future of Economics in the Scottish Universities', *Scottish Economics Society Annual Conference*, Glasgow Caledonian University, April 1998
- Hutton A, 'The Scottish Political Economy Tradition Project: An Illustration of the Use of Oral History' *Contemporary History Workshop*, Glasgow Caledonian University, May 1998
- Dow, S 'Historical Reference: Hume and Critical Realism', *INEM/ROPE conference*, Durham, NH, June 1998.
- Dow, S 'Interpretation: The Case of David Hume', *History of Economics Society*, Montreal June 1998.
- Dow, A, Dow, S and Hutton, A, 'Applied Economics in a Political Economy Tradition: The Case of Scotland from the 1890s to the 1950s', *History of Political Economy Conference*, Durham, NC, March 1999.
- Dow, A, Dow, S and Hutton, A, Scottish Political Economy, 1850-1950, *History of Economics Society*, Greensboro, NC, June 1999

Dow, A, Dow, S and Hutton, A, 'Applied Economics in a Political Economy Tradition: The Case of Scotland from the 1890s to the 1950s' *Political Economy Research Interest Group*, Glasgow Caledonian University, October 1999

Keaney M & Hutton A 'Devolved politics in a globalising economy: the economic significance of the Scottish Parliament' Association For Evolutionary Economics Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, January 2000

Dow, S, 'Hume and Critical Realism', Critical Realist Workshop Reunion Conference, Cambridge, 5-7 May 2000

Dow S 'Hume and the Scottish Enlightenment: Two Cultures', History of Economic Thought Annual Conference, Kingston, September 2004

Dow, A, 'History in Specific Economic Approaches: a comparison of Scottish Political Economy and the Staples Approach', European Association of Evolutionary Political Economy Annual Conference, Crete: October, 2004

Dow, A and Hutton, A 'Economics in the Scottish Universities from the Late 19th century' Scottish Economic Society Annual Conference, Perth, March 2005

D. Discussion Papers:

Keaney M, Hutton A & Dow A (1995) 'Traditions in Economics: the case of Scottish Political Economy' *Dept of Econ Disc Paper, No 29*, Glasgow Caledonian University

Dow A, Dow S & Hutton A (1998) 'The Scottish Political Economy Tradition: an alternative way for economics?' *Faculty of Business Working Paper No 4* Glasgow Caledonian University

Hutton A (1998) 'Economics in Undergraduate Education for Business: the need for a return to political economy' *Faculty of Business Working Paper No 5*. Glasgow Caledonian University

Dow, A, Dow, S and Hutton, A (1999) 'Applied Economics in a Political Economy Tradition: The Case of Scotland from the 1890s to the 1950s' *Faculty of Business Working Paper No 22*. Glasgow Caledonian University

E. Other:

Series of recorded interviews with the following Scottish Political Economists:

Sir Alexander Cairncross, Alan Peacock, Tom Johnston, Donald Winch,
Tom Wilson, Max Gaskin

A Dow, A Hutton, M Keaney (1995) Letter to the *Financial Times* (on what Adam
Smith really wrote), January 17th