



Rethinking Economics NL

**Final report
2020/2021**

Introduction

The following report is a summary of all the main initiatives at Rethinking Economics NL in the year 2020/2021. Its aim is to provide a comprehensive overview of the activities and to acknowledge those who contributed to them. This year was particularly challenging due to the difficulties related to the global Covid-19 pandemic. Thanks to the collective hard work of many members in spite of the challenges Rethinking Economics has continued to grow. The mission of the organization remains relevant, perhaps now even more than ever. The unpredictability and complexity of the current global crises such as the pandemic necessitate change in economics curricula.

~Chair of RE:NL 2020-2021, Aleksandra Twardowska

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National initiatives

1. Decentralization

Goal: Decentralization of RE:NL's activities through the creation of new local groups

The activities of Rethinking Economics NL exist at two levels: national and local. At the beginning of this board year we had one national RE:NL team (composed of the board and the core team) as well as a single (well-established) local group; RE:Rotterdam. This year we focused on connecting with students who were interested in creating a local RE:NL group at their economics faculty. We then also provided guidance and support (as needed) to ensure successful rooting of new groups. Such decentralization of activities allowed for more local-based, self-organizing initiatives, which directly corresponded with the opportunities & needs at their respective universities. Thanks to the incredible collective motivation of student rethinkers we now have (or are in the process of establishing) six local groups:

1. *RE:Amsterdam,*
2. *RE:Rotterdam,*
3. *RE:Nijmegen,*
4. *Pine Maastricht*
5. *RE:Groningen (early stage)*
6. *RE:Utrecht (early stage)*

Throughout the year members of the local groups have successfully created internal organizational structures, organized their own events, collaborated and participated in national level projects (such as conversations with the deans initiative or the AI series).

Project leader: Aleksandra Twardowska (chair of RE:NL)

Main contributors: Barney Bakucz (RE:Groningen), Thijs Bon (RE:Rotterdam), Aaron Beijer (chair of ECU'92/RE:Utrecht), Katharina Buchsbaum (RE:Amsterdam), Susanna Eiselt (RE:Rotterdam), Jan Frohn (chair of PINE Maastricht), Julianne Grill (RE:Nijmegen), Martin Kats Liu (RE:Amsterdam), Joseph Krampe (Treasurer and Technical Administrator at RE:NL), Hannake Kruipers (chair of RE:Nijmegen), Constantina Markou (PR RE:Nijmegen), Ilse Meijers (RE:Nijmegen), Julika Frome (Bookclub RE:Nijmegen), Timothy Mulder (Partnerships coordinator at RE:NL), Moritz Odersky (Treasurer of PINE Maastricht), Hannah Schreiber (Secretary at PINE Maastricht), Koen Smeets (Secretary of RE:NL), Vera Veltman (chair of RE:Rotterdam), Marius Zeevaert (chair of RE:Amsterdam),

2. Conversations with the deans interview series (ongoing)

Goal: Embed RE:NL at Dutch universities and facilitate a nation-wide discussion on transformation of economics education

To gain a better understanding of differences in economics programs we initiated an interview series with deans of economic faculties. During the conversations, we discuss topics such as the unique strengths of each university, what each dean's goals are related to the current structure of the program, and how this relates to the perspective of Rethinking Economics NL and the "Thinking like an economist?"-report from 2018. This series will not only help make RE:NL more known to all universities, but also position us as a stakeholder (and advisor) in the transformation of economics education in the Netherlands. So far we have conducted an interview with prof. Arjen van Witteloostuijn (Dean of VU) and prof. Erik Stam (Dean of Utrecht). The goal is to have the dean of every economic faculty participating in an individual interview and at the end to present our findings in front of all the deans during their quarterly conference. In the long run we are also planning to facilitate a RE:NL panel discussion, between the deans on the need to transform economics education. This will help further assess the situation of the economics education in the Netherlands and allows us to be more in control of the transformation.

