

Paradoxes of Transformative Social Innovation. The Basic Income Case

December 6th -7th 2017 Académie royale des Sciences, des
Lettres et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique 1, Rue Ducale,

Bruxelles

Paul-Marie Boulanger
Institut pour un Développement Durable

BASIC INCOME : THE PROPOSAL in a nutshell.

A *basic income* is a periodic cash payment unconditionally delivered to all on an individual basis, without means-test or work requirement.

Periodic: it is paid at regular intervals (for example every month), not as a one-off grant.

Cash payment: it is paid in an appropriate medium of exchange, allowing those who receive it to decide what they spend it on. It is not, therefore, paid either in kind (such as food or services) or in vouchers dedicated to a specific use.

Individual: it is paid on an individual basis—and not, for instance, to households.

Universal: it is paid to all, without means test.

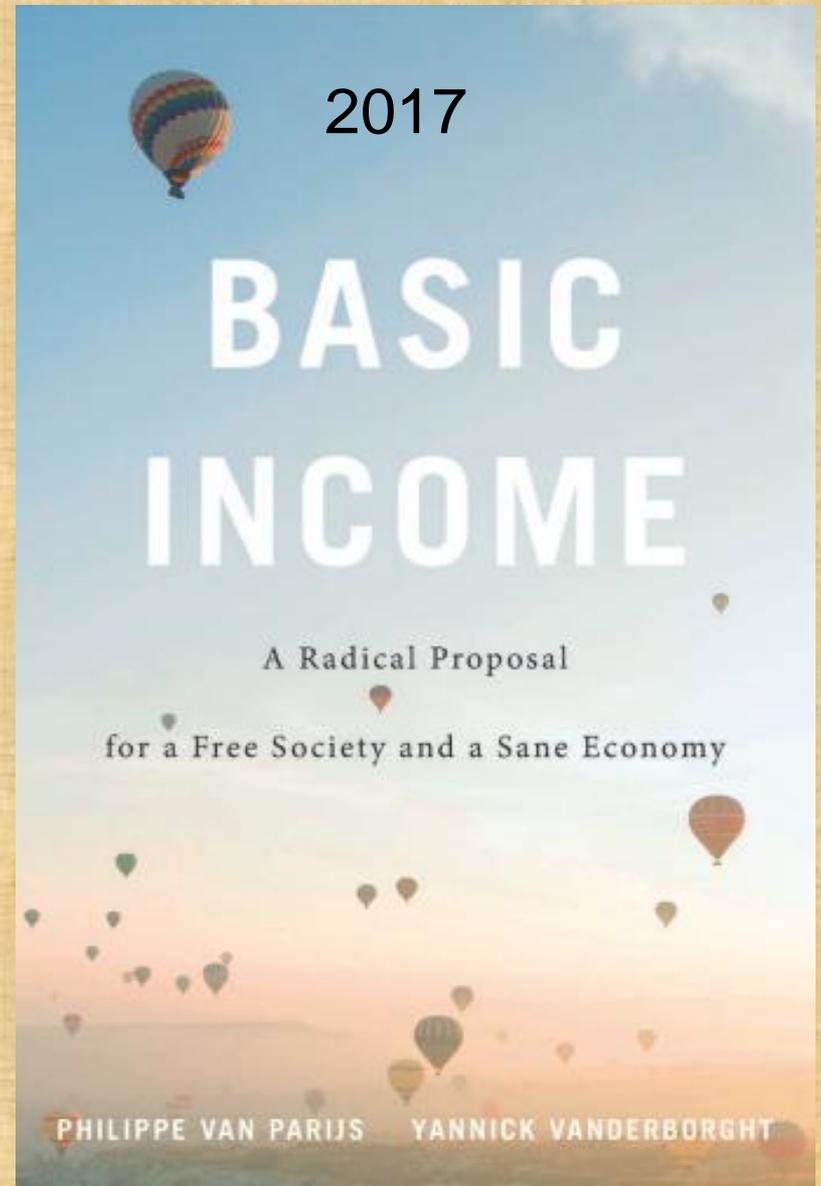
Unconditional: it is paid without a requirement to work or to demonstrate willingness-to-work.



A Bundle of (apparent or genuine) paradoxes

- A currently viral AND quite ancient idea;
- Fighting poverty AND giving to the richs ?
- A left wing AND right wing idea ?
- Fighting unemployment AND promoting laziness; ?
- Sustaining capitalism AND getting rid of it ? (“ A capitalist road to communism ?” “What, if anything, can justify capitalism ?”) ?

A VERY OLD AND VERY RECENT TSI



LEFT OR RIGHT ?



CHRISTINE BOUTIN
ANCIENNE PRÉSIDENTE PARTI CHRÉTIEN DÉMOCRATE

Basic Income?
IT'S A TRAP!



Reject deindustrialization and fight with us for a New Deal!
More at <http://bit.ly/1kASz8V>

UFAA

FACEBOOK.COM/UNITEDFRONTAGAINSTAUSTERITY

Forum Financier
Mons-La Louvière

15/11/17 18h15
UCL Mons (A1)




Philippe Defeyt  **Georges-Louis Bouchez**

Conférence-débat sur l'allocation universelle
Modératrice **Alice Dive**



Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet

TheStyleSoul.com

“UNCONDITIONAL BASIC INCOME IS NOT LEFT OR RIGHT. ITS FORWARD.”

You realize the **Universal Basic Income** is **FEUDALISM** right?

DaisyLuther.com

GIVING MONEY TO BILL GATES (OR DONALD TRUMP) ?

- Because it allows to minimize the administrative costs;
- Because nobody is stigmatized because (s)he is entitled to the allowance;
- Because , anyway, the rich will pay for it through taxation.

BASIC INCOME : MORE OR LESS WORK ?

MORE

- No more unemployment trap
- No more poverty trap
- More entrepreneurship

LESS

- Foster laziness (« Should surfers be fed ? »)
- More taxes on other income (including wages and profits)

BASIC INCOME : IMPACT ON WAGES ?

INCREASE

- Higher negotiation power for workers
- Less incentives for taking low paid jobs
- More opportunities for education

DECREASE

- Wage as additionnal income
- More part-time jobs

TRANSFORMATIVE BECAUSE PARADOXICAL (not despite) ?

- In logic (Epaminondas' lie, Russel...), , epistemology (Hempel...) physics (Schrödinger's cat, EPR,...), economics (Easterlin...), etc., paradoxes are powerful triggers of innovation and change.
- Social systems are intrinsically paradoxical (G. Bateson, Y.Barel, A. Wilden, N. Luhmann)
- Paradoxes are linked to our current distinctions. We need new distinctions to observe and steer a changing world (generating new paradoxes).

DAY AND NIGHT (Escher 1938)

