Experiences and Perspectives in Search of Pluralist Teaching and Research
CORE, Exploring Economics and the VfS

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
In July 2012 the Korean hit Gangnam Style was released. By the end of 2012 it had been the best-selling song in 33 countries, including Australia, Russia, Canada, France, Spain and the UK. With 2 billion views by the middle of 2014, Gangnam Style also became the most watched video on YouTube. The permanent technological revolution has produced a connected world.
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
Can we see the real world and talk about it or only about the interpretations we make of it?

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 locate these interpretations.
POLITICAL GOALS

Behavioral
Help people making rational economic decisions (nudge) Correct Market Failures*

Austrian
Individual Freedom Strengthen the market via a via the state

Neoclassical
Correct market failures* Allocate resources efficiently

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

Post Keynesian
Full employment Limit and control capitalism* Redistribution*

Marxian
Abolish private property of the means of production Overcome Capitalism Democratize production* Address Structural Inequalities*

Feminist
Emancipation of women and other discriminated classes Reorganization of economic reproduction

Ecological
Sustainability degrowth alternative economic organization** intergenerational justice

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

Contact:
Janina Urban
janina.urban@fgw-nrw.de
+4915751173376