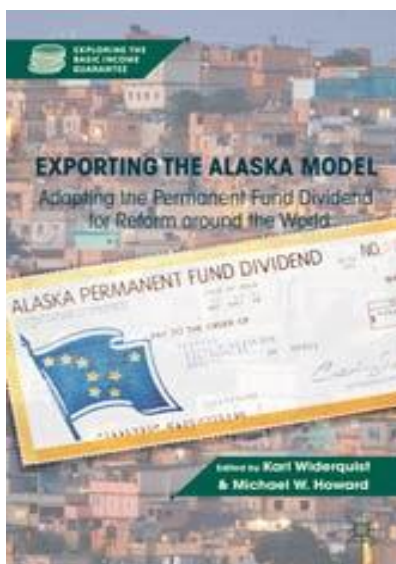


Fourth Quarter 2012

the IU view



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Quisia Gonzalez - Honduras
Roger Sandiland - UK
Tatiana Roskoshnaya - Russia
Tommas Graves - UK
Wendy Rockwell – Costa Rica

**The 2013 IU Conference
will convene in London
24th - 28th July.**

the IU view

**The Newsletter of the
International Union for
Land Value Taxation
theIU.org**

**An Economic System that
Protects the Commons**

This forum held on 24th October sponsored by the *Coalition for Economic Justice* (the IU is a member), explored key economic issues and proposed practical policies to address the land problem, the taxation system, banking and money supply issues. All agreed that “we need a society which embraces everyone”.

For a detailed report contact:
johnlipetz@economicjustice.co.uk



IU President Fernando Scornik-Gerstein writes from Madrid: The situation in Spain is dramatic, the outcome of many years of land speculation and theft by officials in the city halls, politicians and developers has resulted in an insurmountable recession with five and a half million jobless workers. In one of the

largest banks, Bankia, 23 thousand millions of euros are missing and nobody can explain where the money has gone. The conservative Government totally submitted to the dictates of the local banks and the European Union is introducing austerity measures that are deepening the crisis.

The socialist party is a very weak opposition because many of its members were also involved in land speculation. Worst of all the conservative Government of Mariano Rajoy, facing increasing opposition in the streets, has taken total control of the public television and Spanish national radio and expelled all dissident voices in an escalating suppression of basic liberties.

The socialists, obviously compromised due to their responsibility in the crisis, have appealed to the Constitutional Court. National television and radio's directors had to be appointed by overall consensus of the Parliament, but the conservative Government, by means of a decree, decided they can be appointed only by themselves. What the socialist should have done before this cutting of

public liberties is abandon the Parliament, but they are too attached to their salaries to do so. In the meantime the banks also squeeze the population.

The only hope of a change in Spain lays in the direct action of the working classes.



Allihies, County Cork, Ireland

Emer O'Siochru shared this Press Release 17th Oct. Ireland:

“In today’s announcement of his Local Government overhaul Minister Hogan states:

“Services administered by local authorities will be funded through the new local property tax, a move designed to strengthen local responsibility for decision-making by authorities.”

Smart Taxes is calling on the Government to introduce a Site Value Tax

rather than a Property Tax on the basis that Site Value Tax is a fairer means of determining the benefit to a household of the services provided by Local Government. A Site Value Tax on zoned land would discourage the lobbying and bribing of Councillors and the resulting excessive and premature zoning that corrupted the planning system and brought down the banks.

Site Value Tax would reduce the burden on ordinary householders by one third, because the tax would also have to be paid by the owners of zoned land, unfinished estates and derelict sites too. Contact: Emer O’Suichru emer@smarttaxes.org

Note: *Smarttaxes* (smarttaxes.org) is led by FEASTA (The Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability), but involves a network of organisations including An Taisce, DIT School of Real Estate, the School of Philosophy and Economic Science as well as individuals with particular interest and skill in the topic.

Published in [Irish Examiner](#): *Site value tax would be better and fairer option than a property tax* by Victoria White, September 27, 2012

Opinions expressed in *theUview* are not necessarily those of the IU.



Dave Wetzel, Treasurer of the IU, President of the Labour Land Campaign, and former Vice Chair of Transport for London writes on 27th September:

I’ve just returned from Dublin speaking at a public meeting, filmed a couple of my land stories in a studio and met MP’s etc. Fred Harrison appeared on TV, conducted a radio interview, met a Government Minister and filmed the public meeting.

Unfortunately it looks as though their government will introduce a property tax on homes and leave all land untaxed!