Project leader: Aleksandra Twardowska (chair of Rethinking Economics NL)

Main contributors: Barney Bakucz (RE:Groningen), Susanna Eiselt (RE:Rotterdam), Jan Frohn (chair of PINE Maastricht), Joseph Krampe (Treasurer and Technical Administrator at RE:NL), Hanneke Kruijpers (chair of RE:Nijmegen), Constantina Markou (PR RE:Nijmegen), Ilse Meijers (RE:Nijmegen), Timothy Mulder (Partnerships coordinator at RE:NL), Moritz Odersky (PINE Maastricht), Hannah Schreiber (Secretary at PINE Maastricht), Koen Smeets (Secretary of RE:NL), Vera Veltman (chair of RE:Rotterdam),

3. Academic community

Goal: Expanding and diversifying Rethinking Economics NL's academic community

In the previous years, Rethinking Economics NL gained credibility in the Dutch academic sphere through acknowledgment and recognition by some of the most prominent economics professors and researchers in the Netherlands. This helped establish foundations for a network of academics who support RE:NL. This year, through conversations with various professors, we discovered that we had much more extensive support at Dutch universities that was not yet reflected in the list. Striving towards pluralism (one of the core rethinking economics values) requires a diverse and broad spectrum of both ideas and people. To fully reflect the complexity and plurality of opinions and experts in economic academia we decided to expand and diversify the list of academic rethinkers.

Throughout the year, six established academics joined our academic community including Prof. Nicky Pouw, Dr. Helen Toxopeus, Prof. Wendy Janssens, Dr. Rachel Kurian, Dr. Ana Varela Varela and Prof. Arjun Bedi.

To further strengthen the academic community, we have also worked on re-establishing contact with professors in the existing list of academics. To promote and connect RE:NL with Dutch economists we also gathered research that discussed topics connected with rethinking economics ideas.

Finally, we also reached out directly to two Deans of economics faculties who we found out were favourable to our mission at RE:NL and asked them to join our academic community. The Deans accepted these invitations and now prof. Arjen van Witteloostuijn (Dean at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) and prof. Erik Stam (Dean at Utrecht) are officially part of RE:NL. Including Deans in our community not only increases our credibility as an organization, but also allows us to maintain a strengthened relationship with the university and have a more transformative role at the economic faculties. Next year we hope that more deans will also join the RE:NL community.

(1) The full list of academics can be found on our website at: <https://www.rethinkingeconomics.nl/academic-community>

(2) Research is located on the Rethinking Economics NL drive:
https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/191WxP5qgi114JpiojGHuj_kVJBrVTIXZ?ths=true

(soon also available publicly on our website)

(3) Decisions were based on deans existing relationship with RE:NL and suggestions from the senior board of RE:NL

Project leader: Aleksandra Twardowska (chair of RE:NL)

4. Collaborations/partnerships

Goal: Establish connections with other organizations to broaden the scope of RE:NL activities

Some of the main initiatives included: New European Bauhaus, The future we want, European Citizens Bank.

5. Interview Series on the Socioeconomics of Disruptive Technologies

Goal: Provide students a solid introduction to the socioeconomic consequences of disruptive technologies, especially AI and robotics.

As Secretary of Rethinking Economics NL, my main focus this year has been on creating an interview series on the Socioeconomics of Disruptive Technologies. The creation of such a series was needed since this topic is barely featured in the education of economists. We managed to interview an incredible list of speakers in panel-interviews, such as professors from MIT, Oxford, Harvard, Cambridge, and Toronto. The series has been built in true RE:NL-fashion, since we go beyond just the economics of disruptive technologies and focus on the societal consequences more broadly. Furthermore, we invited a diverse group of experts from a wide range of disciplines.

What was so interesting to see is that even the foremost experts in economics agreed with at least some of the goals of Rethinking Economics NL. Almost all mentioned the importance of an interdisciplinary approach in education and research. Many also emphasised the importance of an historical approach. Furthermore, almost all experts agreed that the ways in which disruptive technologies such as AI and robotics are currently being implemented is not leading to shared prosperity. It is promising to see the foremost experts emphasising the need for a more interdisciplinary and to some extent real-world based economics education. We hope to see such changes implemented in our economics education in the Netherlands in the coming years.

It would not have been possible to build and especially promote the interview-series without the help of everyone at Rethinking Economics NL. For instance, each week Jan edited the videos and added a fantastic intro and outro, Katharina created the quotes, Francisca the social media captions, Joseph managed a dedicated page on the website, Julika the newsletter, and Tim and Hannah messaged Rethinking Economics groups around the world to let them know a new episode was out. Several members of our local groups, especially Vera and Constantina, also helped with promotion of the series on social media. Furthermore, Aleksandra, Julika, and Jonne helped through technical assistance during the recording of the interviews. Many other members also brainstormed with us and helped in other ways. We also managed to promote the series in other ways throughout the Netherlands, such as through a column in *Economische Statistische Berichten (ESB)*. The video-interviews have been viewed over 5000 times, something which we are really proud of.

