

## **BRISTOL SCHUMACHER CONFERENCE 2009**

*Saturday 17 October 2009, Council House, Bristol, BS1 5TR*

*The Schumacher Society in partnership with nef (new economics foundation)*

### **FROM THE ASHES OF THE CRASH: Rebuilding with the new economics**

A year to the day since Gordon Brown dubbed the credit crunch “the defining moment for the world economy” the Schumacher conference 2009 explores creative solutions to the continuing financial crisis.

Massive Government bailouts may have rescued the banking sector from meltdown but a return to business as usual won't avert climate disaster or prevent future crashes, the conference will hear.

The Society has teamed up with **nef** (the new economics foundation) to explore visions of a very different future economy – one that has people and planet at its heart.

Chaired by Stewart Wallis, Executive Director of **nef**, the conference on Saturday 17 October 2009 at the Council House, Bristol, will hear from three keynote speakers.

- Dr. Jayati Ghosh Professor of Economics at Nehru University, New Delhi, will talk about *The Market that Failed*, looking at how neo-liberal economics has failed India and the Global South.
- Andrew Simms **nef** Policy Director's lecture, *The Terrible Freedom Before Dusk*, will explore this moment in history and the freedom humanity has to choose climate disaster or what he will call 'liberation ecology'.
- Stacy Mitchell Researcher with the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, USA will propose a *New Deal for Local Economies*, a set of new rules that would foster local self-reliance, nurture the seeds of a new economy that are already taking root and refashion the economy for long-term viability.

There will also be workshops from David Boyle (**nef** fellow and editor of *Radical Economics*) on Reinventing money; John Christensen (Tax Justice Network UK) on The attack on democracy: tax havens as the engines of chaos; Liz Cox (**nef**) & Ciaran Mundy (Transition Bristol) on Transition to a low carbon high well being future; and Nick Robins (HSBC), James Vaccaro (Triodos) & Mark Mansley (Rathbone Greenbank Investments) on Investing in a low carbon economy. Guest artist Rory McLeod, singer, poet and storyteller, will provide entertainment.

For further information and booking details visit the Schumacher Society website, [www.schumacher.org.uk](http://www.schumacher.org.uk) or contact Yolanda Pot, Administrator at the Schumacher Society on 0117 903 1081 [admin@Schumacher.org.uk](mailto:admin@Schumacher.org.uk).

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### **Media contacts**

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## Notes to editors

**The Schumacher Society** promotes the wisdom and insight of E.F. Schumacher to inspire a new generation who are seeking relevant and practical solutions to heal a world in crisis and build a sane, humane and ecological society. The Society has been running the annual Schumacher lectures for over 30 years, and publishes leading edge thinking in the Schumacher Briefing series. A Schumacher Briefing on the potential of Biochar by James Bruges, author of the Big Earth Book, will be published on the conference day. [www.schumacher.org.uk](http://www.schumacher.org.uk)

**nef (new economics foundation)** is an independent think-and-do tank that inspires and demonstrates real economic well-being. They aim to improve quality of life by promoting innovative solutions that challenge mainstream thinking on economic, environment and social issues. They work in partnership and put people and the planet first.

Founded in 1986 by the leaders of The Other Economic Summit (TOES) to challenge the G7 on issues such as international debt, **nef** is responsible for, among other things, the Happy Planet Index, Green New Deal (published on behalf of the Green New Deal group), Clone Town Britain reports and ground-breaking work with local communities to build resilient economies. They are also members of the Schumacher Circle. [www.neweconomics.org](http://www.neweconomics.org)

## About the speakers

**Andrew Simms** is Policy Director and head of the Climate Change programme at **nef** (the new economics foundation). With David Boyle he is co-author of *The New Economics: A Bigger Picture*, published by Earthscan in September 2009. He is co-editor of *Do Good Lives Have to Cost the Earth?* (2008) and author of *Ecological Debt: the health of the planet and the wealth of nations* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2009), *Tescopoly: How one shop came out on top and why it matters* (2007) and numerous other publications about human development and the environment. Andrew studied at the LSE and has worked for a variety of development and environmental organisations, including Oxfam, the International Institute for Environment and Development and Christian Aid. Andrew is also a board member of Greenpeace UK and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) Europe.

**Jayati Ghosh** is Professor of Economics at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, India. She is also co-founder of the Economic Research Foundation in New Delhi, a non-profit organisation seeking progressive alternatives to neoliberalism within development economics. Jayati is the author of *The Market that Failed: A Decade of Neoliberal Economic Reforms in India* (2002), the editor of *Economics of the New Imperialism* (forthcoming) and co-author, with C.P. Chandrasekhar, *Crisis as Conquest: Learning from East Asia* (2001). Her writing appears frequently in academic and mainstream journals, including *Frontline Magazine*, *Businessline* and *Asian Age*. Jayati has previously held academic posts at Tufts and Cambridge.

**Stacy Mitchell** is a senior researcher with the New Rules Project, a program of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance in the United States that challenges the wisdom and inevitability of economic consolidation and works to advance policies that support strong local economies and vibrant communities. Mitchell has served as an advisor to numerous small business groups, elected officials, and community organizations, and has helped dozens of cities and towns implement new land use and economic development policies that strengthen locally owned businesses. Her best-selling book, *Big-Box Swindle: The True Cost of Mega-Retailers and the Fight for America's Independent Businesses* (Beacon Press, 2006), was named one of the top ten business books of the year by *Booklist*, while John Marshall of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* described it as *a galvanizing eye-opener that deserves the widest possible audience*.

**Sponsors** Bristol Green Capital, The Converging World, Forum for the Future, Rathbone Greenbank Investments & Triodos Bank

**Evening event** with Schumacher Conference 2009 Guest Artist **Rory Mcleod** - one man soulband, poet and storyteller, singing his own unique upbeat dance stories.  
Saturday 17 October, 8.00pm, South Bank Club, Dean Lane, Bristol, BS3 1DB  
Tickets / info 07855 826 228, [www.ashkeymusic.co.uk](http://www.ashkeymusic.co.uk), Rory [www.rorymcleod.com](http://www.rorymcleod.com)

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<sup>i</sup> <http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2008/oct/17/gordonbrown-economy>, report of an editorial by Gordon Brown in the Washington Post, Out of the Ashes; The Financial Crisis Is Also an Opportunity To Create New Rules for Our Global Economy