The Telegraph commentators quote Winston Churchill and speak fondly of LVT:

“Roads are made, streets are made, services are improved, electric light turns night into day, water is brought from reservoirs a hundred miles off in the mountains – and all while the landlord sits still... To not one of those improvements does the land monopolist contribute, and yet by every one of them the value of his land is enhanced. He renders no service to the community, he contributes nothing to the general welfare, he contributes nothing to the process from which his own enrichment is derived.”

– Winston Churchill, 1909

Taxing land value, in other words, is the equivalent of taxing an economic rent – it does not discourage any socially desirable form of wealth creation. Moreover, in a world where both income and capital are increasingly mobile, there are obvious advantages in taxing the physical; it is less easily avoided. So in an ideal world, you might indeed want to tax land more, while reducing income and other forms of capital taxes to compensate.

The Telegraph article is here:

telegraph.co.uk/finance/comment/jeremy-warner/9563737/Smash-and-grab-raid-on-middle-class-wealth-is-a-recipe-for-disaster.html



A Land Rights Online Course post from Dean Lameck Musukwa in Zambia:

Land Rush and Escalating Land Prices in Zambia

Land, land, land, land..... that is one word you cannot avoid hearing in conversations of a group of people in offices during lunch- hour restaurant meals. The newspapers are daily carrying classified ads on land, land, land and land. In the capital city Lusaka you cannot talk of buying land in the central areas if you are middle or lower income category.

If you are middle class a piece of land for you to build your house or business on will cost you as much as 5-times to 1000-times, or more, your monthly net salary, depending on location and who is selling. Available land-purchase-loans have high interest rates and the situation has led to desperation for low income

earners. Land is such big news in the tabloids and in business circles. Those who have the big cash rush to purchase land lots that are on offer. They hold the land for a while deliberately - a year or two, and when the prices have escalated they sell them at high exorbitant prices! Land prices have escalated in the last 10 years and it is big business for those who 20-30 years ago bought large chunks of land for farming within the big cities - which they are now converting for shopping malls, company offices and residential units. Owning land is as a result becoming by far and wide the reserve of the rich.

The situation is really compromising the earthly right we all have to the earth, to land, to a livelihood.

Ed. Note: Go here to join with nearly 900 people from 95 countries currently enrolled in the Land Rights and Land Value Capture online course:

course.earthrights.net



Sustainable Economics for the 21st Century

A five part teleseminar series co-hosted by Alanna Hartzok and Wendell Fitzgerald and produced by the Conscious Evolution Teleseminar Group, has featured several dynamic presenters while interweaving Georgist economics, the commons, and PROUT (Progressive Utilization Theory).

Teleseminar keywords include commons trusts, the wealth divide, earth rights, jubilee laws, the end of poverty, earned versus unearned incomes, cooperatives, sharing the world's resources, new land ethic, resource rent and land value taxation, economics of war and peace.

The fifth and last in the series will be on Sunday, 2nd December. More info:

<http://www.earthrights.net>



Several **IU UN NGO Representatives** have been working with Dr. Lisinka Ulatowska, coordinator of Commons Action for the UN, who sent us “Examples of points that we were advocating at the UN that can be found in the Rio Summits Final Agreement.”

Here is one:

(#39) We recognize that the planet Earth and its ecosystems are our home and that Mother Earth is a common expression in a number of countries and regions and we note that some countries recognize the rights of nature in the context of the promotion of sustainable development. We are convinced that in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environment needs of present and future generations, it is necessary to promote harmony with nature.

Related website:
globalcommonstrust.org

Dr. Quisia Gonzalez, an IU Executive Committee member, medical doctor, and Garifuna indigenous person originally from Honduras informs us that an October decision of the Honduran Supreme Court struck down the idea of building three independently owned “model cities” in Honduras.

These proposed cities would have been carved out of traditional Garifuna lands and would have involved the creation of independent city states within the state of Honduras. A United States based investment group instigated the plan.

Gonzalez, speaking as an officer for the Honduran Garifuna human rights organization, OFRANEH, noted that Garifuna people are people who once fought against British colonialism and are still struggling for land rights. She stated that the Model Cities project would have been an act of ethnocide.



Pleased to hear of the Supreme Court decision Gonzalez said to her network, “Congratulations To All Hondurans! Reclaim Honduras and enter into The Progressive Era with Dignity and Respect. We work for the Development (of Honduras) with Integration and Inclusion, putting as a base the achievement of fundamental Human Rights.”



