

Syllabus – Pluralism in Economics HS 2025

Instructor

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Office hours: by appointment

Teaching Assistant and Section Times

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Time and Location

Friday, 26.09.2025, 13.30-18.00. Room SOE-F-2

Friday, 10.10.2025, 13.30-18.00. Room SOE-F-2

Friday, 24.10.2025, 13.30-18.00. Room SOE-F-2

Friday, 07.11.2025, 13.30-18.00. Room SOE-F-2

Friday, 21.11.2025, 13.30-18.00. Room SOE-F-2

Please note that the room location may change – room changes will be announced on OLAT in advance.

Final Exam

Friday, 09.01.2025, 14.15-15.45. Room KOL-F-109

Course Description

Throughout the history of economics, there have been debates about its methods and approaches. This interactive course will look at some of today's different approaches both within mainstream economics and in heterodox economics. What are the commonalities and differences between these research approaches? Instead of a weekly class, this course meets for five afternoons, in each of which we will have time to dive into a different topic from multiple angles. These topics include issues of gender and feminist economics; global poverty, inequality, development and de-colonialization; climate, environment and ecological economics; different economic systems, and the notion of pluralism and its interpretations. Each of the sessions will combine presentations by both mainstream and heterodox economists, small group discussions and interactive exchanges.

Grading

<i>Item</i>	<i>Points</i>
Assignments	20%
Participation	20%
Final exam	60%

Assignments

Four assignments will be set during the course. Each will be based on readings and questions related to the next session. The readings and assignment will be uploaded on OLAT.

Assignments will be due the day before the next session: 09.10 (first assignment); 23.10 (second assignment); 06.11 (third assignment); and 20.11 (fourth assignment). They need to be uploaded to the OLAT Drop Box folder by 8 pm.

At each session (of sessions 2-5), three students will be selected at random to briefly present their assignments.

Class Policies

Please be advised that the use of laptops, smartphones, etc. is not allowed during classes.

Schedule and Topics

Session	Weekday	Date	Topic
1	Friday	26.09	Course Introduction
2	Friday	10.10	Environment and Ecology
3	Friday	24.10	Decolonization
4	Friday	07.11	Feminist and Gender
5	Friday	21.11	Political Economy

Reading List

In order to keep the course up-to-date, the reading list will be filled in sequentially throughout the semester based on the visiting speakers' recommendations.

The required readings are in bold. It is recommended to read them **before the class** and they will be part of the materials covered in the exam. Assignments must demonstrate that you have read **all required readings** related to that assignment. The other readings are optional for those who are interested in further learning.

General resources

Journal of Economic Literature – contains nice summaries of the latest economic research

VoxEU – contains short summaries of research in different fields in mainstream economics

VoxDev – contains short summaries of economic research relating to development economics

Session 1, September 26: Course Introduction

Dobusch, L. and Kapeller, J., 2012. Heterodox United vs. Mainstream City? Sketching a framework for interested pluralism in economics. *Journal of Economic Issues*, 46(4), pp.1035-1058.

Gräbner, C. and Strunk, B., 2020. Pluralism in economics: its critiques and their lessons. *Journal of Economic Methodology*, 27(4), pp.311-329.

Heise, A., 2016. 'Why has economics turned out this way?' A socio-economic note on the explanation of monism in economics. *Journal of Philosophical Economics*, 10(Articles), pp.81-101.

Rothschild, K. W., 1989. Political economy or economics? Some terminological and normative considerations. *European Journal of Political Economy*, 5(1), pp. 1-12.

Naidu, S., Rodrik, D. and Zucman, G., 2019. Economics for inclusive prosperity: an introduction. *EfIP Research Brief*.

Session 2, October 10: Environment and Ecology

Dequech D., Neoclassical, Mainstream, Orthodox, and Heterodox Economics. 2007. *Journal of Post Keynesian Economics*, Vol. 30, No. 2 (Winter, 2007-2008), pp. 279-302.

De Schutter, O., Pickett, Kate, Wilkinson, Richard (2023). Equality as an ingredient for a post-growth world, in: K. Arabadjieva, N. Countouris, B. L. Fabris and W. Zwysen. Transformative Ideas - Ensuring a Just Share of Progress for All. Brussels, European Trade Union Institute: 81–92

Hémous, D., Green innovation policies: Economics and climate change. 2021. *UBS Center Public Paper*.

Vogel, J., Hickel, J. (2023). "Is green growth happening? An empirical analysis of achieved versus Paris-compliant CO₂–GDP decoupling in high-income countries." *Lancet Planet Health* 7: e759–769.

