

# **BIEN**

## **BASIC INCOME EARTH NETWORK**

### **NEWSFLASH 64 May 2011**

[www.basicincome.org](http://www.basicincome.org)

*The Basic Income Earth Network was founded in 1986 as the Basic Income European Network. It expanded its scope from Europe to the Earth in 2004. It serves as a link between individuals and groups committed to or interested in basic income, and fosters informed discussion on this topic throughout the world.*

The present NewsFlash has been prepared with the help of *Paul Nollen, Simon Birnbaum, Gwang-Eun Choi, David Casassas, Jurgen De Wispelaere, Joerg Drescher, Sandro Gobetti, Daniel Häni, Dirk Jacobi, Christina Lambrecht, Rubén Lo Vuolo, Jim Mulvale, Bernd Starkloff, Dorothee Schulte-Basta, Takeshi Suzuki, Philippe Van Parijs, Karl Widerquist, and Thérèse Davio.*

This NewsFlash can be downloaded as a PDF document on our website  
[www.basicincome.org](http://www.basicincome.org)

### **CONTENTS**

- 1. NEW! BIEN and affiliates launch Basic Income News**
  - 2. BIEN Congress 2012 will be held in Munich, Germany**
  - 3. New issue of Basic Income Studies**
  - 4. Basic income book series: call for proposals**
  - 5. Events**
  - 6. Glimpses of National Debates**
  - 7. Publications**
  - 8. New Links**
  - 9. About BIEN**
-

## ***1. NEW! BIEN and affiliates launch Basic Income News***

The latest BIEN NewsFlash was published in November 2010 (Flash 63). The present NewsFlash (64) is unusually late, but it includes some very good news for those committed to or interested in basic income: the **launch of a new website** entirely devoted to basic income news.

**Basic Income News** (<http://binews.org/>) is the online incarnation of the BIEN NewsFlash and affiliated publications, such as the USBIG Newsletter. The BIEN NewsFlash and its predecessor, the BIEN Newsletter, have been in publication since 1986. The USBIG Newsletter has been going since the year 2000. It is the creation of the U.S. Basic Income Guarantee Network (the USBIG Network), BIEN's affiliate in the United States (<http://www.usbig.net>).

Basic Income News began in the spring of 2011, when Joerg Drescher approached the editors of the BIEN and USBIG Newsletters about creating an online version of the basic income newsletters, in hopes that it would be more up-to-the minute and interactive.

**Basic Income News** can be found at <http://binews.org/>. This site will have frequently updated news stories about Basic Income around the world, provided initially by BIEN and USBIG. We hope soon that many more of BIEN's affiliates will contribute as well. If you have news about Basic Income that you think should be published in Basic Income News, please contact the editors at <desk@binews.org>. Make sure that the information you send is complete, reliable, and in accordance with copyright rules.

*Joerg Drescher (Webmaster of Basic income news)*

*Yannick Vanderborcht (Newsletter Editor of BIEN)*

*Karl Widerquist (Co-chair of BIEN, and Newsletter Editor of USBIG)*

## ***2. Next BIEN Congress to be held Munich, Germany, 14-16 September 2012***

In the past months, members of BIEN's Executive Committee have been meeting with the organizers of the next Congress, first in New York City (at the occasion of North American basic income conference in February 2011), then in Munich (March 16, 2011). The Congress will be held in Ottobrunn (near Munich), Germany, on September 14-16, 2012. A venue in Munich has already been reserved for up to 500 participants. There will be a pre-conference 'political' day has been set aside for September 13, 2012. For further information, please contact the organizers at: [kontakt@grundeinkommen.de](mailto:kontakt@grundeinkommen.de)

## ***3. BASIC INCOME STUDIES: NEW ISSUE***

*Basic Income Studies* (BIS) has announced the recent publication of one issue of the journal. The contents of the issue is below. BIS issues are available for free sampling at <http://www.bepress.com/bis>. Click the required article and follow the instructions to get free guest access to all BIS publications.

### **CONTENTS OF VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2 (2010)**

'Behavioral Economics and the Basic Income Guarantee' by Wesley J. Pech

**Abstract:** This article provides a critical discussion of the potential contributions behavioral economics makes to the idea of a Basic Income Guarantee (BIG). Behavioral economics suggests that the consequences of a basic income may be significantly different from the ones predicted by the Standard Economic Model. Three topics from this literature are analyzed and linked to the BIG idea: Prospect Theory, Motivation Crowding Theory, and Conspicuous Consumption. The article argues that a basic income may be efficiency enhancing under some conditions, but at the same time incentives related to positional concerns may increase wasteful expenditure following its implementation.

‘Working Through the Work Disincentive’ by Chandra Pasma

**Abstract:** The work disincentive appears to be one of the biggest obstacles to basic income. There are concerns about paying people for doing nothing and fears of people withdrawing from the labor market because they have income security. It is important therefore for basic income advocates to understand the arguments and assumptions underlying the work disincentive concerns in order to successfully counter them. This article considers the primary assumptions, including those about what motivates people to work, what activities count as good, job availability, the distinction between the disabled and those able to work, and whether it is wrong to pay people for doing nothing; this article also provides a critical assessment.

‘Basic Income and Social Value’ by Bill Jordan.

**Abstract:** This article suggests that the justification of basic income should take account of the evidence of a divergence between growing incomes and stagnating subjective well-being (SWB) in the affluent countries. It argues that this implies taking the debate outside the orthodox model of economic development and the strict methodological individualism adopted by Van Parijs and others. This demands more attention to social relations and an analysis in terms of the production of social value rather than utility and culture rather than contract.

*Research Note:* ‘Seigniorage as a Source for a Basic Income Guarantee’ by Nicolaus Tideman and Kwok Ping Tsang

**Abstract:** A basic income guarantee should be financed from a source to which all persons have equal rights. One such source is seigniorage, the profit from printing paper money. This article reports real seigniorage, measured in 2009 dollars, for the U.S. for the past 50 years. It averaged about \$175 per year per person over the age of 20. Thus seigniorage would not have been a major source for a basic income guarantee. But three caveats are in order. First, a practice of giving every adult an equal share of money would have meant a lifetime, interest-free loan of about \$4,000 per adult. Second, the Federal Reserve’s response to the crisis at the end of 2008 would have meant an additional loan of about \$3,400 per adult for the duration of the crisis. Third, a monetary system without fractional reserve banking would probably entail much greater seigniorage.