Hillary Clinton, US Secretary of State

Ian Gary, director of US based **Publish What You Pay** (PWYP), an affiliate of Transparency International (TI), reported his favourable impressions of a speech (18th October) given by **US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton** at Georgetown University on the subject of Energy Diplomacy.

Clinton said:

History tells a frustrating tale. Countries that are rich with energy resources often have less democracy, more economic instability, more frequent civil wars. They are far more likely to be ruled by

dictators, and oil can embolden those dictators to start conflicts with other countries. It's often called the resource curse. But the resources aren't the problem. It's greed.

The resources can be used to transform a country's future for the better, but only if they're used the right way for the right purposes. So we need to work to undo the resource curse, especially now as demand for energy guarantees that more developing countries will become oil exporters.



Ian Gary also brought this to the attention of the PWYP list: Great article in *The Nation* titled “**A Huge Victory for Global Justice**” by James North here:

thenation.com/article/169720/huge-victory-global-justice#

The article reports that on August 22 the *Securities and Exchange Commission* (US) issued regulations that will force oil, gas and mining companies that are listed on US stock exchanges to publish what they pay to

foreign governments. The new regulations will enforce an anti-corruption section of the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial reform law, known as the Cardin-Lugar amendment, which requires some 1,100 resource companies to break down their payments and report them in revealing detail. In the more than two years since the law passed, Big Oil lobbyists tried ferociously—and failed—to water down the new transparency regulations.

North states that the SEC decision is the biggest single victory in many years for poor people across the Third World. No longer will the big oil and mining companies be able to hide their under-the-table payments to crooked governments in Africa, Latin America and Asia....

In the years and decades to come, ordinary people will be intrigued to learn exactly how much the oil giants like Exxon and Shell and big mining companies such as Freeport-McMoRan and BHP Billiton are paying their governments.

They can then contrast the billions of dollars in royalties and taxes with the potholed dirt roads, decrepit hospitals and overcrowded schools that they see around them.

The successful fight for openness took ten long years. The **Publish What You Pay** coalition grew to include more than 600 individual groups, with national affiliated campaigns in thirty-one different countries. In the United States, key organizations also included the Revenue Watch Institute, Oxfam America and Global Witness.

The tremendous victory is boosting a similar measure in Europe; proponents hope to bring a transparency measure to a vote in the European Parliament before the end of this year.

Editor note: A similar campaign could be launched worldwide to publish information on surface land ownership and land value.

This you should know

A new entry entitled "Let the Beneficiaries Pay" - OMEGA seminar 10th October has been published to *LandValueScape*.

View page:

landvaluescape.org/archives/2012/10/let-the-beneficiaries-pay-omega-seminar-10th-october-ucl.html



Russia Creates World's Largest Oil Company

Exxon Mobil (XOM) has been displaced as the world's largest oil company due to the acquisition by state-owned Russian oil giant Rosneft of TNK-BP, a Russian oil firm owned jointly by BP (NYSE: BP, London: BP) and a group of Russian billionaires.

The article below says that the move is in line with President Putin's assertion of state control over oil production in the country since the sector was privatized in 1999.

"This is a good, big deal, not only for the Russian energy sector, but also for the Russian economy," President Putin said Monday, according to Russian news agency [Interfax](#).

Full article here:

csmonitor.com/Environment/Energy-Voices/2012/1022/Rosneft-deal-gives-Russia-control-of-world-s-largest-oil-company-video

New Books

Fred Harrison writes: Ours is a profoundly disturbed world which needs healing. The starting point is not a more intensive advocacy of land value taxation. If we want to influence the future, the challenge has to be viewed as nothing less than the transformation of the Western mind-set: a shift in the collective consciousness.

Only then will it become possible to reshape our institutions and save the West from what now looms in the not-too-distant future.



My hope is that the publication of my next book will contribute to a new discourse.

The Traumatized Society - How to Outlaw Cheating and Save our Civilisation

can be purchased at a *serious discount*. Shepherd-Walwyn has generously agreed to cut the price for pre-publication orders. Launch date: October 28. Use this link:

shepherdwalwyn.co.uk/book_details.asp?Bookid=256

The book is shown at the full price (£17.95 plus £3.25 for UK postage). If you click on 'Add to Cart', *add the following after you type in your name:* '@pre-pub price of £12 inc postage'. The publisher will charge the lower sum, yielding a saving of £9.



