

Experiences and Perspectives in Search of Pluralist Teaching and Research

CORE, Exploring Economics and the VfS

Janina Urban, Network for Pluralism in Economics, 22.10.2016

fmm conference – Towards Pluralism in Macroeconomics? 20.-22.10.16, Berlin



STATUS QUO

Economics has become clearly too much of a mono culture. This critique is not controversial anymore, but in certain academic cliques. Andrew Haldane, Chief economics of the Bank of England, 2016

Continued interest from:

- Students (15 lectures in 2016, book publications, meetings, ..)
- Media (FAZ, Frankfurter Rundschau, Welt, D-radio, Blogs, ..)
- Professors und universities (more research, changes in teaching, ..)
- Politics (BMBF, NRW, ..)
- Institutions (IMK, Club of Rome, VfS, Stifterverband, ..)

OPEN QUESTIONS

What is the claim for pluralism actually aimed at, teaching, research or policy advice? (i.a. Rüdiger Bachmann, VfS)

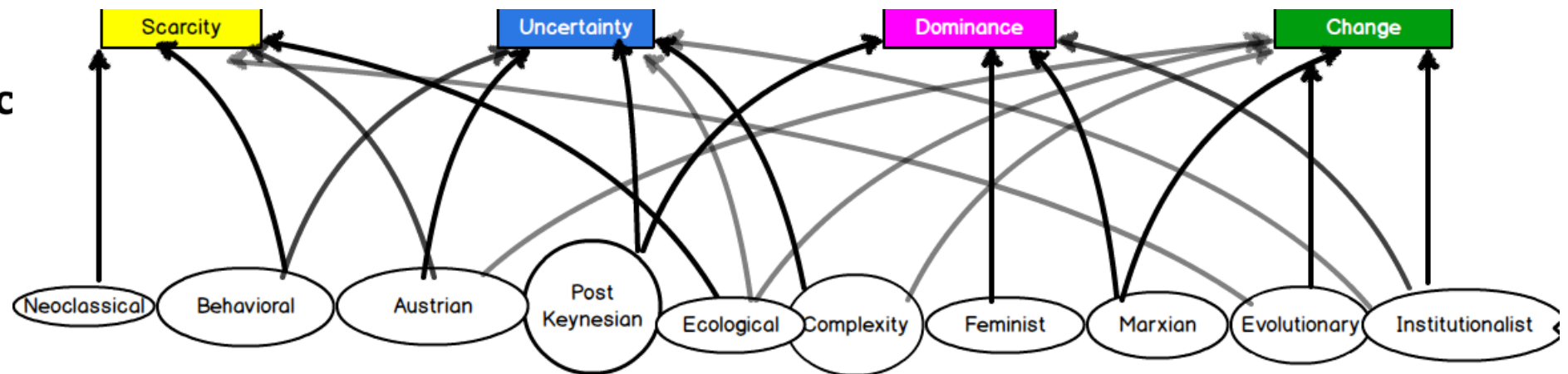
The claim for pluralism: from a better teaching to questioning the role of economics as working mainly in the interest of the more powerful

Pluralism is widely an empty concept which is formed in the process of institutionalization