‘Review of Robert F. Clark, *Giving Credit Where Due: A Path to Global Poverty Reduction*’ by Edward Laws

‘Review of Loek Groot, *Basic Income, Unemployment and Compensatory Justice*’ by David J. Marjoribanks

#### ***4. Basic Income Book Series: Call for Proposals***

Palgrave-MacMillan Publishers has announced a new book series on Basic Income. They expect to publish two or three books per year starting within the next year or so. Books will be nonfiction monographs and edited volumes. They are currently accepting proposals from authors and editors with ideas for books for the series. The series announcement is repeated in full below:

Basic Income Guarantee Series Series Editors: Karl Widerquist, Visiting Associate Professor at Georgetown University-Qatar James Bryan, Professor of Economics at Manhattanville College, Michael A. Lewis, Associate Professor at Hunter College School of Social Work

Basic income is one of the most innovative, powerful, straightforward, and controversial proposals for addressing poverty and growing inequalities. A Basic Income Guarantee is designed to be an unconditional, government-ensured guarantee that all citizens will have enough income to meet their basic needs. The concept of basic, or guaranteed, income is a form of social provision and this series examines the arguments for and against it from an interdisciplinary perspective with special focus on the economic and social factors. There will be contributions from individuals in the fields of economics, philosophy, sociology, history, and social policy studies as well as from activists and practitioners in the field. By systematically connecting abstract philosophical debates over competing principles of basic income guarantee to the empirical analysis of concrete policy proposals, this series contributes to the fields of economics, politics, social policy, and philosophy and establishes a theoretical framework for interdisciplinary research.

The series will publish both high-quality monographs and edited collections. It will bring together international and national scholars and activists to provide a comparative look at the main efforts to date to pass unconditional basic income guarantee legislation across regions of the globe and will identify commonalities and differences across countries, drawing lessons for advancing social policies in general and BIG policies in particular. The series editors additionally are open to considering proposals that address other policy approaches to poverty and income inequality that relate to the Basic Income debate.

Karl Widerquist is a Visiting Associate Professor in philosophy at Georgetown University-Qatar. He is co-editor of *The Ethics and Economics of the Basic Income Guarantee* and co-author of *Economics for Social Workers*. He has published more than a dozen scholarly articles in the fields of economics, political theory, and philosophy. He is also an editor of the journal, *Basic Income Studies*. James Bryan is Associate Professor of Economics at Manhattanville College specializing in Microeconomic analysis of public policy, public finance, and economic education. Michael A. Lewis is Associate Professor at Hunter College School of Social Work with specific expertise in Quantitative Methods, Social Policy, and Civic Engagement. He is co-editor of *The Ethics and Economics of the Basic Income Guarantee* and co-author of *Economics for Social Workers*. We strongly encourage scholars, practitioners, and activists to send us proposals for books to be added to the series. Contact the series editors for the series proposal guidelines.

Karl Widerquist  
[karl@widerquits.com](mailto:karl@widerquits.com)

Laurie Harting  
Executive Editor Palgrave Macmillan 175 Fifth Avenue New York, New York 10010 (USA)  
[Laurie.Harting@palgrave-usa.com](mailto:Laurie.Harting@palgrave-usa.com)  
Distributor of Berg Publishers, I.B.Tauris, Manchester University Press, Pluto Press and Zed Books

## **5. EVENTS**

### **PAST EVENTS**

\* **SEOUL (KR)**, 28 December 2010: 2<sup>nd</sup> general meeting of BIKN

On 28 December 2010, the 2nd general meeting of BIKN was held in Seoul. The 1st general meeting was the inaugural one on 25 June 2009. Firstly, the opening addresses were given by Min Geum, chairperson of the BIKN steering committee, and No-Wan Kwack, chairperson of the BIKN studies committee, both of whom were newly appointed at the previous committee meeting. Secondly, about 30 committee members were introduced. Thirdly, vigorous activities of BIKN in 2009 and 2010 were reported briefly. Fourthly, it was notified that the life member system like BIEN's one was adopted by the committee. All those present were actively encouraged to become a life member of BIKN. As of December 2010, the number of BIKN members is 548. Lastly, the basic outline of the BIKN's plan for 2011, which is mainly focused on studies, courses, and organized activities, was simply explained. And this meeting ended with a year-end party.

BIKN website : <http://cafe.daum.net/basicincome>

\* **DELHI (IN)**, 22 January 2011: Lecture by Guy Standing.

In Delhi, India, on 22 January 2011, Guy Standing, co-president of BIEN, gave an invited lecture on why developing countries should move towards a basic income via unconditional cash transfers at the headquarters of UNICEF, telecast to seven State capitals around India. A week earlier, at the Indian International Centre in Delhi he presented with his co-authors a new book, *Social Income and Insecurity: A Study of Gujarat* (Routledge), at a public launch chaired by a leading member of the Indian Planning Commission. A major conclusion of that book is the need to move towards simple unconditional cash transfers instead of the complex array of means-tested selective schemes that are rife with corruption and inefficiency. For further information: <http://www.guystanding.com/>

\* **NAMUR (BE)**, 31 March 2011: Conference on the Universal Grant

This conference on basic income ("allocation universelle", or universal grant, in French) was organized by the Walloon federation of social assistance services (CPAS) and the Union of Walloon cities (UVCW). A panel of four speakers discussed the idea. Two proponents of basic income, Philippe Defeyt (Green Party and head of a social assistance service) and Yannick Vanderborght (Hoover Chair, UCLouvain), gave some of the main arguments in favour of a universal and unconditional basic income. Two representatives of Belgium's main trade unions, Anne Demelenne (FGTB) and Felipe Van Keirsbilck (CSC), explained why they were rather skeptical of the idea. For further information: [www.uvcw.be](http://www.uvcw.be)

\* **BERLIN (DE)**, May 2011: Strategies towards an alternative society

Academics, activists and practitioners will meet in Berlin in May to work on strategies towards an alternative, ecologically sustainable and socially equitable degrowth society. Not only will a lot of Basic Income supporters take part in the congress, but Netzwerk Grundeinkommen will present workshops as well. Already Barcelona's 2010 declaration of degrowth dealt with Basic Income.

