

Publishing meaningful scientific research in Economics (and related Social Sciences): A hands-on guidance for PhD students and researchers in Romania”¹

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Synopsis

This 2-day seminar aims to provide participants with a hands-on-guidance on how to produce and disseminate what counts as meaningful scientific research in Economics from the current, mainstream, international perspective. Whereas the lectures are primarily targeting scholars and doctoral/ master students in *Economic Sciences from Romanian universities and research institutes* — realm in urgent need of overhaul and alignment to global academic/ scientific standards, anybody interested in Social Sciences more generally may potentially benefit from the pragmatic discussion and tips on academic reading, writing, speaking, publishing, as well as interacting with the wider society.

Brief outline

- Introduction: Economics, between dismal and fascinating
- Overview: Economics as science, academic discipline, profession
 - The science of Economics & modeling *modus operandi*, with a concrete illustration
 - Economics in the Social Sciences context
 - The sociology of the Economics academe
 - On the role of academic economists- and other social scientists- for society
- Situation of Economics academe/ research in Romania and the wider European/ global context
- Tips on doing & disseminating meaningful research in Economics (and related Social Sciences)
 - What makes a good research question/ project?
 - Getting started with research: Finding research topics/ ideas
 - Carrying on with research: Triaging ideas
 - Keeping up with the scientific literature
 - Writing and structuring research papers
 - Giving academic presentations
 - Scientific peer-reviewing
 - Surviving in and excelling at the academic publishing game
 - Research ethics, transparency, reproducibility
- Tentative roadmap for aligning Economics research in Romania to international scientific standards

Format & schedule

2 lectures x 3 hours, on **23 November 2017: 10.00-13.00** and **24 November 2017: 10.00-13.00**

Registration

By email to secretariat.fcll@ubbcluj.ro, in the limit of available space.

See the following web address <http://elearning.ubbcluj.ro/event/seminarul-a-publica-cercetare-stiintifica-relevanta-in-economie-si-stiinte-sociale-inrudite-un-ghid-practic-pentru-doctoranzi-si-cercetatori-in-romania/> for more details.

Venue

Hotel “Universitas”, 7 Plopilor Street, Conference Room, Ground Floor

¹ Current version: 22-11-2017; most recent version at www.sebastianbuhai.com/courses/Course_PublishingEcon_UBB_Nov2017.pdf; this is the description of a free seminar/ mini-course organized by the Babes-Bolyai University (UBB) 's [Institute for Advanced Studies in Science and Technology](#) (STAR-UBB Institute) and its Center for Continuing Education and Distance Learning (“[Centrul de Formare Continuă, Invățământ la Distanță, și cu Frecvență Redusă](#)”=CFCIDFR); see also [the seminar's announcement in Romanian](#).

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Further reading recommendations³

Generally useful, and relevant for most sections of this mini-course (& accessible also to interested non-economists):

Rodrik, D. (2016), "[The Rights and Wrongs of the Dismal Science](#)", W.W. Norton, New York.

Tirole, J. (2017), "[Economics for the Common Good](#)", Princeton University Press, New Jersey; this is the translation by S. Rendall of the French original: Tirole J. (2016): "[Économie du Bien Commun](#)", Presses Universitaires de France.

On the ontology and foundations of Economics (and Social Sciences more generally)⁴:

Backhouse, R. (2010), "[The Puzzle of Modern Economics. Science or Ideology?](#)", Cambridge University Press.

Gilboa, I., A. Postlewaite, L. Samuelson and D. Schmeidler (2014), "[Economic Models as Analogies](#)", *Economic Journal*, 124: F513–F533.

Heckman, J. J. (2005), "[The Scientific Model of Causality](#)", *Sociological Methodology*, 35: 1–97.

Morgan, M.S. (2012), "[The World in the Model: How Economists Work and Think](#)", Cambridge University Press.

Pearl, J. (2015), "[Trygve Haavelmo and the Emergence of Causal Calculus](#)", *Econometric Theory*, 31, 152-179.

Rubinstein, A. (2017), "[Comments on Economic Models, Economics, and Economists: Remarks on Economics Rules by Dani Rodrik](#)", *Journal of Econ. Lit.*, 55(1): 162-72.

Sugden, R. (2016), "[Ontology, Methodological Individualism, and the Foundations of the Social Sciences](#)", *Journal of Econ. Lit.*, 54(4): 1377-89.

On Economics vs. (Social) Sciences/ Humanities (and generally on the relationship between Sciences & Humanities):

Berlin, I. (2013), "[The Hedgehog and the Fox: An Essay on Tolstoy's View of History](#)", 2nd edition, ed. Henry Hardy, Princeton University Press (originally printed in shorter form in 1951, printed under its current title/ format in 1953);

Gould, S. J. (2003), "[The Hedgehog, the Fox, and the Magister's Pox: Mending the Gap between Science and Humanities](#)", Harmony Books.

Lazear, E. P. (2000), "[Economic Imperialism](#)", *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 115, 99–146.

Morson, G.S. and M. Schapiro (2017), "[Cents and Sensibility. What Economics Can Learn from the Humanities](#)", Princeton University Press.

On the sociology of the Economics academe, with focus on research output type, productivity, evolution, evaluation:

Card, D. and S. DellaVigna (2013), "[Nine Facts about Top Journals in Economics](#)", *Journal of Econ. Lit.*, 51(1): 144-61.

Hamermesh, D. (2013), "[Six Decades of Top Economics Publishing: Who and How?](#)", *Journal of Econ. Lit.*, 51(1):162-72.