Ritchie, H., Are we the last generation – or the first sustainable one? 2023. *TED Talk*.

Session 3, October 24: Decolonization

Kesar, S. (2025). Decolonising economics: An illustration of the informal economy. Exploring Economics. <https://www.exploring-economics.org/de/entdecken/decolonising-economics-illustration-of-the-informal-economy/>.

Kesar, S., & Stevano, S. (2025). #6. informal economy: New approaches. SOAS DevTraC Podcast Series. <https://soasdevtracpodcastseries.buzzsprout.com/2216100/episodes/16428538-6-informal-economy-new-approaches> (Podcast).

Dutt, D., Alves, C., Kesar, S., & Kvangraven, I. H. (2025). Decolonizing economics: an introduction. London, Polity Press: 40 – 49.

Bayer, A., & Rouse, C. E. (2016). Diversity in the economics profession: A new attack on an old problem. Journal of Economic Perspectives, 30(4), 221–242.

Muzanenhano, P., & Chowdhury, R. (2021). Epistemic injustice and hegemonic ordeal in management and organization studies: Advancing Black scholarship. Human Relations, 76(1), 3-26.

Glennerster, Rachel. 2016. Not so small. Running Randomized Evaluations (blog). May 27, 2016. <http://runningres.com/blog/2016/5/27/not-so-small>

Duflo, Esther. 2010. Social experiments to fight poverty. TED Talk.

Bustos, S., Pomeranz, D., Suárez Serrato, J. C., Vila-Belda, J., & Zucman, G. (2022, November 10). Fighting a losing battle: The challenges of combatting international profit shifting. VoxDev.

Pomeranz, Dina, and Juan Carlos Suárez Serrato. "Do Transfer Pricing Reforms Lead to a Boom in Tax Consultants?." National Tax Journal 78, no. 2 (2025): 000-000.

Bustos, Sebastián, Dina Pomeranz, Juan Carlos Suárez Serrato, José Vila-Belda, and Gabriel Zucman. *The race between tax enforcement and tax planning: Evidence from a natural experiment in Chile*. No. w30114. National Bureau of Economic Research, 2022.

Session 4, November 7: Feminism and Gender

Kleven, Henrik, Camille Landais, and Jakob Egholt Sogaard. (2019). "Children and Gender Inequality: Evidence from Denmark." *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 11 (4): 181-209.

Kleven, H., Landais, C., & Leite-Mariante, G. (2025). The Child Penalty Atlas. *The Review of Economic Studies*, 92(5), 3174–3207.

Himmelweit, S. (2017). Feminist economics: Why all economists should be feminist economists. In *Rethinking economics* (pp. 60-75). Routledge.

Small, S. F. (2025). What is a feminist quantitative method? Opportunities for feminist econometrics. *Feminist Economics*, 31(2), 35-56.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. (2023). Popular science background: History helps us understand gender differences in the labour market. *The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences*.

Morgan, Marc. (2025). *Keynes's Vision of Inequality (And Why it Matters)*.

Assa, J., & Morgan, M. (2025). *The fiscal black holes of mainstream economics*. Developing Economics. <https://developingeconomics.org/2025/09/29/the-fiscal-black-holes-of-mainstream-economics/>.

Rommel, F. (n.d.). *Plurale ökonomik*. Exploring Economics. <https://www.exploring-economics.org/de/entdecken/plurale-okonomik/>.

Naidu, Suresh, Sethi, Rajiv and Thomas, Sarah. (2021). *A World of Differences: An Introduction to Inequality. CORE Insights. Chapters 1,2 and 4*
<https://books.core-econ.org/insights/a-world-of-differences/0-3-contents.html>.

Naidu, Suresh, Sethi, Rajiv and Thomas, Sarah. (2021). *A World of Differences: An Introduction to Inequality. CORE Insights. Chapters 3 and 5*
<https://books.core-econ.org/insights/a-world-of-differences/0-3-contents.html>.

Sent, E. M. (2009). *Pluralism*. In *Handbook of Economics and Ethics* (pp. 358–365). Chapter, Edward Elgar Publishing.

Gräbner, C., & Strunk, B. (2020). *Pluralism in economics: its critiques and their lessons*. *Journal of Economic Methodology*, 27(4), 311–329.

Fujiwara, T. (2017, October 24). *Political inclusion and development outcomes: Brazil introduces electronic voting*. *VoxDev*.

Voting Technology, Political Responsiveness, and Infant Health: Evidence from Brazil, Fujiwara, Thomas (2015). *Econometrica*, 83(2): 423-464.