

Erasmus Institute for Philosophy and Economics (EIPE)

Ph.D. Graduate: Dr. Jorma Sappinen

Thesis title

Stretching the Scope of Economics - On the Nature and Impact of Gary S. Becker's
Economics Imperialism

Supervisors

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Project description

Economics imperialism is an interesting phenomenon in (mainly social) science. Economists and sometimes, scholars who come originally from other disciplines, have applied economic theory to issues, which traditionally have been seen to belong to the domain of other sciences and not to the domain of economics. While many scientists with various theoretical persuasions have contributed to economics imperialism, there is one scholar, who stands out as a prominent contributor, namely Gary S. Becker. I will focus on what economics imperialism in the Becker sense is about, and what are its strengths and limitations. I will study two particular non-traditional fields of application, namely the explanation of preferences and crime, in order to see what specific challenges economics imperialism faces in accounting for such phenomena.

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