

MARCIN GORAZDA

O niektórych problemach z przyczynowością w ekonomii

ABSTRACT. On Some Problems with Causation in Economics

In the contemporary philosophy of science the problem of causation is one of the most fundamental and probably the most arguable, both from ontological and epistemological perspective. Even more it is arguable in social sciences and especially in economics. On the other hand, the discussion about the scientific theories and their explanatory function without the reference to causation seems impracticable. The main objective of the paper is to select and emphasize features of causation which are the most distinguishable for economics. The first, introductory part contains the general remarks on causation, how it used to be understood (with special reference to Hume and Mill) and how it is understood at present (with special reference to the concept of mechanism and intervention by Woodward and Pearl). In the second part, I claim that there are at least three categories of features of causation in economics which make it distinguished from other sciences. Those are: 1) Special mechanism of causation, which in the older interpretation is often combined with a human intentionality or reflexivity, and in the modern, with the adaptive and evolutionary mechanism. 2) Limitations connected mainly with our cognitive apparatus, which restricts the possible reconstruction of the causal mechanism. 3) Inevitability of the political decisions and political pressure on economists, which make them present their causal hypothesis, even if they are highly dubious as the grounds for those decisions.

KEY WORDS: causation, mechanism, intervention, scientific explanation, human intentionality

1. Wprowadzenie

Celem niniejszego tekstu jest próba wskazania ewentualnych osobliwości dotyczących wyjaśnień przyczynowych w ekonomii na tle tego typu wyjaśnień w naukach ścisłych. W rozwinięciu wskazuję trzy, charakterystyczne dla nauk społecznych, źródła problemów ze skutecznym, przycy-