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## PHILOSOPHY AND ECONOMIC SCIENCE

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*Summary. The paper analyzes issues of social and cultural conditionality of science, philosophical and ideological background of economic knowledge and investigates conceptual basis of economic theories.*

**Key words:** *social and cultural determination of science, worldviews, values, economy philosophy, neo Kantianism.*

A characteristic feature of the history of science of the twentieth century was the fact that scientific activity subject, creating scientific knowledge was paid primary attention in methodological analysis. In modern philosophical literature various forms of social, cultural, ideological subjects of scientific activity were investigated. The results of that work showed that scientific knowledge includes a variety of social and general cultural components of human relations between scientists in the process of ideas, hypotheses and concepts creating. Among social and cultural determinants of the process of cognitive activity conceptual grounds comprised of philosophical, ethical, methodological principles, standards and requirements are of particular interest for science methodologists.

Philosophical ideas and principles have always been mechanisms of connection of worldview with content and methodological elements of economic knowledge. Philosophical knowledge gives grounds for ideals and norms, ontological principles of economics, provides including of social and historical conceptions into the context of society economic life. The whole range of fundamental conceptual, gnosiological and methodological theory principles and laws (on which the whole system of economic knowledge and economic life is built) can be referred to philosophical foundations of economic science.

Over the past decade, attention to the problems of philosophy and economics methodology has increased greatly. Discussion about ways and means of economic knowledge modernization was started in academic publications. The reasons for it were both internal and external to science factors, such as economic and financial crisis in 2008, which it could not prevent. Predictions about crisis recurrence in 2012, made by leading economists and Nobel

laureates, also weren't justified. The financial crisis has taken the debt character, but nothing effective to deal with it was found. Economic thought was not able to answer the questions: Would we have the next crisis in 2013-2014? Would we have the recession in highly industrialized countries in 2014? The accumulated contradictions between theory and practice confirm the inability of economics to predict the capitalist crises. The reason for dissatisfaction of economic knowledge state also lay in spreading scientific and positivist conception of economic theory nature among scientific community of economists.

It is evidently necessary to include such methodological principles of metaphysics as the method of speculation, the method of critical reflection into the system of economic analysis. As a result of this enriched way of economic reality cognition new knowledge that can answer practical questions appears. Economist goes to theoretical generalizations using not only his/her practical experience, but also deductive ways. Economist can and should be a philosopher at some stage of investigation, reflect on his own experiences of cognitive activity and clarify the meaning of this activity. But to make this reflection fruitful a philosopher has to possess his own experience in the area under investigation and an economist should possess philosophical method. Otherwise, creative thinking is impossible, because lack of one's own experience incite a person to borrow somebody's opinions and arguments.

History of Economic Thought persuasively demonstrates that, as a rule, scientific and economic analysis was combined with certain ideological attitudes of researchers. It is evidenced by the fact that the most economists of XIX – XX centuries

were characterized as liberals, conservatives, social democrats, socialists and Marxists by their approaches, positions, likes and dislikes.

Convergence of economic knowledge and philosophy means building a bridge on both sides (on the part of economic science and on the part of philosophy) and thus leads to correlative changes in interpretation of general educational program. For example, political economy is closely connected with such key concepts of human society as good and evil, justice and injustice, equality and inequality. Philosophy has to do with understanding and interpretation of economic objectives and values. So political economy is closely connected with ethical principles, the study of economic activity has a moral dimension. One should take into account that

economic objectives are often identified with selfish interests and morality – with unselfishness. Therefore, philosophical and epistemological analysis of values and philosophical knowledge should be focused in future on finding its place and importance at various investigation stages, as well as on penetration methods and presence forms in knowledge content. This direction of scientific knowledge analysis is particularly fruitful in social and economic sciences, because it gives a new opinion about scientific research structure and organization, opens new ways and opportunities to study regulatives and stimuli of cognitive activity of a scientist, selection criteria and preferences of theoretical and methodological cognition tools, research work directions.

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