



The International Commission On Economics & Security

Monday 27 June 2005, 11-30 am to 1-00 pm

Can economics help us to understand security problems?
A talk followed by discussion and questions

Speaker: William Arthurs

Venue:

The Canada Blanche Room (Room J116)
The European Institute
London School of Economics & Political Science
Cowdray House, Portugal Street, London WC2

About the talk: Traditionally, security has been understood in terms of technological advances. Public discussion of security revolves around technology; for example, missile systems, biometric data, “chip and PIN” payment cards. The technological perspective on security cannot, however, explain apparently perverse behaviour on the part of users of secure technologies. Economics offers a wide range of tools and models to understand individual actors’ decisions about security and the interaction that takes place during the emergence of a collective decision. Once security problems are understood as problems of resource allocation and incentives, behaviours usually characterised as perverse can be readily explained.

About the speaker: William Arthurs is Chairman of the Transatlantic Institute. He has worked in information and communications technology and security since the 1980s, most recently in the international financial markets.

Email: info@icoes.org.uk

Website: www.thetransatlanticinstitute.org

The International Commission On Economics & Security is a project of The Transatlantic Institute, registered charity number 1108682