<http://www.jenseits-des-wachstums.de/willkommen/?L=2>,

<http://www.degrowth.eu/v1/index.php?id=119>

### ***FORTHCOMING EVENTS***

\* **LINCOLN (UK)**, 4-6 July 2011: Citizen's income sessions

The Citizen's Income Trust (CIT), the British basic income network, is organizing several sessions at the Social Policy Association Conference to be held in Lincoln (UK). These sessions will be on all aspects of basic income, including one or two sessions that aim to provide a coherent social policy in which a basic income scheme provides a core. All participants must register with the SPA. Further details of the conference are available on [www.lincoln.ac.uk/conferences/SPA2011](http://www.lincoln.ac.uk/conferences/SPA2011). The conference starts with lunch on Monday July 4 and ends with lunch on Wednesday July 6. For more information, contact Annie Miller at: [info@citizensincome.org](mailto:info@citizensincome.org)

(From USBIG)

### ***6. GLIMPSES OF NATIONAL DEBATES***

\* **EUROPEAN UNION: EU-Parliament in favour of adequate minimum income**

In October 2010, the Parliament of the European Union has adopted a non-legislative resolution on the role of minimum income in combating poverty and promoting an inclusive society in Europe, partly thanks to the lobbying by several European Basic Income groups and networks, as well as by the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN). The resolution was adopted by 437 votes to 162, with 33 abstentions. The EU Parliament now urges Member States to establish a threshold for minimum income, based on relevant indicators that will guarantee social-economic cohesion, reduce the risk of uneven levels of remuneration for the same activities and lower the risk of having poor populations throughout the EU. Stressing the multifaceted nature of poverty, the EU-Parliament considers that minimum income schemes should be embedded in a strategic approach towards social integration, involving both general policies and targeted measures - in terms of housing, health care, education and training, social services - helping people to recover from poverty and themselves to take action towards social inclusion and access to the labor market. The Parliament also points out that some member States do not have minimum income systems and called on those that do not to provide them. The resolution underlines that introducing minimum income schemes - consisting of specific measures supporting people whose income is insufficient with a funding supply and facilitated access to services - is one of the most effective ways to combat poverty, guarantee an adequate standard of living and foster social integration. According to the EU-Parliament, adequate minimum income schemes must set minimum incomes at a level equivalent to at least "60% of average income in the Member State concerned" (*average*, not *median* income, whereas the EU official poverty line is at 60% of the median).

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/file.jsp?id=5845352>

\* **FRANCE: Former Prime Minister launches basic income campaign**

Former French Prime Minister (2005-2007) Dominique de Villepin is well-known for his opposition to the 2003 invasion of Iraq – at the time he was a Minister for Foreign Affairs. Many will remember his speech at the United Nations Security Council on Feb. 14, 2003, in front of US Secretary of State Colin Powell. Quite surprisingly, de Villepin has recently launched a basic income campaign, which is supposed to be a central feature of his electoral platform in prospect of the 2012 Presidential election.

For further details, see de Villepin's website at <http://www.republiquesolidaire.fr/>

#### **\* GREECE: Basic Pension Introduced**

On July 8, 2010, the Greek Parliament approved a basic pension. It is fixed at €360 per month in 2010 prices, paid 12 times a year, will be available with no means test to all those who lived in the country for 35 years between the ages of 15 and 65. It will be pro-rated for those who have lived in the country for less than that time, and available on a means-tested basis for others. The new program, of course, falls short of full universality, but this move could be a step toward a universal basic pension. An article on the creation of a basic pension in Greece will be published in the April 2011 issue of *Basic Income Studies*. Entitled, "Pathways to a Universal Basic Pension in Greece." It is written by Manos Matsaganis and Chrysa Leventi, both of the Athens University of Economics and Business.

#### **\* IRAQ: Muqtada al-Sadr Endorses Alaskan Policy**

USBIG reports that Muqtada al-Sadr, the militant Iraqi leader, has endorsed sharing Iraq's oil revenue among all Iraqis. Some observers speculate that he has been influenced by the idea, discussed widely by Americans early in the occupation, of establishing a program in Iraq based on Alaska's Permanent Fund Dividend. An article on Sadr's demand is online at: [www.informationclearinghouse.info/article27257.htm](http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article27257.htm)

#### **\* ITALY: Activist Movement for basic income**

The Italian Basic Income Network of Italy reports on recent struggles for a minimum guaranteed income in Italy. According to BIN Italia, the local government of the Lazio Region (which includes Rome) recently approved a law for an income guarantee for the unemployed and precarious. Funding for the new program has been inadequate, and there were demonstrations in Rome during November and December in favour of the measure.

For more information, go to: [http://www.bin-italia.org/informa.php?ID\\_NEWS=252](http://www.bin-italia.org/informa.php?ID_NEWS=252). This website can translate the text into more than a dozen languages.

- from USBIG

#### **\* KUWAIT: A Temporary, Partial basic income for Citizens Only**

According to USBIG, the Kuwaiti parliament has voted to distribute an unconditional cash grant of 1,000 dinars (\$3,580) and free essential food items to each of Kuwait's 1.155 million citizens for the next 14 months. The total cost of the package will be over \$5 billion. The cash will be paid on February 24. The distribution of food begins February 1 and lasts until March 31, 2012. This policy decision sounds more generous than it actually is. More than two-thirds of Kuwait's residents are not citizens and have no path to citizenship. The cash and food will not be distributed to the 2.4 million foreign residents in the country, and the needier residents tend to be among the foreigners working the country. For an article on the Kuwait

grant.

See:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20110126/wl\\_mideast\\_afp/kuwaiteconomygrant\\_20110126110550](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20110126/wl_mideast_afp/kuwaiteconomygrant_20110126110550)

**\* LATIN AMERICA: Head of UN Commission Says Several Latin America Countries Could Implement basic income**

USBIG reports that Martin Hopenhayn, head of the Social Development Division of the United Nations' Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) said that several Latin American countries are in the position in which they could introduce a universal basic income (UBI) for all citizens. In a recent interview with Dario Montero of *Inter Press Service News Agency*, Hopenhayn said that UBI would be an effective tool in fighting poverty and inequality. Although he believes that many conditions have to come together to make UBI feasible, and he believes it would take a major reform of the social benefit system to install it, he said that Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Costa Rica are in position to do so and Brazil is not far off. Montero's interview with Hoopenhayn is online at: <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=53793>

**\* UNITED STATES: American Political Science Association Task Force Will Discuss BIG**

USBIG reports that the *American Political Science Association* (APSA) has created a "Task Force on Democracy, Economic Security, and Social Justice in a Volatile World." This task force is charged to rethink some of the familiar assumptions about democracy, economic security, and social justice in light of recent social and economic trends. In particular, the Task Force will assess recent policy innovations in three broad, related areas: Basic Income, participatory budgeting and planning, and rights-based models of welfare and development. According to the task force's statement of purpose, Basic Income will fit into the study in the following way. "The task force will focus on the democracy-enhancing elements of the program and assess its potential as a tool for stimulating economic and democratic development [including as a model for foreign aid]. It will also address concerns about cost and implementation." On completion, the task force will produce a 20-30 page summary report (written for a broad audience,) op-ed pieces, press releases, other public outreach and an interactive web-site featuring in-depth research, working papers, discussion forums, wikis, relevant links, and other resources that will allow for meaningful public input from around the world. Thus the initial findings of the Task Force will mark the beginning rather than the end of its deliberations.

For more information about the task force, go to: [http://www.apsanet.org/content\\_74160.cfm](http://www.apsanet.org/content_74160.cfm)

For questions & comments about the task force, contact: Robert Hauck <[رهاuck@apsanet.org](mailto:رهاuck@apsanet.org)>, APSA deputy director and liaison to this task force.

**\* SWITZERLAND: A referendum on basic income?**

The Swiss initiative *Initiative Grundeinkommen* is focusing on preparatory operations for a referendum to launch a nationwide Basic Income. In Switzerland, federal popular initiatives are not subject to judicial review as they amend the federal constitution. Promoters of popular initiatives have 18 months to collect at least 100,000 signatures. If they succeed, the initiative is put before the Swiss citizenry in a national vote. Daniel Häni, Enno Schmidt together with the newly-established foundation *Stiftung Kulturimpuls* and *Agentur[mit]Grundeinkommen*



hope that a congress on Basic Income will be the next milestone in bringing Basic Income to the mind of a bedrock of people. The congress was held in Zurich on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Further information:

<http://www.bedingungslos.ch/>

<http://www.initiative-grundeinkommen.ch/>

<http://www.agenturmitgrundeinkommen.ch/>

<http://www.stiftung-kulturimpuls.ch/>

Nenad Stojanovic, a Zurich-based Political scientist and member of the Socialist party, also published a short note on the Swiss basic income debate in the Socialist monthly *Pages de gauche*, issue 96, February 2011. See <http://www.pagesdegauche.ch/>

## 7. PUBLICATIONS

<i>ENGLISH</i>
----------------

**BIRNBAUM, Simon (2010)**, 'Radical liberalism, Rawls and the welfare state: justifying the politics of basic income', *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*, 13(4): 495-516.

In response to recent policy trends towards linking social rights more tightly to work requirements, this article argues that those sharing Rawlsian commitments have good reasons to prefer a radical-liberal policy agenda with a universal basic income at its core. Compared to its main rivals in present policy debates, the politics of basic income has greater potential to promote the economic life prospects of the least advantaged in a way that provides a robust protection for the bases of social recognition and non-subservience. The argument seeks to establish that these concerns should be ascribed priority in the most plausible balancing of Rawlsian objectives and that doing so generates a strong case for basic income. As recent arguments for basic income have suggested that Rawls' theory is insufficient to make the case for such a reform, this analysis also demonstrates that a powerful argument for basic income can be built on Rawlsian foundations alone.

Author's email: [simon.birnbaum@statsvet.su.se](mailto:simon.birnbaum@statsvet.su.se)

**GAMEL, Claude, (2011)**, 'Basic income and ELIE transfers: Argument for compatibility despite divergence' in GAMEL, Claude & LUBRANO, Michel (eds.), 2011, *On Kolm's Theory of Macrojustice. A Pluridisciplinary Forum of Exchange*, foreword by Tony ATKINSON, Springer Verlag, 2011, 370 pages.

The theory of macrojustice, introduced by S.-C. Kolm, is a stimulating contribution to the debate on the macroeconomic income distribution. The solution called "Equal Labour Income Equalisation" (ELIE) is the result of a three stages construction: collective agreement on the scheme of labour income redistribution, collective agreement on the degree of equalisation to be chosen in that framework, individual freedom to exploit his-her productive capacities (the source of labour income and the sole basis for taxation). For example, by giving to society the market value of one day of their working week, the individuals pay a lump-sum tax, which varies from one individual to another only in terms of the productive capacities of the individual concerned. In return, they receive from society the average value of all incomes derived from this one working day.

This collective book is organised as a discussion around four complementary themes: philosophical aspects of macrojustice, economic analysis of macrojustice, combination of ELIE with other targeted transfers, econometric evaluations of ELIE. Gamel devotes chapter 5 (pp. 145-185) to the comparison between Van Parijs' book – *Real Freedom for All* (1995) – and Kolm's book – *Macrojustice* (2005) -. Despite being formally close, both propositions diverge because the financing of basic income is not really guaranteed and the treatment by ELIE transfers of “eccentric productive people” who choose not to work is not obvious. Both projects remain nevertheless compatible: from a philosophical point of view, Van Parijs tries to equalise individuals' “external endowments”, while Kolm exploits only their “internal endowments”; from an economic point of view, TECIE transfers which would be based on “external endowments” could thus complete ELIE transfers stemming from “internal endowments”. The first examination of this “hybridisation” provides the framework of a temporary conclusion.

Further information on line at:

<http://www.springer.com/economics/public+finance/book/978-3-540-78376-3>

**SEEKINGS, Jeremy & MATISONN, Heidi (2010)**, 'The Continuing Politics of Basic Income in South Africa', *Centre for Social Science Research Working Paper No. 286*, November 2010.

