



# Centre for the Study of Co-operatives

▲ Seminar Series 2006/07

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## The Social Economy and the Co-operative University in the Age of “Outreach and Engagement”

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What is meant by “social economy” and how does it map onto a university that has severed its historic links with “Extension” in favour of what is now called “Outreach and Engagement”? In this interim report on his work on the idea and actualities of the co-operative university, the presenter will offer an assessment of recent developments at the University of Saskatchewan, where the rhetorics and realities of competitiveness and co-operation interact in revealing, and for him, frequently unsatisfactory or confusing, ways. Given co-operators’ traditional and current interest in and commitment to education, and the widespread perception that universities strongly influence the performance of “the” economy, it is useful to make one’s academic home the regular *object* of inquiry as well as the consistent *source* of inquiry, and to do so outside the coercions and rigidities of administratively driven integrated planning, the miscues and misrepresentations of institutional “branding.” In the University of Saskatchewan’s centennial year, who do we really think we are, and why?

The concept of the social economy offers a historical as well as a contemporary lens through which to view the knowledge economy at work within elite institutions such as universities. Professor Findlay will first contextualize the social economy in nineteenth-century Britain (Rochdale) and the United States (Gronlund) before using the lessons of that earlier period to guide his engagement with the current practices of the university where he has taught (and often co-operated) for more than thirty years.

▲ Place: Arts 101  
Date: Thursday, 29 March 2007  
Time: 3:00–4:30 PM

