

TWO TUTORIALS ON PHILOSOPHY OF ECONOMICS

(for graduate and undergraduate students, no special requirements)

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The aim of these tutorials is to offer an outlook on the Philosophy of Economics, considered as a special branch in Philosophy of Science by means of some specific (and quite different) examples related to the scientific practice in Economics. These examples are the ontological presuppositions in economic thought and the nature of economic models.

TUTORIAL 1, Nov. 16th, 2018: 14.00 c.t. (2 academic hours) Room W 112

(1) **Introductory Remarks to the Philosophy of Economics:** Economic methodology and philosophy of economics. Positive versus normative Economics. Abstraction, idealization, and *ceteris paribus* clauses. Historical relations between philosophy and economic thought.

(2) **Social Ontology in Economics:** Economic facts as social facts. The nature of social facts. John Searle's notion of "institutional fact". The general form of institutional facts. The three basic underlying notions: collective intentionality, collective assignments of functions, status function. Institutional structures and rules. Problems concerning collective intentionality.

Reading: Searle, John R.: "What is an institution?" *Journal of Institutional Economics* 1(1): pp.1-22.

TUTORIAL 2, Nov. 23rd, 2018: 14.00 c.t. (2 academic hours) Room W 112

Modelization in Economics:

(1) **Philosophical and Historical Remarks:** The introduction of models in Economics: from words to models. Models and equations.

(2) **Diagrams and models:** Diagrams and information in science. The function of diagrams in science. Non-linguistic information in science. The framework of the theory of signs

(semiotics). The diagrammatic nature of models. Problems in the *representational* aspects of models. Models as artifacts.

Reading: Morgan, Mary: *The World in the Model*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2012, chap. 1.

These tutorials are organized in the framework of the current cooperation agreement between the University of Regensburg and the School of Economic Sciences at the University of Buenos Aires.

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