An excellent and up-to-date overview of the basic income discussion in South Africa. The paper is online at: <http://www.cssr.uct.ac.za/sites/cssr.uct.ac.za/files/pubs/WP286.pdf>

## **FRENCH**

**DE BENOIST, Alain (2011)**, 'Un revenu pour tous les citoyens?', *Éléments*, issue 138, March 2011, pp.28-35.

Alain de Benoist is one of the most prominent figures of the French "new right". Since a few decades, his controversial writings have dealt with political theory, sociology, literature, international affairs, and many other topics. This article is mainly aimed at giving an overview of the basic income discussion in France and beyond. De Benoist seems supportive of the idea.

See: <http://www.revue-elements.com/>

**MYLONDO, Baptiste (2011)**, *Un revenu pour tous. Précis d'utopie réaliste*, Paris: Les Editions Utopia.

A well-documented and well-balanced overview of the basic income discussion, which includes a detailed discussion of the most important objections to the idea. The book is published by "Utopia", a left-wing movement based in Paris.

See: <http://www.mouvementutopia.org/>

## **GERMAN**

**BLASCHKE, Ronald, OTTO, Adeline & SCHEPERS, Norbert (Eds.) (2010)**, *Grundeinkommen : Geschichte – Modelle – Debatten*, Berlin: Dietz, 2010.

The book, written by Germany's leading left-wing basic income supporters Ronald Blaschke, Adeline Otto and Katja Kipping, includes a detailed history of the idea of basic income as well as an overview about minimum income and basic income models, which are discussed in Germany right now. Blaschke draws a line from Thomas Paine and Thomas Spence about Charles Fourier and his student, Victor Considérant, to Erich Fromm, proving that fundamental questions related to basic income (means testing, basic income and public infrastructure, basic income and emancipation of female, basic income and attractive labour) have already been discussed by these protagonists. He also discusses some possibilities to determine a fourth criterion of basic income, which is required by the German Network of Basic Income (secure the individual's livelihood and enable them to participate in society), while Kipping discusses the relation of basic income and democracy and describes the basic income as a fixed rate for democracy. The last part contains articles of various international authors (José Iglesias Fernández, Spain/ Ruurik Holm, Finland/ Melina Klaus, Austria/ Sepp Kusstatscher, Italy) dealing with different approaches to a basic income from a left-emancipatory perspective.

The book can be downloaded as a PDF at:

[http://www.rosalux.de/fileadmin/rls\\_uploads/pdfs/Publ-Texte/Texte\\_67.pdf](http://www.rosalux.de/fileadmin/rls_uploads/pdfs/Publ-Texte/Texte_67.pdf)

**SCHULTE-BASTA, Dorothee (2010), *Ökonomische Nützlichkeit oder leistungsloser Selbstwert? Zur Kompatibilität von Bedingungslosem Grundeinkommen und Katholischer Soziallehre*, Freiburg: Zas, 2010.**

Catholic social teaching is a body of doctrine developed by the Catholic Church on matters of poverty, wealth, economics, labor, social organization and the role of the state. Its foundation has been laid by Pope Leo XIII's 1891 encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, and ever since then it is distinctive in its consistent critique of modern social and political ideologies both of the left and of the right. In her now published Master's thesis, Schulte-Basta, who studied Theology, Philosophy and Communications in Muenster and Berlin, analyzes this critique in terms of Basic Income, as one of the most popular alternative to a market-based form of organization. Analyzing the compatibility of Basic Income and Catholic Social Teaching, she gives a detailed overview in the history of Catholic Social Teaching in general and especially on the genesis of the key principles such as human dignity, solidarity and subsidiarity. In a second step she aligns their essence to the fundamental values of Basic Income. Her study finds that Basic Income does not contradict those key principles but instead helps to implement them by realizing human dignity, implementing solidarity in society and enabling people to help themselves. The book, first German-speaking overview on this topic, comes with a preface by Birgit Zenker, head of KAB, Germany's Catholic Workers Movement.

For further information:

<http://zas-freiberg.de/index.php/buecher/55-oekonomischenuetzlichkeit>

**WERNER, Götz W., GOEHLER, Adrienne (2010), *1.000 Euro für jeden: Freiheit. Gleichheit. Grundeinkommen*, Berlin: Econ, 2010**

In his new book Götz W. Werner, founder of the drugstore chain *dm*, together with Adrienne Goehler, former president of the Hamburg Art Academy and former culture senator of Berlin, describe radical social changes. Referring to American sociologist Jeremy Rifkin's 1995 book *The End of Work*, the authors argue that the advance of globalisation, automation and rationalisation has led to a post-industrial society in which production can no longer serve as

the basis of societal wealth. Economic growth, they assert, 'is a dead duck'. Instead, Goehler and Werner urge to focus on creativity as the only remaining, sustainably exploitable resource of the twenty-first century. This is why they argue for a basic income: to tap into this resource of creativity, while avoiding the social unrest that will come with the shortage of constant, paid work, requires everyone to be accorded a level of material security. The authors describe the insecure working conditions of the 'creative class', surviving on short-term contracts and project work, as the future for a society that has given up on the goal of well-paid and meaningful work for everyone. According to Goehler and Werner, only a minority of people will earn their money in secure, long-term work, the rest will be left to the fate currently endured by the creative class, the "vanguard of precarious conditions". Basic Income as a new model of state welfare distribution would replace the bureaucratic behavior-management regime of Hartz IV, based on the simple premise the state would pay everyone a basic income: €1000 for everyone, representing more than just a living wage and enabling people to participate in the cultural life of the society.

For further information:

[http://www.ullsteinbuchverlage.de/econ/buch.php?id=16976&page=suche&auswahl=a&page\\_num=1&page=buchaz&PHPSESSID=d87e75afe0fab634c220901665bc7520](http://www.ullsteinbuchverlage.de/econ/buch.php?id=16976&page=suche&auswahl=a&page_num=1&page=buchaz&PHPSESSID=d87e75afe0fab634c220901665bc7520)

### ITALIAN

**MURRA, Emanuele**, 'Basic income e modelli di giustizia sociale. Un confronto', *Rassegna di Teologia*, 51 (2010), pp. 607-628.

