



Reteaching Economics:

Academics supporting student demands for pluralist teaching in economics

Presentation for the Festival of New Economic Thinking

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How do we bring “new economic thinking” into teaching?

Outline

- Who are Reteaching Economics?
- Principles for reform of economics education
- Challenges and opportunities for reform
 - ✓ Pluralist institutions and programmes
- Taking our analysis forward
- Want to join us?



ABOUT



MEMBERS



JOIN US



TWITTER



RETEACHING ECONOMICS

ACADEMICS SUPPORTING STUDENT DEMANDS FOR PLURALIST TEACHING IN ECONOMICS

UK ACADEMICS COMMITTED TO PLURALIST TEACHING



WHO ARE WE?

We are a diverse group of **early career academics** responding to the [student campaign](#) for **greater pluralism in economics**.



WANT TO JOIN US?

Are you **teaching at a UK institution**? We are an **open network** and invite **early career academics** to **join us** by [adding their details here](#).



WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

The vast majority of universities teach only **one school of thought**: neoclassical economics. We think **students deserve better**.

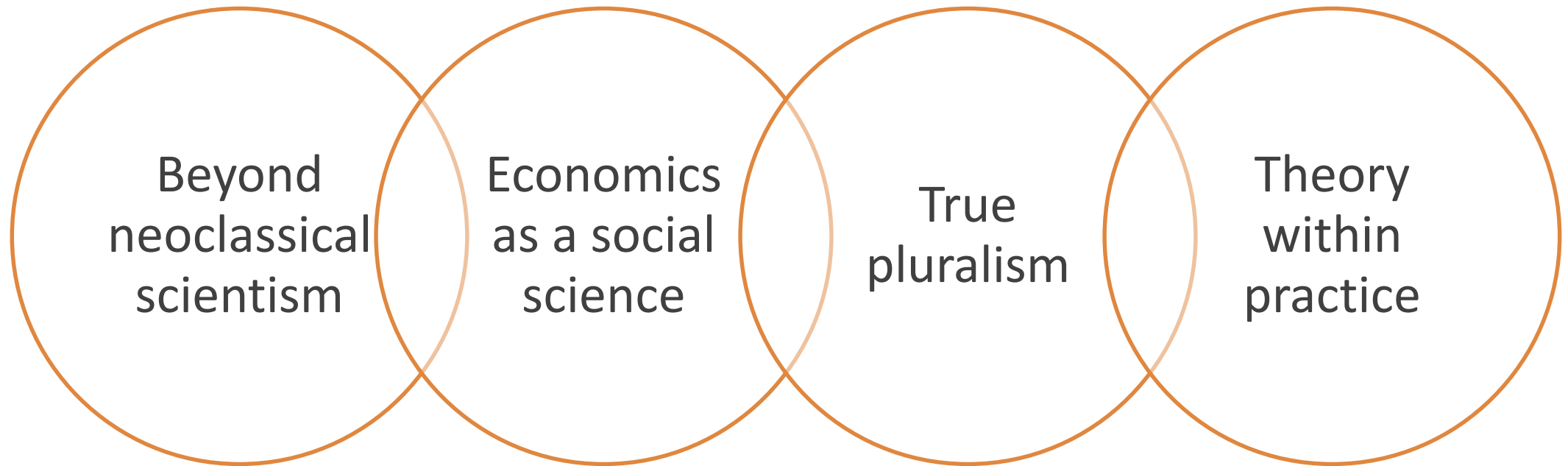
<http://reteacheconomics.org/>



PRINCIPLES FOR REFORM

Principles for reform

Towards a pluralist teaching approach



Principles for Reform

Towards a pluralist teaching approach

Recognises that the ultimate aim of higher education should be to develop abilities to question meaning, critically compare and evaluate conflicting perspectives

- 1. Contested assumptions, realistic concepts and useful theories**
- 2. Explicit recognition of power and politics**
- 3. Rigour *cum* relevance: Appropriate methods**



CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Challenges for Reform

Commodification of Education

- Radical reform of university funding since 2010
 - Redefines university education as a consumer market
 - Teaching funded through student fees
- Promotion of competition amongst “service providers”
 - Excellence Framework (TEF)
 - Emphasis on league tables and student satisfaction measures
- Lessons from the Research Excellence Framework (REF)
 - Collaboration between Rethinking and Reteaching



Challenges for Reform

Heterogeneity of heterodoxy: weakness or strength?

- Definitions of 'mainstream'
- Cohesive vs heterogeneous approach
- Ways of presenting different schools of thought



Opportunities for Reform

Overlapping trajectories

UK ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS WITH RETEACHERS

[Anglia Ruskin University](#)

[De Montfort University](#)

[Durham University](#)

[Glasgow Caledonian University](#)

[Goldsmiths, University of London](#)

[Heriot-Watt University](#)

[King's College London](#)

[Kingston University London](#)

[Leeds Beckett University](#)

[London Metropolitan University](#)

[London School of Economics and Political Science](#)

[Newcastle University](#)

[Open University](#)

[Portsmouth Business School](#)

[Schumacher College](#)

[SOAS University of London](#)

[University College London](#)

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[University of Roehampton](#)

[University of Sheffield](#)

[University of Southampton](#)

[University of Sussex](#)

[University of Westminster](#)

[University of Winchester](#)

[University of Wolverhampton](#)

[UWE Bristol](#)



Opportunities for Reform

Overlapping trajectories

The case of UWE Bristol

- Broadening of theories taught in standard micro and macro in the first instance (for example, Happiness and New Institutional Economics)
- New modules: Developing Economic Thinking, Political Economy, Feminist Economics
- New MSc in Global Political Economy
- Recruitment of heterodox economists



Opportunities for Reform

Towards a comparative analysis of institutional trajectories

Our initial analysis indicates that positive changes have been enabled by:

- Presence of heterodox staff and the recruitment of new staff with knowledge and training in non-mainstream economics
- Managerial openness to innovation in teaching practices and the potential for a distinctive curriculum made possible by:
 - Managerial structures in post-92 universities where heads of department were not necessarily economists.
 - Economics sitting within wider subject groups as in Business Schools
- Absence of strong mainstream research presence
- Student feedback and demands
- Positive relationship between a pluralist economics education and “employability”



Moving ahead

- New upcoming textbook by Reteachers: 'Recharting the History of Economic Thought'
- Paper on CORE
- Study on earning gaps and inequality at UWE
- Developing a collective understanding of our experiences in order to identify a clear strategy for the successful promotion of pluralist economics education and wider curriculum reform



Want to join us?

Are you a UK-based early career academic?

Get in touch with us:

- Email info@reteacheconomics.org
- Twitter @reteachecon
- Website www.reteacheconomics.org