TEACHING AND STUDY PLATFORMS



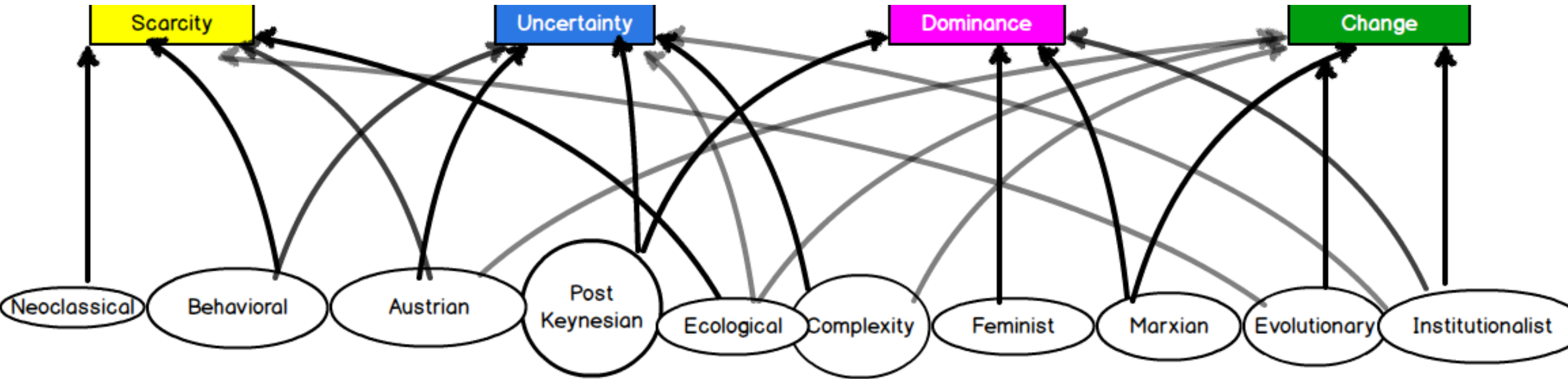
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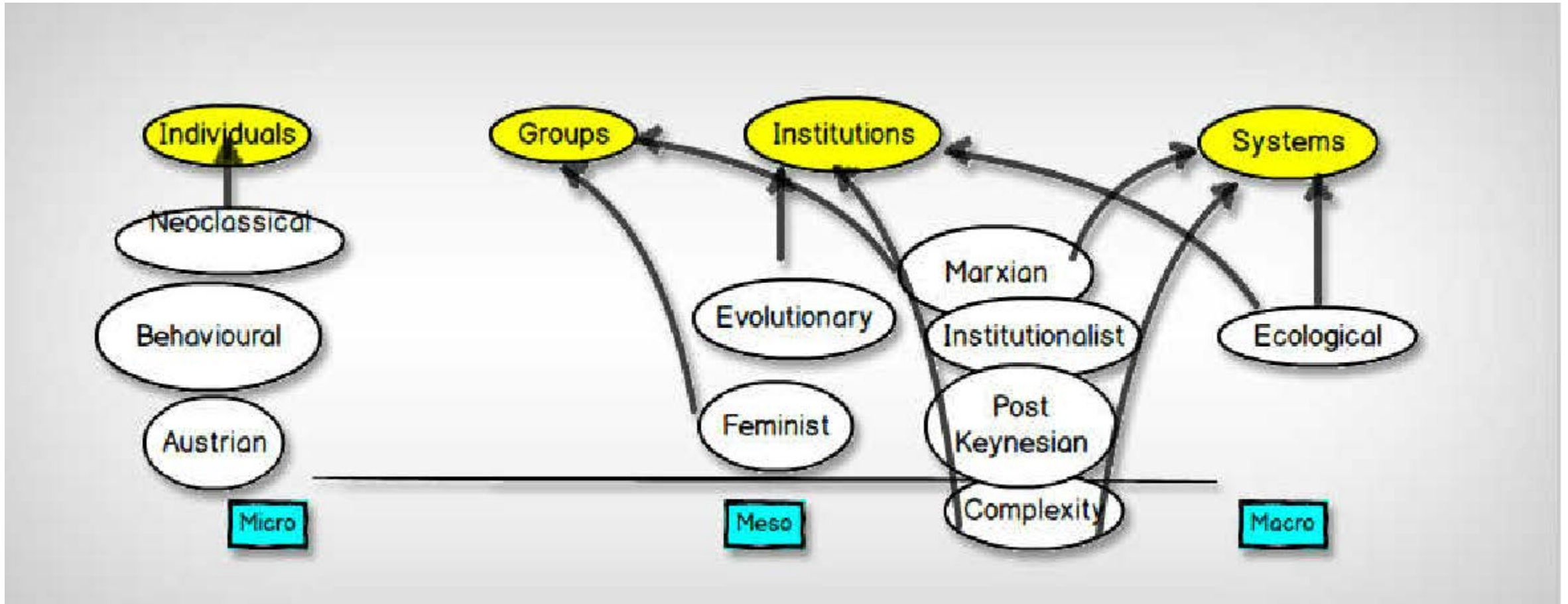
EXPLORING ECONOMICS