*Basic Income and Social Justice models. A comparison.* The proposal of basic income questioned established opinions regarding social justice and the dues of society to its members. In the article, the Author has tried to clarify how Basic Income could be considered a just policy, comparing it with the criteria of social justice elaborated by some of the most important philosophical traditions of the last century. The contents and the Italian abstracts of all the articles of the issue can be found at: [www.rassegnaditeologia.it](http://www.rassegnaditeologia.it)

### JAPANESE

**ITO, Makoto (2011)**, 'Verifying the Basic Income Concept: Its Potency and Extent' (*Basic Income-ron wo kensho-suru: sono kanosei to genkai*), in *Sekai* [The World], Vol. 814, March 2011, published by Iwanami Shoten.

Due to growing financial deterioration of the government and weakened family ties and company welfarism, "new poverty" (such as an increasing number of "working poor", single mothers and the elderly with low or no pension, etc., unable to respond to with existing social security schemes) is spreading in Japan. Against this situation, the Basic Income (BI) vision is drawing increasing attention. The interest in it, as for now, stays mainly in the academic circles specializing in social security studies. Though, tomes and answer books on BI have been published one after another. Basic Income Japan Network (BIJN) was launched in April 2010.

The definition of BI by Van Parijs is commonly referred to in Japan, and BI variants including proposals of ones at the supranational level have been brought to the knowledge. The background of the rise of the BI vision in the West consists of the blank wall of social

welfare schemes developed during the high economic growth after the World-War 2 and employment policies based on the Keynesianism as well as the disappointment and antipathy to socialism of the Soviet-type. Meanwhile, neo-liberalism aspiring revitalization of individual liberty in free market has swept through the society. Under the circumstance, BI with individual payment, no means test and no work condition aspiring liberation of individuals from bureaucratic control attracts even libertarians. On the other hand, thinkers aiming at revitalization of socialism, feminists, ecologists, and so on support BI combining their own ideal with BI. In Japan, however, being introduced to BI about two decades later from the West, it is conceived as only an alternative to existing social security schemes, and few people discuss it in the aspect of social reformation thinking. Marxists have little contribution to the BI discussions.

As for the feasibility of BI in Japan, Shuji Ozawa first estimated in 2002. He conceived of a BI scheme at the level of 80,000 JPY per person a month taking the levels of existing money grant schemes into account relying on a new revenue from raised income tax rate at the level of 50 % (maximum rate at that time was 37 %). When it is applied to a standard household with two parents and two children, their net income will decrease by 940 thousand JPY per year. But if the household has one more child, the loss will be almost cancelled. He later redesigned his BI scheme (at the level of 50,000 JPY per person a month) maintaining ongoing tax rate and integrating pension schemes with the BI. In the days ahead, design and discussions of BI schemes are expected. In any case, they may be gradual introduction of partial BI schemes. The newly born administration of the Democratic Party of Japan introduced a child benefit scheme without income test alternating the similar scheme at a far lower level with income test in 2010. The monthly amount per child is 13,000 JPY, a half of the amount the party promised in their manifesto for the lower-house election the party won. In the continuing budgetary distress, however, the administration is now giving up doubling the amount for over four-year-old children and is even bringing back income test. Thus, the partial BI scheme at entry level is still halfway in Japan.

BI can be conveniently used by neo-liberalists to further increase irregular employment, restrain wage and alternate company welfare with government expenditures. Therefore, one should not be in an autotelic approach toward BI but in unity with worker/citizen campaigns demanding upraise of wage level, employment security and improvement of public care services, and one should emphasize that BI is to complement public functions of a social-democratic welfare state and promote BI pursuance as part of social movement to realize such state.

Ito Makoto is Emeritus Professor at the University of Tokyo, and a Member of the Japan Academy. The above summary was written by Takeshi Suzuki.

## ***KOREAN***

**CHOI, Gwang-Eun (2011)**, *Basic Income for Everyone: An Aspiring Project Shaking the Earth of the 21st Century*, Seoul: Jong-Cheol Park Publishing Co., January 2011, 256 pages, ISBN: 978-89-85022-56-9 94330.

This book is the first introductory work on a basic income in Korea. Guy Standing, honorary co-president of BIEN and Nam-Hoon Kang, president of BIKN wrote their foreword especially for it.

It contains five chapters. The 1st chapter covers diverse experiences concerning a basic income such as the BI Law in Brazil, the BIG pilot project in Namibia, the PFD in Alaska, and the various ongoing disputes in Germany. The 2nd chapter introduces the theoretical and historical backgrounds of a basic income. The 3rd chapter discusses the Korean situation and is trying to find the way to implement a basic income in Korea. The 4th chapter argues that the new Korean disability pension be converted and integrated into a basic income. The 5th chapter consists of the two interviews with Guy Standing and Ozawa Shuji, president of BIJN, and author's report on the 13th BIEN congress.

Gwang-Eun Choi is a committee member of BIKN and a former representative of the Socialist Party.

## **SPANISH**

**ESTEVEZ, María Fernanda & GARCÉS, Laura (2010),** *El derecho a un Ingreso Ciudadano. Debates y experiencias en el mundo y la Argentina*, San Juan: Editorial Fundación Universidad Nacional de San Juan, August 2010, 255 pp.

This book offers a review of recent discussions on Basic Income, and gives an overview of the debate in Argentina. The book examines the main rationales of the proposal and analyses different possible strategies in order to implement it. The book pays special attention to the debate about the proposal of a universal and unconditional Basic Income for Children in Argentina. More information: [www.ingresociudadano.org](http://www.ingresociudadano.org)

**AAPS & REDAIC (2010),** *Asignación Universal por Hijo para Protección Social Ciclo de Conferencias 2010*, Buenos Aires: AAPS-Redaic, October 2010.

This book is a collection of papers and debates presented during the five sessions of the Conference organized during 2010 by the Red Argentina de Ingreso Ciudadano (BIEN's National Affiliate) and the Asociación Argentina de Políticas Sociales, with the support of UNICEF Argentina. The main issue of the Conference was the evaluation of the "Asignación Universal por Hijo para la protección social" [Universal Assignment for children] as a first step towards a Basic Income for all children in the country.

