

Doctoral Program in Economics



Academic year 2020/21

HISTORY OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Period:

First term: from November 2nd to January 29th

Course hours:

20

Teachers:

Professor Francesca Dal Degan: 4 hours

Professor Marco Guidi, course coordinator: 16 hours

Exam methods:

Research Paper.

Prerequisites:

None.

Program

The first part of this course (Professor Dal Degan) aims to set the scene for the rise of modern political economy, exploring the texts of authors like A. Genovesi and A. Smith, J. C. L. Sismondi and J. B. Say characterized by significant similarities although belonging to different traditions of thought (Italian, Scottish and French). Through textual analysis, we will explore the theoretical questions that could be drawn from the narratives of these authors that sought in the interaction between history, philosophy, ethics and economics the plot of causal analysis of economic phenomena.

Class 1: The Birth of Economics as a Science of Relationships: the case of Italy and Scotland

Class 2: Liberty and Wealth: J. C. L. Sismondi in dialogue with J. B. Say

The second part of the course (Professor Marco Guidi) aims to provide a broad framework of concepts and methodologies for the study of the history of economic thought (HET).

Class 3: 3.1. Sources and tools for HET: physical and digital archives. 3.2. Different approaches to HET. The 1970s. First divide: HEA vs HET. Divide in HEA: Sraffians (and non-Sraffian Marxists) vs Marginalists. HET as Economic Theory. Individualism and classes. Trends in HET: historical sociology of economics; intellectual

history, history of science, economic epistemology. Sociology of HET: economists vs historians. Depts of Economics vs Dept of History and Humanities.

Class 4. The changing epistemology of economic knowledge and economic science along history. Ancient world: the City. Politics and hierarchical order. Oikonomia. Middle age: the sovereign as “pastor” (Foucault) and theology (Dominicans and Franciscans) facing the rebirth of trade (Mediterranean): justice and just prices. Usury. Mathematics and accountancy. Thomas Aquinas, Summa theologiae. Early Modern age: the rise of national states: the Sovereign as father. Political economy as a normative science. Reason of State and welfare of subjects as a responsibility of the Sovereign. Economica. 18th century and early 19th century: from art to science: natural law foundations in their different derivations. Governmentality as its political counterpart. Discipline as its ethical counterpart. 20th century: normativity (apparently) expunged from economics.

Class 5: An institutional framework for the development of economics: The Institutionalisation of Economics and the Professionalisation of the Economists. The notion of institutionalisation and the history of research on the institutionalisation of economics. Professionalisation and its requirements.

Class 6: Political economy, social capital, and public reason: the Public sphere; Social capital, networks, trust and sociability; Economic Associations: social capital and professionalisation; Economics and public reason; the emergence of a new Governmentality (Foucault); Economists as experts; Economists in Parliament and government; Economists in the Daily Press.

Class 7: Textual genres in economics. The theory of literary genres applied to economic literature. Treatises and Textbooks of economics and their goals. Different targets: University, Secondary School, Elementary political economy. Journals and their subgenres. Encyclopedias and Dictionaries.

Class 8: Networks, Translation and circulation of economic ideas The notions of transmission, spread/dissemination, reception, circulation compared. The circulation of economic ideas and the adaptation of “institutional packages”. Translation and adaptation of economic literature as a means for the circulation of ideas. International Networks and translation: the point of view of the actor-network theory. A comparative history of economics? The case of Europe.

Class 9: The linguistic analysis of economic literature. Economic language as LSP (Language for Specific Purposes). Texts as data. A corpus-based / corpus-driven analysis of economic literature. Qualitative and quantitative approach. The Linguistic analysis of economic literature: synchronic and diachronic approaches. Lexical and syntactic analysis of the contents and arguments of economics. Discourse analysis. Sentiment analysis, language and ideology, language and bias. The lexicon of economics and its impact on society (grammar and conversation guides; novels, poetry and other types of literature).

Class 10: Data mining and economic literature. A Quantitative turn in the history of economics? Statistical methods applied to corpora. Topic modelling and other methodologies. Interpretation of findings.

Educational objectives

The class is designed to implement students' critical and creative skills in order to acquire independent capacities of interpretation, contextualization and systematic reconstruction of economic ideas tracing the evolution from the early efforts at economic analysis to Twentieth Century economic thinking.

Bibliographical references

First part

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Genovesi A. (2013), *Lezioni di economia civile*, Milano, Vita e Pensiero.

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Second part

1.

Bob Coats, « Research Priorities in the History of Economics », *History of Political Economy*, 1 (1), 1969, p. 9-18.

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2.

Peter Berger, Thomas Luckmann, *The Social Construction of Reality: A Treatise in the Sociology of Knowledge*, Penguin Books-Doubleday, London-New York, NY, 1966.

Pierre Bourdieu, *Homo academicus*, Paris : Les éditions de minuit, 1984.

Introduction to *The market for political economy : the advent of economics in British university culture : 1850-1905*, edited by Alon Kadish and Keith Tribe, London- New York : Routledge, 1993.

3.

Jürgen Habermas, Habermas, J. (1962). *Strukturwandel der Öffentlichkeit: Untersuchungen zu einer Kategorie der bürgerlichen Gesellschaft*. Neuwied: Luchterhand; English translation: *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere: An Inquiry into a Category of Bourgeois Society*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1989.

Maurice Agulhon, *La République au village : les populations du Var, de la Révolution à la IIe République*, Paris : Éditions du Seuil, 1979.

Bruno Latour, *Reassembling the social : an introduction to actor-network theory*, Oxford : Oxford University Press, 2007.

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M.M. Augello, M.E.L. Guidi, "Nineteenth Century Economic Societies in a Comparative Approach: the Emergence of Professional Economists", in M.M. Augello, M.E.L. Guidi (eds), *The Spread of Political Economy and the Professionalisation of Economists. Economic Societies in Europe, America and Japan in the Nineteenth Century*, Routledge, London, 2001, p. 1-31.

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Thomas O. Beebee, *The ideology of genre: a comparative study of generic instability*, University Park : The Pennsylvania S.U.P., 1994.

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5.

Madeleine Akrich, Michel Callon, Bruno Latour, *Sociologie de la traduction: textes fondateurs*, Paris : Mines Paris, les Presses, 2006.

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6.

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