



## Lecture on “What is Capitalism?”

by Professor Geoffrey Hodgson,

Research Professor of Business Studies, University of Hertfordshire and  
Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Institutional Economics*



**Date:** 22 April 2016 (Friday)

**Time:** 11:00 am– 12:15 pm

**Venue:** Lecture Theatre 4,  
Level 2, Cheng Yu Tung Building,  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
12 Chak Cheung Street,  
Shatin, N.T.

**Language:** English

### **Abstract:**

What is distinctive about capitalism? Does capitalism simply mean private ownership and markets, or is something additional involved? If so, what? In his lecture, Professor Hodgson will take an institutional and historical approach to answer these questions, using arguments in his prizewinning book *Conceptualizing Capitalism*.

### **About the Speaker:**

Geoffrey Martin Hodgson (born 28 July 1946) is a Research Professor of Business Studies in the University of Hertfordshire, and also the editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Institutional Economics*.

Hodgson is recognised as one of the leading figures of modern critical institutionalism which carries forth the critical spirit and intellectual tradition of the founders of institutional economics, particularly that of Thorstein Veblen. His broad research interests span from evolutionary economics and history of economic thought to Marxism and theoretical biology. He first became known for his book *Economics and Institutions: A Manifesto for a Modern Institutional Economics* (1988), which criticises modern 'mainstream' economics and calls to revise economic theory on the new grounds of institutionalism. His reputation has become enhanced owing to the trilogy of more recent books – *Economics and Utopia* (1999), *How Economics Forgot History* (2001) and *The Evolution of Institutional Economics* (2004) all of which built Hodgson's arguments into a more rounded and powerful critique of mainstream economic theory.

In 1988, Hodgson was involved in setting up the European Association for Evolutionary Political Economy (EAEPE). He was its general secretary until 1998. In 2000 Hodgson co-founded The Other Canon, a center and network for heterodox economics research, with main founder and executive chairman Erik Reinert and others. In 2013, Hodgson co-founded the World Interdisciplinary Network for Institutional Research (WINIR).

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