Project leader: Koen Smeets (Secretary of RE:NL)

Main contributors: Jan Frohn (chair of PINE Maastricht), Katharina Buchsbaum (RE:Amsterdam), Francisca Raimundo (PR at RE:Rotterdam), Joseph Krampe (Treasurer and Technical Administrator at RE:NL), Julika Frome (Head of Social Media and Podcast), Timothy Mulder (Partnerships coordinator at RE:NL), Hannah Schreiber (Secretary at PINE Maastricht), Vera Veltman (chair of RE:Rotterdam), Constantina Markou (PR RE:Nijmegen), Aleksandra Twardowska (chair of Rethinking Economics NL), and Jonne (Outreach Coordinator RE:NL)

6. Rethinking Podcast

Goal: Make plural and diverse ideas in economics available and accessible to economic students and economists that they would otherwise not hear or learn about.

The Rethinking Podcast was set up in August 2020 to bring plural ideas to economic students and economists who want to learn about everything that is (not) taught in university. Next to that, I wanted to set up the infrastructure for other Rethinkers so that possible series could be set up by them.

The podcast is now available on more than eight platforms, in both video (YouTube) and audio (such as iTunes and Spotify) format. Next to that, the podcast has a committed listenership, with many listening to a new episode within 48 hours of it coming online.

Guests have been plural, from topics of healthcare to ecology, from students to professors and from calling in from Latin-America to Germany. I plan to expand the reach in this upcoming year, with some amazing guests already lined up, for a ‘season two’ of the Rethinking Podcast. This second year of the podcast will have a new thumbnail and improve with what we have learnt over the past year and with the series on Disruptive Tech. Next to that, I hope that more Rethinkers will make use of the opportunity to make a series, limited series or short series and put it on the podcast platform. Ideas are in preparation mode, and more ideas are certainly welcome.

In the first year, the series ‘Rethinking with...’ consisted of 22 episodes. This series will come back as a monthly or bi-weekly series starting September 2021 for the next university year, so follow the podcast and stay tuned.

Project leader: Julika Frome (Head of Social Media and Podcast)

7. Creating our new website

Goal: Updating the website of RE:NL to provide a more accurate overview of the organisation and its activities

As Treasurer and Technical Administrator of Rethinking Economics NL, my primary focus this year has been creating a new website. This was necessary since the old website was now already quite a few years old. Updating the website was especially important as everything went digital due to COVID-19; our website became the first point of contact for an increasing number of students interested in rethinking economics education.

The first thing I had to do was a lot of research by comparing different providers and seeing how they stack up against each other. Eventually I settled for Squarespace, as they had the most intuitive interface and this provider was easy to work on. After some brainstorming

sessions on what I wanted the tabs to look like I got started working on the website. The most difficult part of making the website was finding high-quality pictures that represented RE:NL without those pictures being stock pictures. Going through the Drive, we found many photos of in-person events hosted by RE:NL we could include to give the website a personal touch. Another aspect of difficulty was successfully linking the pages with each other.

The final result contains pages on the mission and people of RE:NL, our updated academic community, and a working calendar to feature events by both the national board and local groups. It also features dedicated pages for projects as the Rethinking Podcast, the interview-series on the socioeconomics of disruptive tech made. One of the best things about the new website is that new pages can be easily added and existing pages modified, giving boards in the coming years enormous flexibility in what they wish the website to look like.

Project leader: Joseph Krampe (Treasurer and Technical Administrator at RE:NL)

Main contributors: Koen Smeets (Secretary at RE:NL, Aleksandra Twardowska (Chair at RE:NL)

Local groups

RE: Amsterdam

1. Setting up a local group structure

Goal: The RE:NL local group was formed in September 2020 so the primary focus throughout the year was to attract the first members of the group and set up an internal structure.

After initial deliberations on how to start the local group, it was quickly decided that the initial focus should be on attracting potential new members and then slowly creating internal structures. Throughout the academic year 2020-2021 a lecture series was held to inform potential new members on different perspectives on economics and at the same time especially interested participants were encouraged to engage further in RE:NL. The horizontal collaboration in the local group made initial contacts easy but a future goal of the local group should be to further define the structure of the local group.

Main contributors: Marius Zeevaert (chair Amsterdam local group), Alan Chen (founder Amsterdam local group), Martin Liu Kats (founder Amsterdam local group), Katharina Buchsbaum (project member), Timothy Mulder (project member), Jonne (project member)

2. List of Potential Rethinking Lecturers

Goal: The creation of a list of potential speakers for Rethinking Economics NL events.

