



Seminar

KEITH TRIBE

Fellow, SCAS.
Independent Scholar

The Moral Sciences in 19th Century Cambridge

Tuesday, 26 September, 11:15 a.m.

In the Thunberg Lecture Hall
SCAS, Linneanum, Thunbergsvägen 2, Uppsala
www.swedishcollegium.se

S W E D I S H
C O L L E G I U M
for ADVANCED STUDY

ABOUT KEITH TRIBE

Keith Tribe was born in 1949 in London and studied at the University of Essex between 1968 and 1971, graduating in sociology and then was a Gastarbeiter (guest worker) in West Berlin and Fürth during 1971–72. He did his graduate work from 1972 to 1975 at the University of Cambridge and in 1978 published *Land, Labour and Economic Discourse*. From 1976, he worked at Keele University, taking early retirement as Reader in Economics in 2002. He was a Humboldt Stipendiat at the Universität Heidelberg (1979–80) and Visiting Fellow at the Max-Planck-Institut für Geschichte, Göttingen (1982–85). During this period, he began translating the work of Reinhart Koselleck and Wilhelm Hennis and after his retirement from Keele established his own translation company, Klartext. From 2002 to 2013, he worked part-time as a rowing coach at King's School, Worcester; he currently teaches the History of Economic Thought at the University of Birmingham with Roger Backhouse.

He has published *Governing Economy: The Reformation of German Economic Discourse, 1750-1840* (1988); *Strategies of Economic Order: German Economic Discourse, 1750-1950* (1995, 2007); and *Economic Careers: Economics and Economists in Britain, 1930-1970* (1997) and edited (with Hiroshi Mizuta) *A Critical Bibliography of Adam Smith* (2002). In 2015, he published *The Economy of the Word: Language, History, and Economics* and in 2016 a new translation of Schiller's *On the Aesthetic Education of Man* and *The Contradictions of Capital in the Twenty-First Century: The Piketty Opportunity* (jointly edited with Pat Hudson). He is currently completing a new translation of Max Weber, *Economy and Society*, Part I. While at SCAS, he will be writing up work that he has done over many years on the development of economics as a university discipline from the 1850s to the 1950s.

ABSTRACT

From the 1880s to the 1930s the development of the new academic discipline of economics was centred in Britain, and on Cambridge. This was because Alfred Marshall, Professor of Political Economy from 1884 to 1908, used his position to build the framework necessary for this discipline: an authoritative textbook (1890); a specialist journal (1891); and the first three-year undergraduate degree in economics (1903). He retired in 1908 and was succeeded by his student A. C. Pigou, who laid the foundations of welfare economics in 1912 and 1920; and his (private) student John Maynard Keynes transformed the relationship between economic theory and government policy in the 1930s.

To create this new discipline Marshall agitated for many years to enlarge the scope of the teaching of economics within the Moral Sciences Tripos, and the story of the development of economics has come to be written as the incremental detachment of economics from a broader framework and its emergence as an independent entity. Once economics and politics had been extracted from the Moral Sciences Tripos it became, by default, the origin of the Cambridge Philosophy Tripos; but the Moral Sciences had been more than economics plus philosophy. What if we reconsider Marshall's perspective: what was lost through the creation of a free-standing Economics Tripos? What did a political economy taught as part of the Moral Sciences look like?