

Erasmus Institute for Philosophy and Economics (EIPE)

Ph.D. Graduate: Dr. Till Düppe

Thesis title

The Phenomenology of Economics: Life-World, Formalism, and the Invisible Hand

Supervisors

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Project description

I use the phenomenological notion of the life-world for a thorough critique of economic science on three different levels. First, for a description of the discursive situation of current economists regarding their public, professional and pedagogical ethos. Second, for a social history of the scientification of economics from the 17th century until today. Third, for a biography of a mathematical economist, Gerard Debreu, who never perceived himself as an economist but nevertheless received the Nobel Prize for Economics. I argue that economic science is constituted by the oblivion of the life-world, specifically the oblivion of the motives that give rise to economics. Claiming scientific authority in economics thus produces an experiential conflict for the intellectual life of economists.

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