



Postures and practices of economists

Gaël Plumecocq

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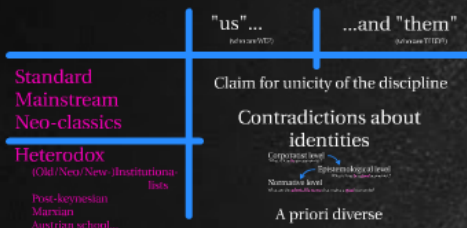
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Postures and practices of economists:

Introduction

The French academic context is relatively tensed

Contradictions between:



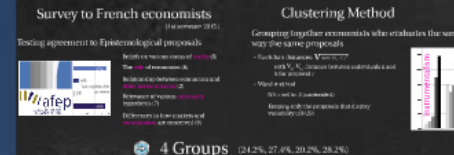
To what extent economists (which ones) share identity?

➡ Question systems of thoughts and beliefs

AFSE Meeting - Paris - 14-16 May 2018

Convergence or divorce?

Data and method



Classification

- 1 Identify these groups
For each proposal, how different is the evaluation within the groups vs. in the rest of the sample (Wilcoxon test)?
- 2 Proximity analysis
Which groups are closer (more distant)?
In terms of methodological practices



Conclusions: No definitive answer

Some shared foundations (instrumentalism)

Mainstream is as diverse as the heterodoxies

They dissemble more than they resemble

Improve the research design (eg. equivocal proposals)



AGIR

Recherche ODYSSE

Gaël Plumecocq (gael.plumecocq@inra.fr)

Organisations, Dynamiques des Connaissances et des innovations dans les Écosystèmes

Contradictions between:

"us" ...

(who are WE?)

...and "them"

(who are THEY?)

Standard
Mainstream
Neo-classics

Heterodox

(Old/Neo/New-)Institutiona-
lists

Post-keynesian
Marxian
Austrian school...

Claim for unicity of the discipline

Contradictions about
identities

Corporatist level
What is it to *be* an economist?

Epistemological level
What is it to *be* a *good* economist?

Normative level
What are the *admissible norms* that makes a *good* economist?

A priori diverse

traditions and identities

Corporatist level

What is it to *be* an economist?



Epistemological level

What is it to *be* a *good* economist?



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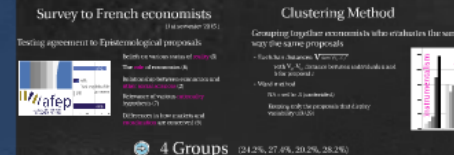
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Survey to French economists

(1st semester 2015)

Testing agreement to Epistemological proposals



Beliefs on various status of **reality** (5)

The **role** of economics (6)

Relationship between economics and **other social sciences** (2)

Relevance of various **rationality** hypothesis (7)

Differences in how markets and **coordination** are conceived (9)

Clustering Method

Grouping together economists who evaluates the same way the same proposals

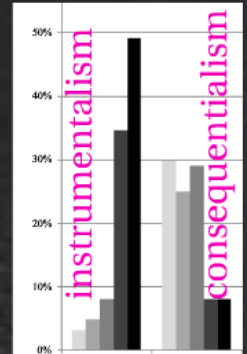
- Euclidian distances: $\sqrt{\text{Sum}[(V_{ai}-V_{bi})^2]}$

with $V_{ai}-V_{bi}$ distance between individuals a and b for proposal i

- Ward method

NA = set to 3 (undecided)

Keeping only the proposals that display variability (19/29)