Exporting the Alaska Model:

Adapting the Permanent Fund Dividend for Reform around the World / Exploring the Basic Income Guarantee

Edited by Karl Widerquist and Michael W. Howard and published by academic press Palgrave Macmillan (August 2012) this second of a two-volume book anthology about the Alaska Permanent Fund contains a thorough analysis of the APF and describes key elements of the Fund as best practice guidelines for the establishment of similar funds elsewhere.

The **Alaska Permanent Fund** is a constitutionally established sovereign wealth fund governed by a state-owned corporation, the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation. The fund was established in the

Alaska State Constitution under Governor Jay Hammond in order to manage the state's revenues from its oil wealth. Each Alaskan citizen has received from 1000 to nearly 3000 USD from the fund each year since 1980.

This year an estimated 646,805 eligible Alaskans will receive a Permanent Fund Dividend of 878 USD. While this is a lower amount than other years, consider that a family of four will receive 3512 USD (2,190 GBP/2,722 EUR) from the value of the extractive resource commons as a direct cash citizen dividend – and this does not include commons rent from surface land.

The anthology contains an article titled "Assessing the Strengths and Shortcomings of the Alaska Model in Advance of Export" written by IU General Secretary Alanna Hartzok.

More info:
<http://us.macmillan.com/exportingthealaskamodel/KarlWiderquist>.



IU ExCom member **Gordon Abiama** wrote this email (18th October) from his home in Nigeria the day the floods had reached the first stair in his house in Yenegoa and after he had killed two pythons swimming in his back yard:

When I read your email heading - **Of Kings and Pythons** - it made me laugh and I said to myself, what a good caption it would make for a story. Can you imagine people who were able to rescue their music boxes, find any dry ground and dance the tune Obladi Oblada, la la la la life goes on.

Late Afro beat singer, Fela said we are a people that can smile in the midst of great sufferings. And I think our leaders have taken advantage of this resilience in us to continue to perpetrate injustice.



Ed. note: When the situation is stabilized in the Niger Delta Gordon tells us he will continue with the **LVT Research for Policy Implementation Project** and communi-cations with the 90 members of the Nigeria Land Rights Class.



This Presentations Page provides links to all of IU ExCom member **Ed Dodson's** awesome and excellent powerpoint presentations: cooperativeindividualism.org/presentations.html

Dave Wetzel gave a talk on Land Value Tax organised by Pendle Constituency Labour Party Friday, 28th September. We also look forward to hearing more of his recent trips to China.

Economics professor **Nicolaus Tideman**, a member of the IU Executive Committee, brought to our attention this excellent article supporting land value tax from a Libertarian perspective:

libertarianalliance.wordpress.com/2012/09/23/why-libertarians-should-support-a-land-value-tax/

Thank you IU Executive Committee member **Carol Wilcox** for telling us about: *The Case for a Land Value Tax*. The Institute for Economic Affairs UK think tank published Fred Harrison's *Wheels of Fortune*.

iea.org.uk/blog/the-case-for-a-land-value-tax

Bill Batt informs us that the best land value maps for a country are in Costa Rica, as Wendy Rockwell brought to our attention. Take a look at this site where almost the whole country has been valued:

dgt.hacienda.go.cr/valoraciones/Normativavaloraciontribadmin/Parametrosdevaloracion/Paginas/Reglasparaelpuestosalidario.aspx

Albert Manape, Papua New Guinea, writes as a Land Rights course registrant:

I came across this picture of the family which breaks my heart when I put myself and family into such a situation. The mother standing some meters away and monitoring the children to the safe place.

It is very emotional for such to occur in the rural areas where the traditional land are usually grabbed by the giant investors or state for their personal gain. Just study this picture and see how you will feel:



The Tonle Bassac Eviction (Cambodia): A woman removes some of her belongings under the watchful eyes of two policemen. The Police were deployed on the site to monitor the destruction of houses and evictions of the inhabitants.
(Photo: LICARDHO)



Scott Baker, President of Common Ground - NYC and NY State Coordinator for Public Banking Institute urges us to take a look at this article from “that lefty green magazine” 😊 Forbes: forbes.com/sites/peterjreilly/2012/09/03/will-warren-buffett-be-endorsing-jill-stein-for-president/

About halfway down, the author quotes the Green Party platform Jill Stein (US GP candidate for President) is associated with: “Enact a system of Community Ground Rent/Land Value Taxation that distinguishes between the socially and privately created wealth of land, by increasing the taxes on the former to retain for society the value that it collectively creates and lowers them on the latter to reward individuals for their initiative and work.”

