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## **Professional Ethics of a Philosopher of Science and Co-Operation within Social Sciences**

The article investigates questions in professional ethics of a philosopher of science that are relevant to professional ethics of economists, other social scientists, and decision makers who use the results of social scientific studies. The focus is on the observation that methodological descriptions may have ethical and political implications in the sense that certain descriptions may enhance the possibility of co-operation, while others may inhibit it. Since co-operation within research is to be encouraged in order to improve the quality of decision-making, this poses further requirements not only for the service ideal of a philosopher of science but also for the other parties mentioned.

Since economists' calculations are used abundantly in political decision-making, it is worth paying heed to the problems involved in it. The paper offers two arguments in support of co-operation between economists and other fields of social research. Firstly, the decision-maker needs to identify various consequences of her/his decisions, only part of which belongs to the field of economics. A problem called the paradox of the decision-maker gives rise to another argument, involving the conditions of the possibility of informed and well-deliberated research orders.

Since plurality of methodologies is typical of each field of social studies, one cannot characterize a whole field, or even a particular piece of research by one or two methodological titles. In order to assess the possibilities of co-operation between various fields, more detailed methodological delineations are needed. For instance, "deductive method" or "exact science" are often regarded as reasons why economics and other social studies are unable to co-operate with each other. However, a critical assessment of these terms reveals that they are insufficient to describe the nature of economics already on the basis of their ambiguity. Furthermore, none of the senses of the term "exact" may refer to a whole field of research, instead, each may refer merely to a single study.

An analysis of a text-book presentation of the generation and testing of an econometric model reveals no particular obstacles to co-operation between economics and sociology, or other areas of social studies. Since the ideal assumptions of rationality do not involve the subjects of research but merely the decision maker, the underlying model of man is fairly flexible. It need not involve a Humean model of instrumental rationality which has not found much acceptance outside of economics. Furthermore, the way the theory is generated on the basis of empirical knowledge, tested and specified on the basis of statistical methods is also to be found within other areas of social sciences. Hence going beyond the terms "deductive" and "exact" yields a picture of at least one type of economic investigations with open possibilities for co-operation with other fields of social research.