Stern, D. I. (2013), "[Uncertainty Measures for Economics Journal Impact Factors](#)", *Journal of Econ. Lit.*, 51(1): 173-89.

Conley, J. P. and A. S. Onder (2014), "[The Research Productivity of New PhDs in Economics: The Surprisingly High Non-success of the Successful](#)", *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 28(3): 205-16.

Hamermesh, D. (2017), "[Citations in Economics: Measurement, Uses, and Impacts](#)", *Journal of Econ. Lit.*, 55, forthcoming.

Angrist, J., P. Azoulay, G. Ellison, R. Hill and S. F. Lu (2017), "[Economic Research Evolves: Fields and Styles](#)", *American Economic Review P&P*, 107(5): 293-97.

On the situation of Economics academe/ research in Romania, and the European context:

Buhai, I.S., C.M. Litan, and G. C. Silaghi (2015), "[Demotivarea Performantei: Cazul Criteriilor Nationale de Evaluare a Cercetarii in Stiintele Economice din Romania](#)"- in Romanian (English title & abstract: "[Disincentivizing the Performance: The Case of the Romanian National Criteria for Evaluating Research in Economics](#)"; [slides in English](#)), published as section of the [G3A Think Tank 2015 Report](#) in the *Journal of Science Policy and Scientometrics*.

Buhai, I.S., G.C. Silaghi, F.O. Bilbiie, A.G. Halunga, C.M. Litan, V. Midrigan, C. Pop-Eleches, Z. Sandor, and M.C. Voia (2016), "[The Rise for Academic Integrity in Romanian \(Domestic\) Economic Sciences](#)", working report and manifesto.

Blundell, R., Cantillon, E., Chizzolini, B., Ivaldi, M., Leininger, W., Marimon, R., Matyas, L., Steen, F. (2016), "[A Manifesto for Economic Research in Europe](#)", COEURE Executive Committee, Work Package 3.

COEURE (2016), "[Efficiency of Economic Research Funding Sources and Systems Across European Countries](#)", Work Package 2 Final Report, Cooperation on European Research in Economics.

³ The (far-from exhaustive!) further reading recommendations from below link to the publisher's website for books, the journal's website for publications (NB. many are complimentary, e.g. JEP papers), etc. Most books in there can be purchased also via Amazon (e.g., instantaneously as Kindle versions), and most of the published & gated articles are available through institutional access to repositories such as, e.g., JStor, etc.

⁴ For extra literature specifically focusing on the long debate on structural vs. atheoretical approaches in Economics, [consult these older slides](#).

On tips for doing/ publishing research in Economics (valid also more generally, e.g., at least for some Social Sciences):
Card, D., and S. DellaVigna (2017), "[What do Editors Maximize? Evidence from Four Leading Economics Journals](#)", NBER Working Paper 23282.

Heckman, J.J., and B. Singer (2017), "[Abducting Economics](#)", *American Economic Review P&P*, 107(5): 298-302.

Krugman, P. (undated), "[How I Work](#)", mimeo.

Pishke, J., (2012), "[How to Get Started on Research in Economics?](#)", mimeo; and see also his further references to similar works by others from <http://econ.lse.ac.uk/staff/spischke/phds/>.

On tips for academic writing/ structuring research papers (valid way beyond Economics or Social Sciences):

McCloskey, D. (1985), "[Economic Writing](#)", *Economic Inquiry*, 23: 187-222.

Mensh, B. and K. Kording (2017), "[Ten Simple Rules for Structuring Papers](#)", *PLoS Comput. Biol.* 13(9): e1005619.

Pinker, S. (2014), "[The Sense of Style: The Thinking Person's Guide to Writing in the 21st Century](#)", NY: Penguin.

Rasmussen, E. (2006), "[Aphorisms on Writing, Speaking, and Listening](#)", mimeo.

Thomson, W. (1999), "[The Young Person's Guide to Writing Economic Theory](#)", *Journal of Econ. Lit.*, 37: 157-83.

On tips for visualizing data (in Economics, and in general):

Schwabish, J. A. (2014), "[An Economist's Guide to Visualizing Data](#)", *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 28(1): 209-34.

Tufte, E. (1983/ 2001), "[The Visual Display of Quantitative Information](#)", Graphics Press: Cheshire, Conn.

On tips for scientific peer-reviewing (in Economics, and beyond):

Berk, J. B., C. R. Harvey, and D. Hirshleifer (2017), "[How to Write an Effective Referee Report and Improve the Scientific Review Process](#)", *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 31(1): 231-44.

On ethics, transparency, reproducibility in Economic Sciences (with some generality also for other Social Sciences):

Christensen, G. and E. Miguel (2017), "[Transparency, Reproducibility, and the Credibility of Economics Research](#)", *Journal of Econ. Lit.*, 55, forthcoming.

Coffman, L. C., M. Niederle and A. J. Wilson (2017) "[A Proposal to Organize and Promote Replications](#)", *American Economic Review P&P*, 107(5): 41-45.

Hamermesh, D. (2017), "[Replication in Labor Economics: Evidence from Data, and What It Suggests](#)", *American Economic Review, P&P*, 107(5): 37-40.

On economists' involvement with policy making:

Bénassy-Quéré A., O. J. Blanchard and J. Tirole (2017), "[What Role for Economists in Policy-Making?](#)", Les notes du conseil d'analyse économique, no 42.

On economists' involvement in proper (undergraduate) teaching:

Check out <http://www.core-econ.org/>.