

# Conference: The Future of Basic Income Research

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## Call for Abstracts

The Max Weber Programme at the European University Institute (Florence, Italy) is proud to launch the following call for abstracts for a conference on the topic of universal basic income.

- When: 26-27 June, 2015
- Where: European University Institute (Florence, Italy)
- Keynote Speakers: Philippe Van Parijs and Yannick Vanderborght
- Deadline for submission of abstracts: 15<sup>th</sup> of February
- Conference organizers: Juliana Bidadanure and Robert Lepenies
- Conference website:  
<http://www.eui.eu/SeminarsAndEvents/Events/2015/June/TheFutureofBasicIncomeResearch.aspx>

If you have any questions about the event, please feel free to email us at [Juliana.Bidadanure@eui.eu](mailto:Juliana.Bidadanure@eui.eu) or [Robert.Lepenies@eui.eu](mailto:Robert.Lepenies@eui.eu).

- Conference topic

The past three decades have seen the elaboration of a vast body of literature on universal basic income – a policy proposal Philippe Van Parijs referred to as a “disarmingly simple idea”. It consists of a monthly cash allowance given to all citizens, regardless of personal desert and without means-test. Basic income studies are an example of successful interdisciplinary research, involving philosophers, economists and sociologists, among many others. Basic income (BI) proponents have identified, evaluated and deconstructed many potential and actual objections against this radical proposal. Yet for young scholars interested in, but new to, basic income, the field might seem crowded and overwhelming. This conference aims to look into the future of basic income research: Which questions have been left unanswered, which questions should be posed? What should be on the research agenda for the next 10 years?

Philosophers have lent their support to the basic income proposal from many different perspectives. BI can be defended with republican, libertarian, social-democratic or communist arguments. One guiding question for philosophers working on basic income is hence: What can philosophers still do for basic income?

Moving away from purely normative justifications, there has been an increasing attention to topics at the intersection of philosophy and economics within the literature. This might be prompted by the frequent demand to demonstrate the economic feasibility of BI: “How can we possibly afford a basic income?” In our conference, we want to assess how this shift might affect the basic income research agenda. Will philosophers be drawn more and more into methodological and public policy scholarship and debates? How will philosophers be able to judge whether policy proposals fulfil criteria of economic feasibility?

A continuous theme in basic income research has been the political feasibility of BI. Increasingly, basic income scholars have become politically organized and involved in policy debates. What is the consequence of Basic Income activism for BI research?

- Call for Abstracts

We invite submissions of abstracts of no more than one page for the conference that will take place on **Friday June 26<sup>th</sup>**. Please also provide a short biographical sketch. The deadline for

submission is **February 15<sup>th</sup> 2015**. We will select the abstract based on originality and will favour abstracts that explicitly address the topic of the call: What should be the future research agenda of basic income studies?

Participants will discuss this theme in several panels throughout the day in the beautiful location of the Badia Fiesolana of the European University Institute, overlooking Florence.

We are also pleased to announce that the conference will also feature a book workshop on **Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup>**. Philippe Van Parijs and Yannick Vanderborght will discuss with select participants their new book manuscript on basic income. All participants are welcome to join the workshop. Those interested in acting as discussants are invited to email us.

There will be some funds available for offsetting part of the travel expenses for a small number of participants (if they have not been able to secure necessary funding by their own institutions).

Please confirm your attendance to both the conference and the workshop by emailing to Juliana Bidadanure ([Juliana.Bidadanure@eui.eu](mailto:Juliana.Bidadanure@eui.eu)) or Robert Lepenies ([Robert.Lepenies@eui.eu](mailto:Robert.Lepenies@eui.eu)). If you have any questions about the event, please feel free to contact us.