The local group created an extensive list of lecturers in the Netherlands and abroad, who offer heterodox views on the economy. The list also orders the lecturers by main research topics allowing future lecture series organizers to have a quick and extensive overview of interesting speakers.

Main contributors: Marius Zeevaert (chair Amsterdam local group), Alan Chen (founder Amsterdam local group), Martin Liu Kats (founder Amsterdam local group), Katharina Buchsbaum (project member), Alberto Sicari (project member)

3. Rethinking The Core of Economics Lecture Series

Goal: To attract people interested in diverse views on economics and gain potential new members for Rethinking Economics Netherlands.

Throughout the academic year, the Rethinking Amsterdam local group organized various lectures aimed to reflect a diverse set of perspectives on economics and the intersection of economics with related fields of study. Rethinking Economics Netherlands oversight board member Irene van Staveren held the introductory lecture of the series on 10 forgotten economists. In the lecture, she presented the 10 economists' crucial insights and how they help us to better understand today's economies. The second lecture was given by Esther-Mirjam Sent on the topic of Behavioural Economics and gave an introduction on how behavioral economics emerged as a subdiscipline of economics and what some of the central

controversies in the discipline are. This was followed by a lecture by Rebecca Elliot of the London School of Economics on economic sociology. In her presentation, Ms Elliott showed how social phenomena and economic analyses interact for example in the case of areas with a high risk of flooding in the US. Ms Elliott's LSE colleague Simona Iammarino held the following lecture on the area of economic geography. Being an expert on geographic inequality Ms Iammarino showed how spatial inequalities in the US have developed over the last 40 years and offered some insights on the potential political ramifications. The lecture series was concluded by German researcher Claudia Kemfert, who gave a presentation on the development of the field of environmental economics over the past 20 years. Ms Kemfert highlighted the need to interlink economic models with insights from other disciplines such as biology and physics to obtain better predictors of environmental impacts. Overall, the lecture series attracted a varied audience from Amsterdam, the Netherlands and abroad and highlighted the need for interdisciplinary and heterodox economic research.

Main contributors: Martin Liu Kats (lecture organiser and moderator), Katharina Buchsbaum (lecture organiser and moderator), Marius Zeevaert (lecture organiser and moderator), Alan Chen (lecture organiser)

RE:Rotterdam

1. Monthly book club

Goal: To invite students to critically discuss different types of literature and the ideas presented in these, and to gather and connect with other students.

Each month a book club session was held (or tried to) about a different book by choice of the active members of both RE: Rotterdam and PISE Rotterdam. The active members were rotating each month and were able to choose a book. Main lines were documented to offer guidance, however, the active members were free to take a different take if desired. E.g. The last session held was about documentaries instead of books. All sessions were held online due to covid and started by a short presentation of the content followed by different questions to start up a discussion between members when put in break-out rooms. Finally the different discussions that had taken place were then being shared.

Main contributors: Eloise Richard (Bookclub project lead at RE: Rotterdam), Susanna Eiselt (Bookclub session lead RE: Rotterdam), Toma Kulieva (Bookclub session lead RE: Rotterdam), Thijs Bon (Bookclub session lead RE: Rotterdam), Gabriella de Haas (Bookclub session lead RE: Rotterdam), Xavier Zinkl (Bookclub session lead RE: Rotterdam), Vera Veltman (chair at RE: Rotterdam), in cooperation with PISE Rotterdam

2. Balloon game (non-executed)

Goal: Lower the barrier of getting to know different economic perspectives on the same issue or question being posed.

A version of the ‘Balloon game’ was used as a base construct for the event. Different students, 4 in total, play the role of an economist, each of them presenting a different perspective within the Economic Schools of Thought. The game starts with a round of an introduction where they generally stand for and kicks off with a question round they each need to answer separately. It is then up to the audience whose answer they preferred and agreed with most. Those receiving the most votes will then proceed to a second question on the same topic and a final ‘winner’ of that round will be chosen. This will be done 3 times on different topics. The game offers a playful way to bring student and those interested in touch with different perspectives within economics.

Main contributors: Clara Etchenique (previous chair RE: Rotterdam), Vera Veltman (chair RE: Rotterdam), in cooperation with Studium Generale

3. A Eclipse Economist week webinar and panel discussion

Goal: Offer different sessions along the line of Well-Being Economics, among which an introductory session on this topic to let (master)students to get to know more of this economic area, and a more in-depth panel discussion to show different perspectives on this.

