

Volume 28, Issue 20**Conference Announcement****ECHE 2007 - Axiomatics in Economics: the Rise and Fall**

Location : Siena, Italy

Organizers : José Luís Cardoso, Philippe Fontaine, Robert Leonard and Carlo Zappia

Major Topics : Historical reflection upon the place of the axiomatic method in 20th century economics

Conference Dates : 10/4/2007 to 10/4/2007

Submission Deadline : 2/28/2007

Send Submissions To : zappia@unisi.it

Sponsoring Organizations :

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Web Page : <http://www.econ-pol.unisi.it/eche07/>

AXIOMATICS IN ECONOMICS: THE RISE AND FALL One of the most noteworthy innovations in economic theory in the 20th century was the field's adoption of the axiomatic method. From the conception of individual rationality all the way to the representation of general equilibrium, few of the central areas of economic theory were left untouched by the discipline's embrace of the axiomatic approach. It could further be argued that the place of the axiomatic method has followed something of a cycle over the past century, going from occupying no place at its beginning, to the achievement of predominance in the post-war period, and retreating to a somewhat less-assured position as the century drew to a close. The purpose of the present conference is to provide an occasion for broad historical reflection upon the rise and fall of the axiomatic method in economics, and papers dealing with any relevant aspect of that history are invited. Potential questions include, but are by no means limited to: - How did economics come to embrace the axiomatic method and how was this related to its adoption in other disciplines such as mathematics and physics? Were there historical or cultural determinants operating across the sciences that affected this process? Were other areas of the social sciences affected by this development? - How did the adoption of axiomatic reasoning affect the conception of the economic agent? And how did it affect the relative importance of introspection and empirical argument in the work of the theorist herself? What was the relationship between the prevalence of the axiomatic style and the later emergence of the more myopic, evolutionary agent? - Who found axiomatic economics to be persuasive and who not? What roles were played here by epistemological, aesthetic, political and cultural factors? - How did the axioms of rational choice affect the turn to experimental work in economics and psychology? And how, in turn, did such experimentation affect the power, and further development, of axiomatic reasoning? - How have heterodox approaches such as the Cambridge, Austrian and Institutionalist traditions been affected by the spread of the axiomatic method? Where does axiomatic economics stand at the beginning of the 21st century? The above questions and themes are intended to be merely suggestive, designed to stimulate original proposals dealing with the topic. The hope is to bring together a variety of contributions on the conference theme, allowing for two days of rich and lively discussion. Proposals should contain roughly 1000 words, indicating the originality of the paper and stating how it contributes to the conference theme. Proposals from doctoral students are welcome. The deadline for the submission of paper proposals is February 28, 2007. Proposals will be evaluated by mid-March, and completed papers will be due by July 15, 2007. Final notification will be given by the end of July.

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