Awesome! Excellent!

This Land is Mine

Not to be missed:

[youtube.com/watch?v=4pKMV6e5kEo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pKMV6e5kEo)



Karl Fitzgerald, director of EarthSharing Australia, is seeking assistance in selling the DVD of his excellent documentary film **Real Estate 4 Ransom**. “We are looking for support in the distribution of the remaining copies,” says Karl. “The film has had close to [50,000 views online](#) and continues to receive solid feedback from

viewers. It comes in a nifty eco-pack (plastic free, recycled card).”

The cost is just \$3 per DVD plus postage for orders above five. Sales of the last remaining stock will assist in a new film project.

The DVD is in PAL format and can also be [downloaded from vimeo for free](#) (scroll down for d/l button). To order **Real Estate 4 Ransom** email k2@earthsharing.org.au



James Robertson “A Brilliant Mind”

Subscribe to his newsletter:

jamesrobertson.com/

Wendell Fitzgerald, a long time Georgist and current Board President of the Henry George School of Northern California is thrilled to have recently discovered the book **Future Money** by “a Brit named James Robertson.”

Wendell writes: “Much to my utter surprise and joy it turns out that Robertson... puts money and a clearly Georgist tax policy together and he does it brilliantly. He also talks about how we spend the money we raise from LVT type taxation and in that part he speaks of a citizen dividend. I was blown away....

My first take is that Robertson has put money together with land value taxation in a way that makes total sense and allows us to talk about both and then some in one breath. I think I/we can now start talking about money as a way to talk about the land question and our tax policy. I am going to start speaking about the tax aspect of the money question as if they are inextricably one and the same issue. **See:** jamesrobertson.com/futuremoney.htm and chelseagreen.com/bookstore/item/future_money:paperback#, the US partner-publisher with Green Books in the UK.



Bill Batt, IU ExCom member, from Albany, NY wrote on 24th September:

Dear UK Colleagues,

It's hard for us on this side of the pond to get a sense of how great the interest and how favorable the prospects for LVT over there really are. But I am impressed with the number of letters in various newspapers that are supportive.



An awesome video – **Our Story in 2 Minutes** - was a teenager's final project for his high school video production class. The daunting task he took on was to tell the story of our planet in two minutes -- and regardless of whether or not one agrees with this version of history, he did a stunning job of cutting picture to music. His high school project has been viewed by almost 2 million people since he uploaded it to YouTube a few months ago! Watch: [Our Story In 2 Minutes](http://forbiddenknowledge.com/videos/history/our-story-in-2-minutes.html)

A Note to Our Members from IU Membership Secretary Ole Lefmann

All members of the IU have agreed to pay an annual membership fee.

The IU annual membership fee for individual members is only UK £30 (48 USD); for students, pensioners or others of low income the fee is just UK £10 (16 USD).

The corporate membership fee is UK £60 (95 USD). If your organization is a paying member of another group in our network then the IU corporate member fee is only UK £30 (48 USD).

You may pay via PayPal in the membership section here: www.theiu.org – and you can make a donation here: <http://www.theiu.org/donate> You may also send a check written to the IULVT to the Membership Secretary, Ole Lefmann, 41 Coleraine Road, London N8 0QJ, UK.

IU member benefits include:

- Subscriptions to the *Georgist Journal* and *theIUview*
- Reduced fee for our conferences
- A vote on our members' council
- The **power of your voice** in our organization to give input to the conference program, *theIUview*, the IU website, teleseminars, action alerts and other projects.
- Free Land Rights Course access

If you are a member in arrears, we don't want to lose you so please

PAY YOUR DUES WITHOUT DELAY!

JOIN US! We welcome you to join with us at the International Union for Land Value Taxation! To become an IU member go to the membership page on the [IU website](http://www.theiu.org) www.theiu.org or simply send an email with subject IU JOIN to IU Membership Secretary [Ole Lefmann](mailto:Ole.Lefmann@theiu.org).

2013 IU CONFERENCE: Please note in your calendar the dates booked at the School of Economic Science Building (11-13 Mandeville Place, London) for the 2013 IU Conference are **Wednesday 24th July to Sunday 28th July.**

Bill Batt's excellent report about the 2012 IU conference in Buenos Aires is on the IU website here: <http://www.theiu.org/news/2012-global-conference-review.html> To access the written presentations ("documento"), photos of some of the sessions, and videos go to: http://www.asap.org.ar/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2182&Itemid=62

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