- **Webpage with the sections:**
 - **Topics:** crises, work, inequality, nature, textbook reviews etc.
 - Collection of videos and online courses
 - **Perspectives:** Austrian, behavioural, complexity, ecological, evolutionary, feminist, institutional, Marxist and Post-Keynesian economics
- Include videos and texts which are structured via central questions touching on **ontology, epistemology** and **methodology**

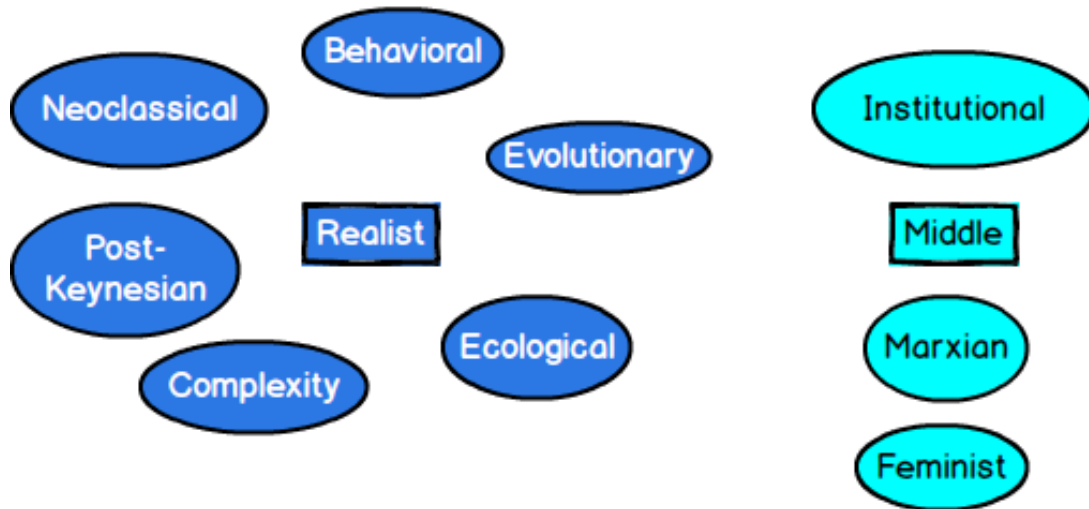
CENTRAL ECONOMIC PROBLEM



MAIN UNITS OF ANALYSIS



SCIENCE-WORLD-LINK



Question

Can we see the real world and talk about it or only about the interpretations we make of it?

