# 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)

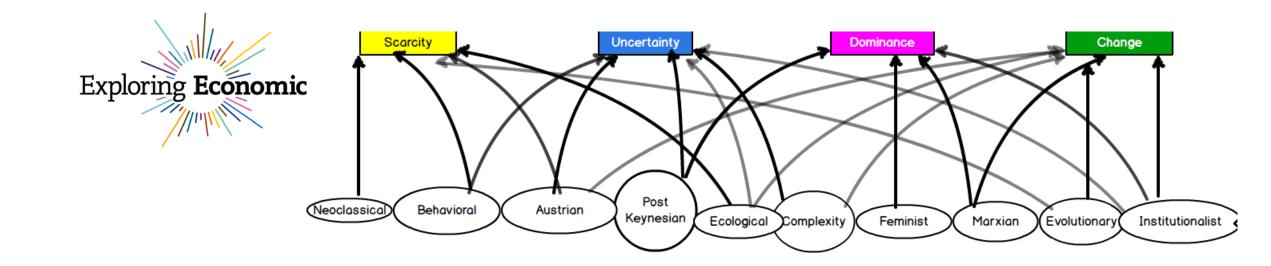
The claim for pluralism: from a better teaching to questioning the role of economics as working mainly in the interest of the more powerful

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

# TEACHING AND STUDY PLATFORMS



#### coreecon



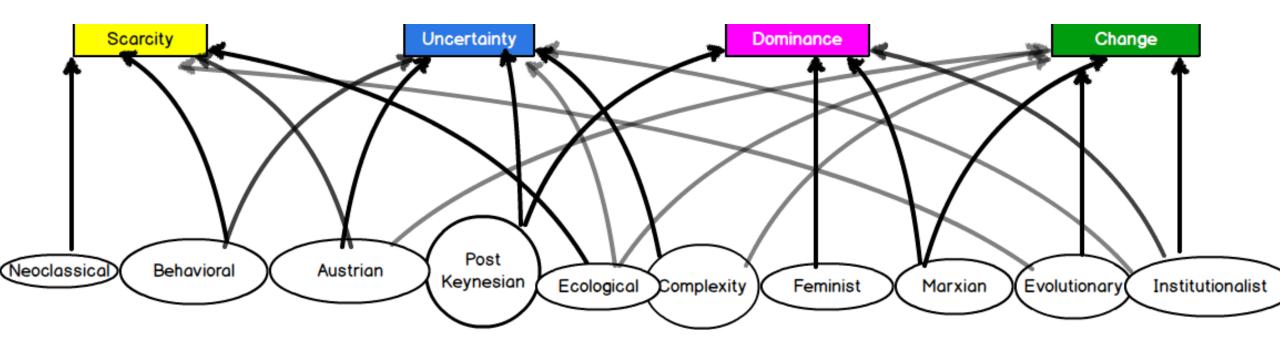




- Webpage with the sections:
  - Topics: crises, work, inequality, nature, textbook reviews etc.
  - Collection of videos and online courses
  - Perspectives: Austrian, behavioural, complexity, ecological, evolutionary, feminist, institutional, Marxist and Post-Keynesian economics
  - → Include videos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

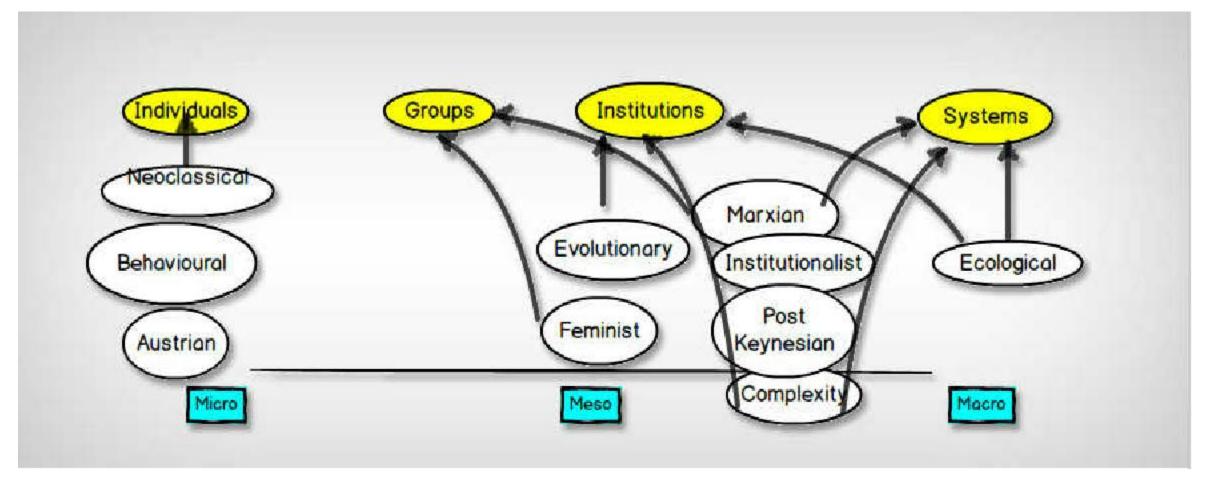
# CENTRAL ECONOMIC PROBLEM





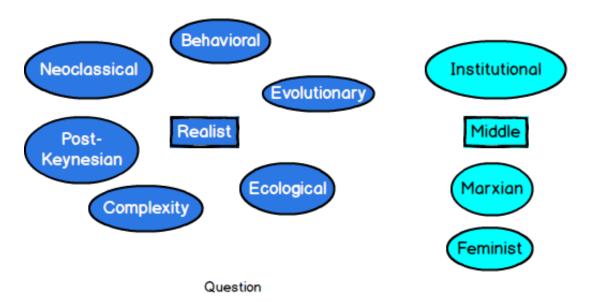
# MAIN UNITS OF ANALYSIS





#### SCIENCE-WORLD-LINK





Science-World Link (Epistemology 1)

Austrian

Constructivist

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



Behavioral Help people making rational

economic decisions (nudge) Correct Market Failures\*

Individual Freedom

Strengthen the market vis a

vis the state

Post Keynesian

Full employment
Limit and control capitalism\*
Redistribution\*

Marxian

Feminist

Abolish private property of the means of production
Overcome Capitalism
Democratize production\*
Adress Structural Inequalities\*

Emancipation of women and other

discriminated classes

Neoclassical

Austrian

Correct market failures\*
Allocate resources efficiently

/is Ecologic

Ecological

Reorganization of economic reproduction

Sustainability

degrowth
alternative economic
organization\*\*
intergenerational justice

Institutional

Strengthen the state vis a vis the market Limit and control capitalism\* Make economic organization more democratic\* Redistribution\*

Evolutionary

Make Economies more ready for innovation and resilient / receptive to changes 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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