

Methodology and relevancy in economics. Today's economics and associated sciences

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The study examines four questions: 1. It moves from experience—from the spread of unfamiliarity—towards causes in search of an explanation for an absence of conformity arising from the world's now urgent economic difficulties and the technicist orthodoxy of today's economic theory. The dominant approach is one-sidedly axiomatic and follows exclusively the inherent rules of formalization, while resting or having rested on assumptions and means beyond which other disciplines (especially the natural sciences) have clearly advanced in recent decades. 2. It explores the question of how and why there came to be a methodological exclusiveness in the world's leading journals, which often squeezes out the specific subject of examination in theory and research. 3. It raises the question of whether the mutual effect of the failures of the past and the mainstream that opened up theory in directions previously avoided will produce over decades a change of paradigm in Kuhn's sense. The reply given here is negative. 4. Proposals are made for moderation and for better application of the findings of associated sciences and for a need for greater methodological multiplicity. Instead of relying on single arbitrarily chosen textbooks or schools, the argument follows the course of the Nobel laureates in determining the boundaries and achievements of this branch of science.

Technological and institutional changes on the labour market and in corporate organization. A comparison of Western and East-Central Europe

Judit Kapás and Pál Czeglédi

A framework for understanding the interconnections of technological and institutional changes is offered by a theory that rests on the technological-economic paradigm. For harmony between the new technology and the institutions develops only through a slow process of institutional transformation. The technological change of paradigm in the American system of institutions has brought far better adaptation to the info-communication revolution than Europe's has. The study presents in two fields – the labour market and corporate organization – how the leading post-socialist and West-European countries alike have faced the problem of providing an institutional system suited to the consequences of the info-communications revolution.

The symmetries of the Goodwin Model. Contradiction and reconciliation among economic paradigms*András Bródy and István Ábel*

Recognition of the duality and symmetries of economic motion offers researchers a new concept. As in the sciences of the last century, the debate between “causes” and “objectives” dies down. The basic question today is not seemingly contradictory paradigms or logical rivalry among schools, but correct and easily measurable description of the movement. In seeking a simpler and more comprehensible explanation, the authors examine the mathematical methods of creating theories and models. For this reason, they examine the cycle model of Goodwin, which is accepted by both schools. The causal or teleological explanation and the criteria of costs and of output are equally satisfactory, and a realistic description of economic cycles is arrived at by analysing the calculation practice of a model that satisfies and is based upon both.

Types of Schumpeterian “creative destruction” in the info-communication industry*György Bógel*

The study examines the practical mechanism of Schumpeterian “creative destruction in the info-communication sector. The concept of innovation is understood here in a broad sense, as Schumpeter himself would have done. The study shows how the innovation model devised by Clayton Christensen and his associates presents a subtle picture of the market process of innovation, with which completed and current innovation processes with several outcomes can be analysed easily. The examination centres on the question of when the collapse of markets and structural transformation of market-supply competition is likely to occur as part of the “creative destruction” process. The examples presented include both successful and unsuccessful cases in this respect.