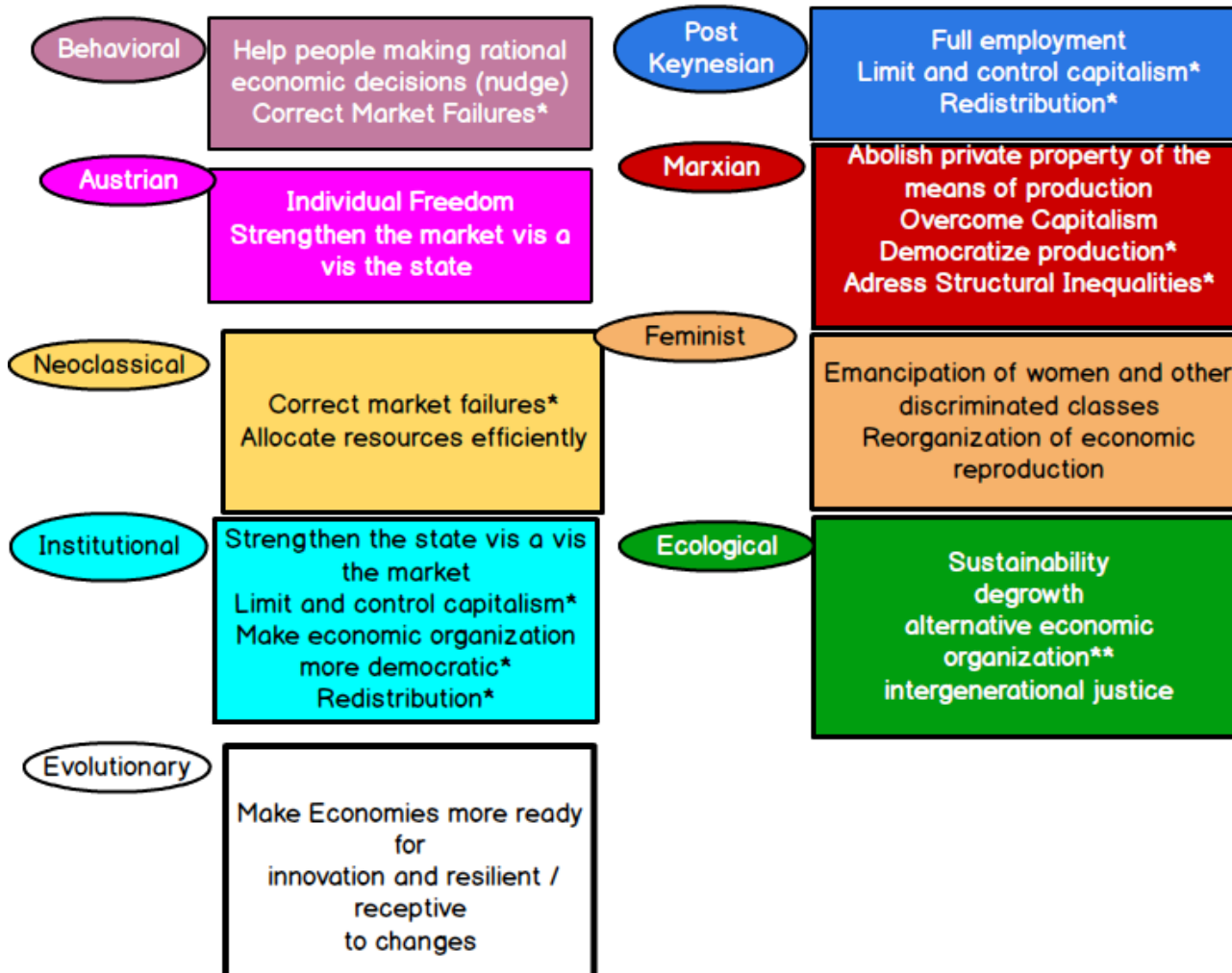
Name
Science-World Link (Epistemology 1)



Explanation of answers

Realism: there is a real world independent of human conceptions and we can observe it
 Middle: There is a real world, but so is there a discursive world. It is the latter in which the scientific access to the real world takes place. The relationship between the two is interdependent and complicated
 Constructivist: What we can observe and talk about in (social) science are only interpretations produced by ourselves. These interpretations give meaning and thereby make the world. Hence, the task of science is to

POLITICAL GOALS



Name
Political Goals
(Values 2)

* means that a concept or goal is present in another perspective as well
** means that a concept or goal is present in 2 other perspectives as well

Question
Which policies or ideals does the perspective arrive at or support?

OTHER AREAS OF CHANGE

Changes in education:

- Teaching and study material
- Network of scientists from schools and universities on socioeconomic education
- Building on the tradition of reform universities

Changes in science and research institutions:

- Transformative Science

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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