The introductory session entailed a presentation by Professor Ruut Veenhoven followed by a Q&A, which opened the Economist week. The panel discussion, which took place between

Nicky Pouw, Paul Frijters, and Nicholas Gruen, closed the week with a more in-depth moderated discussion. The Q&A was done on an online platform and presented by the moderator.

Main contributors: Thijs Bon (Project Member RE: Rotterdam), Lancelotte Casse (Project Member RE: Rotterdam), Vera Veltman (chair RE: Rotterdam), in cooperation with AEclipse (Economics Master organisation at Erasmus)

4. Female Economics (non-executed)

Goal: Create understanding for the school of thought of Feminist Economics and its practical purpose in our society.

Over the set of different sessions within a day the setup was to give an introduction into Feminist Economics evolving into what the need for it is and how this takes form in practice in businesses and governments. The guest speakers would include an expert in the economic field, from European Commission, and from the business field. Unfortunately, due to last-minute cancelation of a key speaker, a turn around for someone else appeared to be too difficult to launch the event within the academic year.

Main contributors: Vera Veltman (chair RE: Rotterdam), in cooperation with Women's Business Network Rotterdam (WBN)

5. Moral limits of markets webinar

Goal: Offer an introduction to the concepts of 'morality' and 'competitive markets', examining how morality interacts with economics in cases of market failures and increasing marketization.

Prof. Jack Vromen (Director of the Erasmus Institute for Philosophy and Economics) tackled different questions and more in the webinar "Markets and Morality". He provided an introduction to the concepts of 'morality' and 'competitive markets' before examining how morality interacts with economics in cases of market failures and increasing marketization. Lastly, he discussed whether markets tend to erode or foster moral values.

Main contributors: Jannik Schulz (Project lead RE: Rotterdam), Lancelotte Casse (Project member RE: Rotterdam), Toma Kulieva (Project member RE: Rotterdam), Susanna Eiselt (Project member RE: Rotterdam), in cooperation with RE: Nijmegen

6. Member in the spotlight: social media project (non-executed)

Goal: Giving different members a podium online to share their perspective and voice

A social media campaign to share the different perspectives of our members and offer them a voice to share their thoughts and what they would like to share with others by starting off with the question 'What is it you recently come across, a book/policy/economist/etc., that inspires future change?' in which their thoughts would be captured in a short video. The responses were not sufficient to get this live, but an alternative version in the form of a picture with description was raised which potentially will be carried out in upcoming year.

Main contributors: Francisca Raimundo (Marketing RE: Rotterdam), Gabriella de Haas (Marketing RE: Rotterdam), Vera Veltman (chair RE: Rotterdam)

7. Constructing organisational processes and bank account

Goal: Create a durable structure for upcoming years to be carried out by a group of multiple people (board) and establish more independence in financial undertakings.

A main folder construct and content was made including an Excel overview of the standard available documents. These documents offer guidance in undertaking different general processes like organising events or declaring costs, and mainly take the form of a template, infographic, written document, or online form. The purpose is to offer support and guidance in those processes that take place throughout the year such that the group does not need to reinvent the wheel every step of the way, yet still have sufficient freedom in choices that need to be made and improvements that can be made they will come across.

Main contributors: Vera Veltman (chair of RE: Rotterdam)

RE:Nijmegen

1. Monthly Book Club

Goal: To read more, discuss and swap recommendations of different schools of economic thought as to broaden everyone's horizon and to connect with other people who are interested in economics

Every first Thursday of the month, we discussed a different book with our local group. All members of the group were able to give book recommendations, which we put on a list. Each month, Julika and Hanneke picked one book from this list. Taking turns, both members prepared a summary of the book and asked some questions to the group which lead to engaging discussions. This year, the meetings all took place via Zoom because of Covid-19. However, a positive side effect was that as multiple people were living in different cities and even different countries, this made it easier for people to partake in the meetings.