An electronic version can be downloaded in: [www.ingresociudadano.org](http://www.ingresociudadano.org)

## **8. NEW LINKS**

**\* Launch of Basic Income News (see 1., above)**

<http://binews.org/>

**\* New blogs at USBIG**

The USBIG Network has added two blogs to its website: the Alaska Dividend Blog and the Basic Income Guarantee Blog. Both have news and opinion on those topics going back to 2000, and both will continue to be updated periodically. Both allow for reader comments and feedback. They're online at: <http://www.usbig.net/blogs.php>

**\* Reissue of a German book on basic income**

This book was not available for a long time, but can now be read in (in German language):

<http://www.staatsbuengersteuer.de>

Here is the link to the Presentation:

<http://www.staatsbuengersteuer.de/Praesentatin.htm>

**\* Columbia: blog on basic income**

<http://www.icesi.edu.co/blogs/ingresobasico/>

Colombian Blog on Basic Income. It has started with four contributions by professors Edgar Benítez, Enrique Rodríguez, and Blanca Zuluaga, and postgraduate student Camila Pacheco. Many other contributions will be posted into the blog. At this moment, the issues that have been raised are:

Benítez, Edgar: The Implications of Basic Income as a Right;

Rodríguez, Enrique: Basic Income and the End of Work;

Pacheco, Camila: Basic Income and Labour Market;

Zuluaga, Blanca: Basic Income and Mining-Energy Prosperity.

**\* Online article by Pablo Yanes**

An online paper (in Spanish) on basic income by Pablo Yanes, from the Mexican basic income network

<http://www.sinpermiso.info/textos/index.php?id=3761>

**\* Overview of the basic income debate**

An well-informed overview (in French) of the basic income debate is available at:

<http://peripheries.net/article326.html>

**\* Basic income in Dutch**

The website of the Ecovaproject has several sections on basic income (in Dutch):

[www.ecovaproject.org/prosumentenrecht-basisinkomen.htm](http://www.ecovaproject.org/prosumentenrecht-basisinkomen.htm)

**\* Book reviews by Karl Widerquist**

In USBIG Newsletter Winter 2011, Karl Widerquist discusses two books on the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend: Dave Rose and Charles Wohlforth. 2008. *Saving For the Future: My Life and the Alaska Permanent Fund*. Kenmore, WA: Epicenter Press. □ Hammond, Jay S. 1994. *Tales of Alaska's Bush Rat Governor*. Kenmore, WA: Epicenter Press.

[www.usbig.net](http://www.usbig.net)

**\* German Flyers on basic income**

All parties represented in German Federal Parliament have been discussing various models of basic income at some point in the past few years. Now two of them, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen and Die Linke come along with new flyers by their Basic Income working groups:

[http://www.strengmann-kuhn.de/wp-content/uploads/grünes\\_netzwerk\\_ge.pdf](http://www.strengmann-kuhn.de/wp-content/uploads/grünes_netzwerk_ge.pdf)

[http://www.die-linke-grundeinkommen.de/WordPress/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/FlyerBGE\\_engl\\_72dpi.pdf](http://www.die-linke-grundeinkommen.de/WordPress/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/FlyerBGE_engl_72dpi.pdf)

**\* Austrian documentary on basic income**

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 3Sat, a public, advertising-free, television network for Austria, Germany and Switzerland presented a 45-minute documentary on Basic Income. “Unconditionally happy? Freedom and Basic Income” by Sabine Jainski will be one feature of a week on the subject *To be or to have*:

<http://www.3sat.de/page/?source=/specials/150569/index.html>

### **\* Launch of USBIG Facebook page**

USBIG has just launched a Facebook page which will help promote the basic income debate and educate the public about basic income initiatives throughout the world.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/US-Basic-Income-Guarantee-Network/206792926015200?sk=info>

## **9. ABOUT THE BASIC INCOME EARTH NETWORK**

### **Co-chairs:**

Ingrid VAN NIEKERK [ivanniekerk@epri.org.za](mailto:ivanniekerk@epri.org.za), Economic Policy Research Institute, Cape Town, South Africa

Karl WIDERQUIST [Karl@Widerquist.com](mailto:Karl@Widerquist.com), Georgetown University-Qatar

Further details about **BIEN's Executive Committee and International Board** as well as further information about the **Recognised National Networks** can be found on our website [www.basicincome.org](http://www.basicincome.org)

### **MEMBERSHIP**

All life members of the Basic Income European Network, many of whom were non-Europeans, have automatically become life members of the Basic Income Earth Network. To join them, send your name and address (postal and electronic) to David Casassas [david.casassas@uab.cat](mailto:david.casassas@uab.cat), Secretary of BIEN, and transfer EUR 100 to BIEN's account 001 2204356 10 at FORTIS BANK (IBAN: BE41 0012 2043 5610), 10 Rond-Point Schuman, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium. An acknowledgement will be sent upon receipt.

BIEN Life-members can become "B(I)ENEFACTORS" by giving another 100 Euros or more to the Network. The funds collected will facilitate the participation of promising BI advocates coming from developing countries or from disadvantaged groups.

### **B(I)ENEFACTORS:**

Joel Handler (US), Philippe Van Parijs (BE), Helmut Pelzer (DE), Guy Standing (UK), Eduardo Suplicy (BR), Robert van der Veen (NL), Richard Caputo (US), Rolf Kuettel (CH), Jeanne Hrdina (CH), Wolf D. Aichberger (AT), Einkommen ist ein Bürgerrecht (DE), Ahn Hyo Sang (KR)

### **BIEN's Life Members:**

All life members of the Basic Income European Network, many of whom were non-Europeans, have automatically become life members of the Basic Income Earth Network.

