



Centre for the Study of Co-operatives  
Seminar Series 2010–2011

# Humanizing the Economy

## Co-operatives in the Age of Capital

*How the largest social movement in history is paving the way to a brighter future.*

John Restakis  
Executive Director  
British Columbia Co-operative Association

*Humanizing the Economy* is a story about a revolution in human society that began with the rise of democracy in politics and continues to unfold as the democratic idea struggles to find its place in the world of economics. If economic democracy is the hidden face of this ongoing revolution, then the history of the co-operative idea is its most durable expression.

The global co-operative movement appears to have arrived at a crossroads. With the collapse of Communism and with the capitalist system in crisis, the case for the expansion of economic democracy has never been more relevant or more urgent. There is a need for a middle path that avoids the Marxist extreme of market rejection on the one hand and the unbridled power of capital under neoliberalism on the other. But will the co-operative movement provide the leadership so desperately needed to seize the moment and point a way forward?

*Humanizing the Economy* shows that the popular drive to democratize economies is in fact working to transform virtually every economy in the world today. And for those who are willing to look, the evidence of a new, more humane, economic and social order is there to see.

1E80 Agriculture Building  
51 Campus Drive  
Thursday, 7 April 2011  
3:00–4:30 PM