

*Colorado*

# CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE

***Tuesday 24 March 2009***

***Mercantile Room at Wynkoop Brewing Company***

<http://www.wynkoop.com/>

Corner of 18<sup>th</sup> and Wynkoop in LoDo, Denver

About a block from Light Rail. Thirteen minutes by foot from Auraria.

## **The Hesitant Hand:**

**How our Current Economic Predicament Illustrates the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of Markets**

Professor Steven G. Medema  
Department of Economics  
University of Colorado Denver

Economic commentators from the ancient Greek philosophers down to the modern age have been preoccupied with the question of how to harness the forces of self-interested behavior in order to promote the public good. This issue is at the center of the debates over why we find ourselves in the current economic crisis and what to do about it. This meeting of the Café Scientifique will explore how ideas from the **dismal science**, past and present, can explain how we arrived at our present predicament and offer insights into alternative views of how we might go about remedying it.

Why *The Hesitant Hand*? Adam Smith wrote in *The Wealth of Nations* (1776) that when an individual [banker, mortgage lender, derivatives broker, hedge fund manager] did something for his own benefit, he was “led by an invisible hand to promote an end which was no part of his intention,” that is, the good of the economy as a whole. It’s also the title of Steve Medema’s forthcoming book from Princeton University Press.

***EVERYONE IS WELCOME.*** The discussion starts at 6:30 in the Mercantile Room (no food service there). Come before 6 PM to leave yourself time to get something to eat in the restaurant area, or stay and eat afterwards. We end around 8 PM.

There’s no charge. The Wynkoop are generously providing the facility; we buy our own drinks. It is first come, first seated, and **seating is limited** by the fire laws!.

The Colorado Café Scientifique in Denver is organized by an informal committee of faculty from CU and institutions up and down the Front Range, as well as writers, students, and science fans from industry, government and all over. We welcome your input, including ideas for speakers and topics. Bring them with you to the next Café, or e-mail them and any questions to [John.Cohen@UCDenver.edu](mailto:John.Cohen@UCDenver.edu)

Essential information on our Web site at <http://CafeSciColorado.org>