James Meade (+), André Gorz (+), Gunnar Adler-Karlsson (SE), Maria Ozanira da Silva (BR), Ronald Dore (UK), Alexander de Roo (NL), Edouard Dommen (CH), Philippe Van Parijs (BE), P.J. Verberne (NL), Tony Walter (UK), Philippe Grosjean (BE), Malcolm Torry (UK), Wouter van Ginneken (CH), Andrew Williams (UK), Roland Duchâtelet (BE), Manfred Fuellsack (AT), Anne-Marie Prieels (BE), Philippe Desguin (BE), Joel Handler (US), Sally Lerner (CA), David Macarov (IL), Paul Metz (NL), Claus Offe (DE), Guy Standing (UK), Hillel Steiner (UK), Werner Govaerts (BE), Robley George (US), Yoland Bresson (FR), Richard Hauser (DE), Eduardo Matarazzo Suplicy (BR), Jan-Otto Andersson (FI), Ingrid Robeyns (UK), John Baker (IE), Rolf Kuettel (CH), Michael Murray (US), Carlos Farinha Rodrigues (PT), Yann Moulrier Boutang (FR), Joachim Mitschke (DE), Rik van Berkel (NL), François Blais (CA), Katrin Töns (DE), Almaz Zelleke (US), Gerard Degrez (BE), Michael Opielka (DE), Lena Lavinias (BR), Julien Dubouchet (CH), Jeanne Hrdina (CH), Joseph Huber (DE), Markku Ikkala (FI), Luis Moreno (ES), Rafael Pinilla (ES), Graham Taylor (UK), W. Robert Needham (CA), Tom Borsen Hansen (DK), Ian Murray (US), Peter Molgaard Nielsen (DK), Fernanda Rodrigues (PT), Helmut Pelzer (DE), Rod Dobell (CA), Walter Van Trier (BE), Loek Groot (NL), Andrea Fumagalli (IT), Bernard Berteloot (FR), Jean-Pierre Mon (FR), Angelika Krebs (DE), Ahmet Insel (FR), Alberto Barbeito (AR), Rubén



Lo Vuolo (AR), Manos Matsaganis (GR), Jose Iglesias Fernandez (ES), Daniel Eichler (DE), Cristovam Buarque (BR), Michael Lewis (US), Clive Lord (UK), Jean Morier-Genoud (FR), Eri Noguchi (US), Michael Samson (ZA), Ingrid van Niekerk (ZA), Karl Widerquist (US), Al Sheahen (US), Christopher Balfour (UK), Jurgen De Wispelaere (UK), Wolf-Dieter Just (DE), Zsuzsa Ferge (HU), Paul Friesen (CA), Nicolas Bourgeon (FR), Marja A. Pijl (NL), Matthias Spielkamp (DE), Frédéric Jourdin (FR), Daniel Raventós (ES), Andrés Hernández (CO), Guido Erreygers (BE), Stephen C. Clark (US), Wolfgang Mundstein (AT), Evert Voogd (NL), Frank Thompson (US), Lieselotte Wohlgenannt (AT), Jose Luis Rey Pérez (ES), Jose Antonio Noguera (ES), Esther Brunner (CH), Irv Garfinkel (US), Claude Macquet (BE), Bernard Guibert (FR), Margit Appel (AT), Simo Aho (FI), Francisco Ramos Martin (ES), Yannick Vanderborght (BE), Brigid Reynolds (IE), Sean Healy (IE), Maire Mullarney (IE), Patrick Lovesse (CH), Jean-Paul Zoyem (FR), GianCarlo Moiso (IT), Martino Rossi (CH), Pierre Herold (CH), Steven Shafarman (US), Leonardo Fernando Cruz Basso (BR), Wolfgang Strenmann-Kuhn (DE), Anne Glenda Miller (UK), Lowell Manning (NZ), Dimitris Ballas (GR), Gilberte Ferrière (BE), Louise Haagh (DK), Michael Howard (US), Simon Wigley (TR), Erik Christensen (DK), David Casassas (ES), Paul Nollen (BE), Vriend(inn)en Basisinkomen (NL), Christophe Guené (BE), Alain Massot (CA), Marcel Bertrand Paradis (CA), NN (Geneve, CH), Marc Vandenberghe (BE), Gianluca Busilacchi (IT), Robert F. Clark (US), Theresa Funciello (US), Al Boag & Sue Williams (AU), Josef Meyer (BE), Alain Boyer (CH), Jos Janssen (NL), Collectif Charles Fourier (+), Bruce Ackerman (US), Victor Lau (CA), Konstantinos Geormas (GR), Pierre Feray (FR), Christian Brüttsch (CH), Phil Harvey (US), Toru Yamamori (JP), René Keersemaeker (NL), Manuel Franzmann (DE), Ovidio Carlos de Brito (BR), Bernard De Crum (NL), Katja Kipping (DE), Jan Beaufort (DE), Christopher Mueller (DE), Bradley Nelson (US), Marc de Basquiat (FR), James Robertson (UK), Infoxoa Rivista (IT), Eric Patry (CH), Vianney Angles (FR), Isabel Ortiz (US), Bert Penninckx (BE), Martine Waltho (UK), Christoph Meier (DO), Robert van der Veen (NL), Pablo Yanes (MX), Ángel Pascual-Ramsay (ES), Rafael Morís Pablos (ES), John Tomlinson (AU), Joerg Drescher (UA), Matthias Dilthey (DE), James Mulvale (CA), Sugeng Bahagijo (ID), Hiroya Hirano (JP), Simon Birnbaum (SE), Carole Pateman (US), Sergio Luiz de Moraes Pinto (BR), Javier López Fuentes (ES), Gösta Melander (SE), Blanca Zuluaga (CO), Fábio Waltenberg (BR), Leon Segers (NL), Marco Bossi (BE), Choi Gwang Eun (KR), Wolf D. Aichberger (AT), Regina Sörgel (DE), No-Wan Kwack (KR), Wolfgang Röhrig (DE), Philippe Durdu (BE), Chun Lin (UK), Claudia Haarmann (NA), Dirk Haarmann (NA), Kang Nam Hoon (KR), Ahn Hyo Sang (KR), Karin Nyqvist (SE), James Copestak [199].

BIEN's NewsFlash is mailed electronically every two months to over 1,500 subscribers throughout the world. Requests for free subscription are to be sent to [bien@basicincome.org](mailto:bien@basicincome.org). Items for inclusion or review in future NewsFlashes are to be sent to Yannick Vanderborght, Newsletter Editor, UCL, Chaire Hoover, 3 Place Montesquieu, 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, [yannick.vanderborght@uclouvain.be](mailto:yannick.vanderborght@uclouvain.be)

*The items included in BIEN NewsFlashes are not protected by any copyright. They can be reproduced and translated at will. But if you use them, please mention the existence and address of the Basic Income Earth Network (including its web site [www.basicincome.org](http://www.basicincome.org)) and the exact references of the events or publications concerned. Thank you.*