



In memoriam

Lawrence Robert Klein (1920-2013)

Some of the greatest figures of science and culture have so many significant features that make their classification difficult with the usual archetypes. That is the case of Lawrence Robert Klein. He was a theoretical and practical economist, leader of modern econometrics and a pioneer of input-output analysis. At the same time, he was passionate for mathematics; economic cycles; the connections between economy, policy and society; the complex field of international relationships ... and a true visionary of the future.

A brief overview of his career as professor, researcher and a man committed to society, is essential to understanding his complex personality.

The young Klein of the 1940s, during World War II and after the years of economic crisis following the Great Crash of 1929, joined the Communist Party for a few years, completed his studies in mathematics (Los Angeles City College) and economics (University of California at Berkeley) before working towards completing his doctoral thesis on Keynesian economics at MIT (1947), under the direction of Paul A. Samuelson.

Although he wrote several papers on theoretical economics, his post-doctoral years opened new horizons when he joined the Cowles Commission—a team of econometricians at the University of Chicago directed by Jacob Marschak. Before joining the National Bureau of

of Economic Research in Cambridge (MA, US) in 1948, Professor Klein came into contact with some of the most important precursors of macro-econometrics of the time, both in the US and Europe (Jan Tinbergen, Ragnar Frisch and Richard Stone).

Although his approach was initially Keynesian, Klein was open-minded to other theoretical



Lawrence R. Klein (right) with Antonio Pulido (left) on a visit of the first to the L.R. Klein Institute in Madrid (Spain)

developments. In particular, early in the 1950s Prof. Klein argued the need to complement Keynesian models of determination of final demand and income with input-output-based interindustry models "for a complete synthesis of supply and demand in the economy as a whole." His association with input-output analysis was a constant throughout the wide range of methodologies he used for analysis and forecasting.

After 1958, he taught at the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School. His worldwide international profile was not only due to his

intellectual leadership, but also by means of his involvement and personal support of multiple initiatives in many countries.

In 1960 Klein founded Wharton Econometric Forecasting Associates Inc. (WEFA), which was initially funded by his university. WEFA expanded to include various models to enable sector or macroeconomic forecasts. WEFA grew to have several hundred researchers in U.S. and multiple connections in other countries. Nowadays, WEFA is now part of the "Country and Industry Forecasting" group of Global Insight, Inc.

His vocation for a global view of the economy led him to found and lead the so-called Link Project in 1968. Link was a network of teams across a large number of countries that was sponsored by the United Nations.

When Prof. Klein received the Nobel Prize for Economic Sciences in 1980, he highly remarked upon the diversity of economies in the Link network, that included "modeling the centrally planned economics of the world (especially the USSR) and introducing modern econometrics into the People's Republic of China".

In a single page it is not possible to cover the immense breadth of work Prof. Klein undertook in economic theory, econometric methods, forecasting models and other multiple issues such as index numbers, sample surveys, National Accounts, measuring cycles and economic policy. But it would be unfair to evaluate a figure of Lawrence Klein dimension only for his broad and deep research work and worldwide leadership. While Professor Emeritus at the University of Pennsylvania, we can also find a few examples of his diverse involvement in institutions such



as Economists against the Arms Race, Human Rights Committee of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Philosophical Society. His work has been widely recognized through numerous awards and distinctions. But most important, he has left an indelible stamp on a half century of students and thousands of collaborators who have always been fortunate to have his support, advice and mentorship.

Permit me now to borrow from my speech on the occasion of his appointment as Doctor Honoris Causa by the Autonomous University of Madrid (1981), the excellence of Professor Klein resides "in his many scientific contributions, his effective and deep dedication to the University and his valuable messages as a man, as a teacher and as a researcher."



Prof. Antonio Pulido
Dir. [L.R. Klein Institute](#)
Autonomous University
of Madrid

Upcoming conferences

17th Annual Conference on Global Economic Analysis "New Challenges in Food Policy, Trade and Economic Vulnerability" June 18-20, 2014. Dakar (Senegal)



Organized by [GTAP Center](#) and [AGRODEP](#), facilitated by [IFPRI](#), the goal of the conference is to promote the exchange of ideas among economists conducting quantitative analysis of global economic issues. Particular emphasis will be placed on applied general equilibrium methods, data, and applications. Related theoretical and applied work is welcome.

The overall theme of the conference is "New Challenges in Food Policy, Trade and Economic Vulnerability" with sub-themes on: International Trade and Food Security; International Trade and Finance; Foreign Direct Investment in Land and Land Markets; The Impact of Demographic Transition and Population Aging on World Economy; Trade, Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainable Development; The Impact of the Internet and New Technological Innovations on Global Trade; The Interaction between Global Trade, Poverty, Income Distribution, Inequality, and Development: The integration of Africa into the World Trade System; The Potential for Africa to "Feed the World".

Abstracts and organized **session** proposals are currently being accepted on the GTAP website through **January 15**. A number of scholarships will be available for presenters currently residing in Africa. Scholarship recipients will be chosen based on and following the review of their submitted abstract. Please note that for the convenience of our abstract reviewers, we kindly ask that abstracts be submitted in English; however, if not possible, submissions will be accepted in French. **Registrations** will be accepted from early January through **April 30**.

The joint Socio-Economic Metabolism and Asia-Pacific Conference "Industrial Ecology in the Asia-Pacific Century: Interdisciplinary science for building sustainable industrial systems and human settlements" 17 - 19 November, 2014. Melbourne (Australia)

Please **submit abstracts** for either oral or poster presentation by **15 February 2014**. All abstracts will be assessed by the scientific committee for the joint conference. Session topics are:

- Methodological and analytical advances in socio-economic metabolism research
- Material flows, waste and recycling management; Modelling of stock and flow relationships, scenario analysis
- Low carbon urban development and planning; Critical materials (energy carriers, water, metals, agricultural nutrients and biomass)