

## Preface

The present volume of *Studia Metodologiczne* is devoted to philosophical and methodological reflection on economics, thus meeting researchers' rising interest in the field of economics. Economics along with related disciplines has focused the attention of researchers specialised in metascientific reflection of various kinds, the representatives of other social sciences, as well as non-academic users of its products. This "oldest of the arts, the newest of the sciences" continues to arouse cognitive and practical interest.

The volume presents articles investigating various aspects of theoretical products, research activities and scientific culture, which are typical of economics and of related disciplines. Some of these articles constitute a voice in the discussion concerning the cognitive and practical meaning of philosophical and methodological research on economics, while others discuss substantial issues addressed in contemporary reflection on the science in question. The first article explains to the reader the difference between the philosophy of economics and economic methodology, pointing at the same time at how the Popperian perspective is still valid (Lawrence A. Boland). The second text invites economic methodologists to engage with the research focused on a frequently neglected problem of *ceteris paribus* conditions, which are formulated in order to reduce the clutter inevitably accompanying every scientific practice dealing with measuring essential phenomena (Marcel J. Boumans). In the third paper, the author offers an economic approach to science, according to which the methodological rules are interpreted as a result of the implicit contract that exists between researchers. Such a contract generates a "game" that is beneficial

both to individual researchers motivated by particular interests as well as to the collective production of epistemic values in science (Jesús P. Zamora Bonilla). The fourth article is an example of work in the field of the history of economic research that demonstrates the role of the Cowles Commission and its major members in introducing models of information into the American economic orthodoxy and developing the discipline of economics of information (Phillip Mirowski, Edward Nik-Khah). The fifth paper constitutes a voice in the debate on the nature of economic models, which takes place between the supporters of the idealisational and the fictionalist approach (Xavier de Donato Rodríguez). In the sixth contribution, the author indicates the role of thought experiments in economics, which consists not only in making the explanations possible, but also in giving them more plausibility (Julian Reiss). The seventh paper presents a reconstruction of the method of calibration, as used in economic modelling, in terms of the empiricist structuralism approach to the philosophy of science (Paweł Kawalec). The eighth article points to the indispensable role of modelling and metaphorizing in investigating economic phenomena, with the former being responsible for isolating the fundamental mechanism affecting economic phenomena and the latter for grasping fictional or nonrealistic components (Łukasz Hardt). In the ninth text, the author, placing his reflections within the context determined by the mathematisation of economics, carries out a negative analysis of using the notion of ‘economic theory’ and offers a positive conception of theoretical economics (Andrzej Malawski). The tenth article acquaints the reader with the recently deliberated problem of the performativity of science and, using examples, analyses the way in which economics co-creates (or constitutes) economic phenomena (Łukasz Afeltowicz). In the eleventh paper, the author deals with peculiarities of causal explanations in economics, with special interest paid to the problems of the mechanism responsible for causal interactions, of the reconstruction of the social mechanism, and of the political function of economics (Marcin Gorazda). The twelfth text criticises the so-called dualistic philosophical approach to science and supports instead the philosophical foundations of the research programme designed by Milton Friedman and developed by Gary Becker. According to the author, the resignation from

the adherence to the correspondence conception of truth is an important aspect of the programme in question (Bartosz Scheuer). The volume also contains two articles not related to the methodological and philosophical reflection on economics. The first one analyses the philosophical implications of deterministic chaos in cosmological models (Marek Szydłowski, Paweł Tambor). In the second one, the author focuses on the question whether all well-defined scientific problems can be solved by the means of proper algorithms (Piotr Stacewicz).

The editor of the volume hopes that the present issue of *Studia Metodologiczne* devoted to the reflection on economics will increase interest in exploring peculiarities of economics among methodologists and the philosophers of science, as well as contribute to the dissemination of philosophical reflection on economics within the economists' community.

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During editorial works on the present issue we learnt about the death of Professor Andrzej Malawski, author of the article "Economic Theory or Theoretical Economics". Professor Andrzej Malawski was a renown specialist in mathematical economics, general equilibrium theory and economic methodology. He was the head of the Department of Mathematics and the head of the Chair of Mathematical Economics, Vice-Rector for Research (2008–2012), Vice-Dean of Finance Faculty (2005–2008), Vice-Dean of Management Faculty (1996–1999). He was a member of Polish Mathematical Society, Statistics and Econometrics Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences, International J.A. Schumpeter Society, Society for Economic Design and The Polish Philosophy of Economics Network.

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