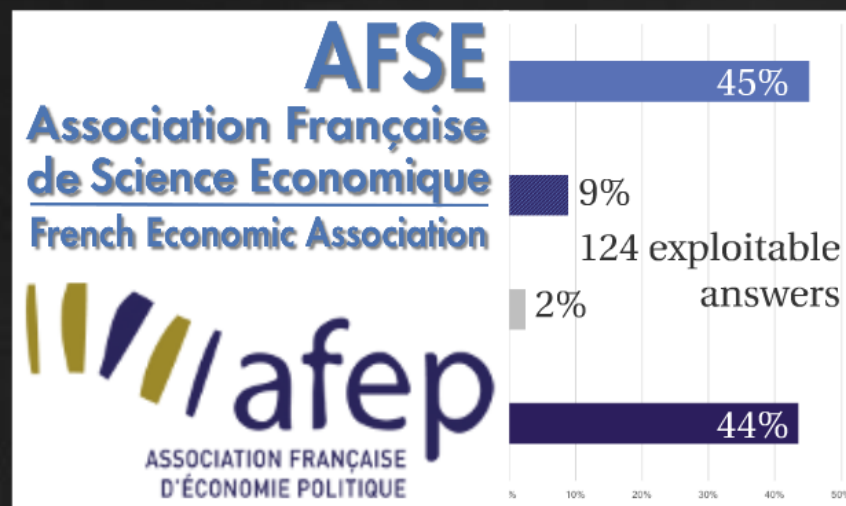


4 Groups (24.2%, 27.4%, 20.2%, 28.2%)

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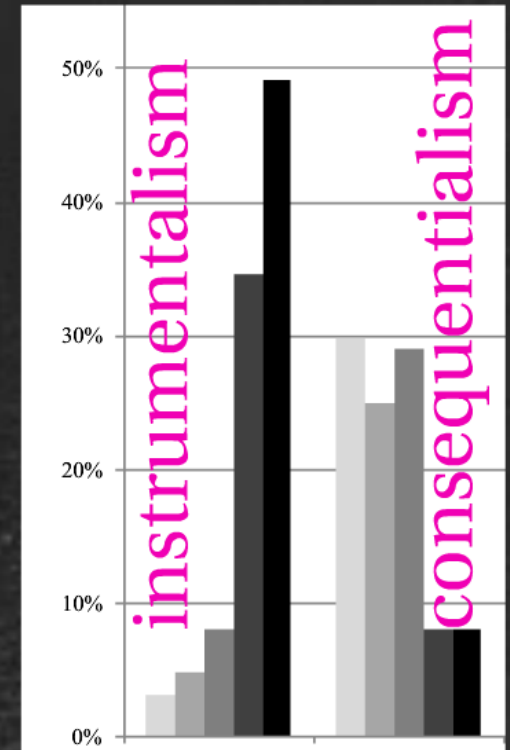


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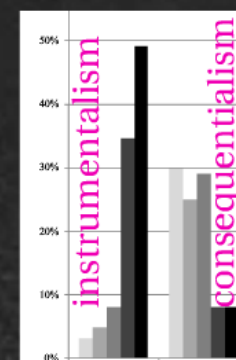
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51% of the economists in the sample use econometrics
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Only 11% use experiment as a method

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CRITICAL QUALITIES	NON-INDIFFERENTIALISM	INDIFFERENTIALISM	STANDARDISM
Misogynism (40%) Hatey (50%)	Sexual assault (100%) Mutilating (32%)	Indifference (40%)	Repression (10%) Mutilating (32%) Misogynism (32%)
2.9	2.2	2.8	1.7

Nb method declared (2.3 in gen. pop.)

Nb method declared 12.3 in gen. pop.

[illegible]

👍 General agreements

Instrumental posture (scientifically and politically)

Economic reality is defined by (i) situated rationality, and (ii) the importance of rules in coordination settings.

Economics deals with social phenomena

Characteristics of heterodoxies

The notion of "optimality": neither markets nor courts make decisions optimal society's functioning.

Skeptical as he is toward economists,

- economic concepts and tools are not fit for institutional social policy research

Skeptical as regard to social role of markets

- must be a wild but function in reality as in theory (pure and perfect)

Reyes, G. and W. Paul, 1993, *Business after 1994*. (1993, p. 1)

Average of absolute difference for each proposal ($\frac{\sum |v_i' - v^*|}{n}$)

AFEP/Heterodox = 0,07, and AFSE/Neither = 0,08

But, Neoclass/Neither = 0,31

	CRITICAL REALISTS	NEO-INSTITUTIONALISTS	INSTITUTIONALISTS
NEO-INSTITUTIONALISTS	0,99		
INSTITUTIONALISTS	0,48	0,65	
STANDARDS	0,70	0,53	0,62

Heterodox/Neoclass = 0,71, and AFSE/AFEP = 0,58

members

members

Women, Insecure
employment,
Youngests

members

Elders, (and non-HDR)

