

As the title of the journal suggests, we are promoting the publication of theoretical and empirical works in the field of heterodox economics. The term ‘Heterodox Economics’ is currently covering a broad spectrum of ideas and approaches, all aiming to provide a better understanding of contemporary economic processes. Despite such diversity, some common grounds can be identified.

A heterodox standpoint shall acknowledge that:

- Economics should deal with a net of fluid interactions between various types of social agents with heterogeneous preferences;
- These agents are behaving only ‘partially rational’ and their decisions are affected by psychological and cultural factors;
- The information distributed on markets is imperfect (costly, asymmetric distributed, incomplete and only partial relevant);
- Different agents have unequal capabilities to deal with this information;
- There are different “frictionary factors” that might perturb the markets’ mechanisms;
- These markets are following distinctive evolutionary paths with areas that might be located ‘far from equilibrium’;
- There might be different entry barriers onto markets’ sectors, while the mobility between these sectors can be slowed down by institutional, functional, structural, social and political factors;
- “Perfect competition” is more a textbook case than a “real world fact”;
- Education, gender, ethnicity and other potential discrimination characteristics might affect the equal access on labour markets;
- The quality of public policies and institutions is critical for the outcomes of economic activities;
- The specific features of cultural paradigms are influencing the societal preferences in terms of redistributive mechanisms design;
- “Sustainable development” means more things than the simple ‘economic growth’ dealing with human development, environmental protection, social justice, equal opportunities or inter-generational solidarity.

In consequence, a heterodox researcher will welcome any approaches dealing with market imperfections and frictionary factors, the role played in growth processes by the quality of policies and institutions as well as by the characteristics of culture and societal networks, the view of social systems as complex evolutionary ones, the non-linear paths of growth processes and the human development as the main goal of these processes. More importantly, such researcher will not forget that economics is a social science, will admit that her or his findings may have significant ethical consequences and will assume such consequences with full moral responsibility.

Heterodox Economics is based on a critical approach. The critical arguments should account for the following: if we can speak about social law, these are valid in a probabilistic sense; that social processes are both quantitative as well as qualitative; in the interactions between social variables one may always find reverse causality issues; that such interactions are modulated by several inhibitors / accelerators variables; for every macro observations there are different micro factors and distinctive aggregation mechanisms are acting in a non-linear fashion. Also, it should consider that a social researcher is rarely in the position to test a theory in a ‘perfect lab controlled conditions’ and so, the fulfilment of *caeteris paribus* requirement is rather a heroic assumption.

Since the social systems are characterized by evolutionary complexity, several tools should be considered and developed. Hence, it will not a priori argue against the use of formal modelling

(but it argues against the abuse of it). The formal models and econometrics are just tools. The main concern is to avoid the “empirical results without theoretical explanations”. Or, in other words, it should be avoided the nowadays popular “exercises” of “I just applied a new fancy econometric tool and I obtained some nice results” style. The use of methodology should serve the ultimate goal of providing confirmations or refutations of our theoretical explanations and it should not be transformed in a purpose *per se*.

Resuming, “Heterodox Economics” is not a matter of label, but rather of spiritual openness, critical thinking and intellectual honesty.

The Journal is firmly dedicated to promoting a strong ethic of the research. The peer-review process should be built up based on some clear ethical standards for all parties involved (editors, authors, reviewers). Deviations from such standards are afflicting the Journal's image, the quality of the authors' work and the prestige of their host institutions and should be rigorously avoided. Thus, an author:

- ✓ *Should present an original work.* If the work and/or words of others have been used, this should be appropriately cited or quoted. Any type of plagiarism (from copying or paraphrasing substantial parts of another's paper to claiming results from others' work) is an unethical approach to publishing and it will be immediately rejected;
- ✓ *Should be ready to provide at the request any type of raw data in connection with the paper.* Such data should be genuine and any type of manipulation in order to “fit in the results” should be avoided;
- ✓ *Should extensively acknowledge the work of others, the advices received during scientific events or privately, the intellectual sources with significant impact on its own work or any other contributing support.* Information obtained from private sources should not be reproduced without a written permission;
- ✓ *Should disclose any potential conflict of interests.* Any potential financial or of other nature conflict should be clearly revealed at the earliest stage possible. Examples of such possible conflicts includes (in a non-restrictive enumeration) employment, consultancies, paid expert testimony, grants or other funding;
- ✓ *Should promptly retract or correct the paper if any type of error is discovered after the publication of the work.* The author should fully cooperate with the editor to retract or correct the paper without hesitation or, alternatively, to provide irrefutable evidences that the original paper was in fact correct;
- ✓ *Should avoid multiple submissions.* The author should not publish a previously published paper describing the same research with the same type of results. Submitting the same paper (eventually “cosmetically” including minor modifications) for the consideration of another journal is considered unethical publishing.

Any other usual rule of following a strict research ethic should be applied.