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ABSTRACTS

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Labour versus Alternative Value Bases in Actual Joint Production Systems

GEORGE SOKLIS

This paper extends the empirical investigation of the relationships between actual prices, labour values and commodity values to the case of joint production using data from the Supply and Use Tables of the Finnish (for the year 2004) and Japanese (for the year 2000) economies. Our findings show that (i) the systems under investigation do not have the usual properties of single-product systems; (ii) in the case of the Finnish economy, the exploration of the relationships between prices and additive labour values is without economic meaning; and (iii) in the case of the Japanese economy, there exist vectors of additive commodity values that are better approximations of actual prices than additive labour values. Thus, it is argued that the claim that actual economic systems can be adequately interpreted in terms of labour values is open to serious doubts.

Financing Investment under Fundamental Uncertainty and Instability: A Heterodox Microeconomic View

TAE-HEE JO

This study inquires into investment and finance decisions as they are related to other decisions within the going business enterprise embedded in the monetary social provisioning process. When it comes to investment and finance, business enterprises' strategic decisions often escape notice by heterodox macroeconomists. In place of strategic decisions, financing and investment are mainly looked at through the operation of the financial market in which the supply of and demand for investment funds are coordinated by the prices of funds. Consequently, heterodox macroeconomic theory of investment and finance deals mainly with external financing. In this article I argue that that the strategically generated internal means of finance is the main source of fixed investment, especially when the economy is in recession or economic instability is increasing. The positive empirical relationship between external finance and fixed investment is hardly discerned. Even the financialization of non-financial corporations in recent decades has not reduced the importance of internal financing over external financing.

The Declining Educational Wage Premium and the Labour Process: Evidence from 15 Selected OECD Countries

IOANNIS VARDALACHAKIS & PERSEFONI TSALIKI

In the present paper we assess the validity of the dominant upskilling approach, according to which the technological advancements upgrade the skills demanded in labour process and lead eventually to higher remuneration and employment for skillful workers. However, the results from 15 OECD countries show that the skill-premium received by tertiary educated workers fails to serve as a possible interpretation of the widening wage differentials. The findings encourage research within the classical political economy deskilling according to which wages are determined by the socially necessary labour time required for their skill acquisition.

Business Cycles and Economic Crisis: The Case of Car Sales in Athens, Greece (2000-2012)

PANAYOTIS G. MICHAELIDES & KONSTANTINOS N. KONSTANTAKIS

Greece is widely hailed to be among the most prominent victims of the recent global recession. Since the downfall of its economic activity, caused by local and international factors, it has reached levels that are directly comparable only to the Great Recession. In this context, we attempt to shed light on a prominent victim of this situation, i.e. the car sales industry in Athens, Greece over the time period 2000-2012 using monthly data. To this end, an appropriate econometric model, that incorporates a large number of potential determinants, which account for relevant factors, is used and several econometric techniques are employed such as stationarity testing; filtering; white noise testing; periodicity analysis; correlation analysis and causality testing. Our empirical investigation determines the macroeconomic and other variables that act either as pro- or countercyclical factors in business cycles fluctuations of the car sales industry in Athens.

Frederic S. Lee and the Challenges for Heterodox Economics

CARLO D'IPPOLITI

October 2014 we had to withstand the passing of Fred Lee, one scholar who most, if not all, heterodox economists considered a friend. His name was respected and appreciated by the several individuals, associations and institutions that sent messages of grief. Fred's legacy encompasses a thriving community of engaged scholars that will try, and hopefully succeed, to create a progressive economic science. However, along with the memory of his company and the inspiration of his work, Fred Lee passed away before a number of challenges to his lifetime goal – the development of heterodox economics – have been fully solved.