Main contributors: Julika Frome & Hanneke Kuipers (chair)

2. NextGen Economists

Goal: To give a (inter)national platform to PhD students about their work and to introduce students to new economic research

In our webinar series *NextGen Economists*, we focused on prominent PhD researchers who apply novel perspectives to address current challenges. Constantina Markou, Willem Derks and Juliane Grill reached out to different PhD students around the world to share their cutting-edge economic research. The episodes focused on topics ranging from the future of Development Economics (Charan van Krevel), to the effects of norm-based feedback on pro-environmental behavior (Claes Ek) and central bank digital currencies (Daniel Aronoff). After the lecture, the floor was given to the students and the webinar ended with a Q&A in which the participants asked intriguing questions which caused some lively discussions. The aim of these sessions was to provide PhD researchers with a stage to share their important, yet too often underexposed, work that has significant implications for the future of the economic field. We believe that the interaction with heterodox economics, and contributing to the assimilation of heterodox topics into the mainstream field is one of the contributions Rethinking Economics can provide to its members and the economic discipline as a whole.

Main contributors: Constantina Markou (PR), Willem Derks (Secretary) & Juliane Grill

3. Moral limits of markets webinar

Goal: Offer an introduction to the concepts of 'morality' and 'competitive markets', examining how morality interacts with economics in cases of market failures and increasing marketization.

Prof. Jack Vromen (Director of the Erasmus Institute for Philosophy and Economics) tackled different questions and more in the webinar "Markets and Morality". He provided an introduction to the concepts of 'morality' and 'competitive markets' before examining how

morality interacts with economics in cases of market failures and increasing marketization. Lastly, he discussed whether markets tend to erode or foster moral values.

Main contributors: Constantina Markou (PR) , Hanneke Kuipers (chair) in cooperation with RE: Rotterdam

RE:Maastricht (PINE Maastricht)

1. Piketty Workshop + Movie Screening

Goal: Introduce students into the work of Thomas Piketty and raise awareness for the issue of economic inequality.

In the fall semester 2020-2021 PINE organised two events circling around the work of the French economist Thomas Piketty on economic inequality.

On October 7th PINE screened the documentary “Capital in the 21st century“, based on Piketty’s best-selling book. Because of the pandemic, this movie screening was held online via Zoom. After the intriguing documentary many of the participants stayed for a lively discussion, reflecting on what they just had watched.

About a month later, on November 5th, PINE organised a follow-up workshop; this time on Piketty’s second big book “Capital and Ideology“, which has been released in English that year. For this purpose, PINE invited an expert on the topic: Pieter Pekelharing, who taught social and political at UvA, was so kind to give us an overview of the book and explain its major points. The workshop had an interactive format with the audience participating actively by asking questions or making remarks.

2. Book Clubs

Goal: Get acquainted with pluralist economic literature and to enhance critical discussions among PINE members as well as interested students.

In the academic year 2020/2021 PINE organized two book clubs. The first one being about the book “Debunking Economics” by Stephen Keen, taking place on two evenings in January. Due to the high workload at our university we decided against reading the full book, as we thought a too high amount of reading might scare people away rather than motivate them to join us. Instead we picked two chapters of the book and devoted one evening each to discuss them. Although we covered the book only partly, the focus on two chapters allowed a more in depth discussion and a fitting introduction into the author’s thoughts which students could deepen if interested after the reading circle. The second reading circle took place at the end of february, covering the first two chapters of Stephanie Kelton’s newest book “The Deficit Myth”.

3. MMT Workshop by Maurice Höfgen

Goal: Provide students the possibility to learn about MMT and/or discuss with an European expert about the topic.

In the spring semester 2020-2021 PINE Maastricht organised a workshop on Modern Monetary Theory (MMT). We were joined by Maurice Höfgen who works as a research associate at the German Parliament and recently wrote a book about MMT “Mythos Geldknappheit”. The workshop was held via Zoom and we were honoured to welcome a diverse audience not only from the University Maastricht but also from many other European Universities. Firstly, Maurice Höfgen gave an 45-min introductory lecture about MMT including his proposal of a general job guarantee. Secondly, the audience had the chance to ask questions or comment in an extensive Q&A session. The topics discussed ranged from the role of taxes to Joe Biden’s 1.9 trillion \$ relief bill.

4. Lecture by Prof. Ajit Sinha

Goal: Introduce students to the work of Piero Sraffa and his powerful critique of neoclassical economics.

In the spring semester 2020-2021 PINE organised a guest lecture on “Sraffa’s Revolution in Economic Theory”. The lecture was held by Prof. Ajit Sinha, one of the leading historians of economic thought on Sraffa. The audience was introduced to this influential economist and his fascinating persona. Not only did the lecture cover Sraffa, but was an excursion through the whole history of economic thought, to illuminate the context in which this influential thinker is situated. The lecture lasted approximately an hour and allowed afterwards ample time for questions to clarify the—not always easy—insights of Sraffa.