members

		CRITICAL REALISTS		NEO-INSTITUTIONALISTS		INSTITUTIONALISTS		STANDARDS	
		24,2%		27,4%		20,2%		28,2%	
Posture / conception		Moy.	Diff. (test)	Moy.	Diff. (test)	Moy.	Diff. (test)	Moy.	Diff. (test)
Prop1.1	Realism	2,7	-0,8 (***)	3,5		3,8	0,6 (**)	3,3	
Prop1.2	Constructivism	2,9		2,9		2,7		2,4	-0,4 (*)
Prop1.3	Instrumentalism	4,2		4,1		4,1		4,4	
Prop1.4	Conséquentialism	2,4		2,6		2,7		2,0	-0,5 (*)
Prop1.5	Critical realism	4,2	1,1 (***)	3,2		3,2		2,9	-0,6 (***)
Prop2.1	Mecanistic	2,7	-0,7 (**)	3,9	1 (***)	3,2		2,9	
Prop2.2	Evolutionary	3,3		3,9	0,5 (**)	4,2	0,9 (***)	2,8	-1 (***)
Prop2.3	Forecasting	2,3	-0,7 (***)	3,6	1,1 (***)	2,8		2,5	-0,4 (*)
Prop2.4	Decision-making	3,7		4,1	0,3 (*)	4,0		3,9	
Prop2.5	Resource allocation	1,8	-0,6 (***)	2,9	0,8 (***)	2,5		2,0	
Prop2.6	Optimality	1,7	-1,2 (***)	3,5	1,3 (***)	1,8	-0,9 (***)	3,0	0,6 (**)
Prop3.1	Exclusive	4,7	0,3 (**)	4,1	-0,6 (***)	4,7		4,5	
Prop3.2	Inclusive	2,0	-1,2 (***)	3,4	0,8 (***)	2,2	-0,8 (***)	3,5	0,9 (***)
Prop4.1	Situated Rationality	3,8		3,7		3,8		3,5	
Prop4.2	Cognitive Rationality	2,2	-1,3 (***)	3,9	0,9 (***)	3,0		3,6	0,5 (**)
Prop4.3	Argumentative Rationality	3,3		4,1	1,1 (***)	3,8	0,6 (*)	2,3	-1,4 (***)
Prop4.4	Maximisation Rationality	1,6	-1,9 (***)	3,9	1,2 (***)	3,1		3,3	
Prop4.5	Calculator (perfect) Rationality	1,4	-1 (***)	2,9	0,9 (***)	2,3		2,1	
Prop4.6	Bounded Rationality	1,4	-1,4 (***)	3,8	1,7 (***)	2,8		2,1	-0,7 (**)
Prop4.7	Secondary hypothesis	3,1		2,5		2,7		2,6	
Prop5.1	Institutionalism	4,4		4,0	-0,3 (**)	4,7	0,6 (***)	4,0	
Prop5.2	Naturalism	1,6	-1 (***)	3,3	1,2 (***)	1,6	-1 (***)	2,8	0,5 (*)
Prop5.3	Contractualism	2,8	-0,8 (***)	4,2	1,1 (***)	2,9	-0,6 (**)	3,5	
Prop5.4	Negative	3,5		3,3		4,0	0,7 (***)	3,1	-0,5 (**)
Prop5.5	Perfect markets	1,9	-0,6 (**)	2,8	0,6 (**)	1,9	-0,6 (**)	2,7	0,4 (**)
Prop5.6	Fictional	4,3		4,2		4,4		4,1	
Prop5.7	How equilibrium is reached	1,7	-1,1 (***)	3,4	1,1 (***)	1,4	-1,4 (***)	3,3	1 (***)
Prop5.8	Political simulations	2,2	-1,2 (***)	3,9	1 (***)	3,0		3,4	
Prop5.9	Partial equilibrium	3,1		3,8	0,5 (**)	3,6		3,3	

Instrum
politicalEconomi
rationa
coordin

Economi

Rejection
define op

Skeptical

- economi
- economi
- phenom

Skeptical

- markets
- markets

Rejection

80% are
"heterodox"

73% are AFEP
members

20% are
"heterodox"

(44% of the "neoclass")

65% are AFSE
members

Women, Insecure
employment,
Youngests

76% are
"heterodox"

72% are AFEP
members

Elders, (and non-HDR)

20% are
"heterodox"

56% of the "neoclass")

74% are AFEP
members

CRITICAL REALISTS

NEO- INSTITUTIONALISTS

INSTITUTIONALISTS

STANDARDS

24,2%

Moy. Diff. (test)

2,7 -0,8 (***)

2,9

4,2

27,4%

Moy. Diff. (test)

3,5

2,9

4,1

20,2%

Moy. Diff. (test)

3,8

2,7

4,1

28,2%

Moy. Diff. (test)

3,3

2,4

4,4

-0,4 (*)

members

members

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CRITICAL REALISTS

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24,2%		27,4%		20,2%		28,2%	
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2,7	-0,8 (***)	3,5		3,8	0,6 (**)	3,3	
2,9		2,9		2,7		2,4	-0,4 (*)
4,2		4,1		4,1		4,4	
2,4		2,6		2,7		2,0	-0,5 (*)
4,2	1,1 (***)	3,2		3,2		2,9	-0,6 (***)
2,7	-0,7 (**)	3,9	1 (***)	3,2		2,9	
3,3		3,9	0,5 (**)	4,2	0,9 (***)	2,8	-1 (***)
2,3	-0,7 (***)	3,6	1,1 (***)	2,8		2,5	-0,4 (*)
3,7		4,1	0,3 (*)	4,0		3,9	
1,8	-0,6 (***)	2,9	0,8 (***)	2,5		2,0	
1,7	-1,2 (***)	3,5	1,3 (***)	1,8	-0,9 (***)	3,0	0,6 (**)
4,7	0,3 (**)	4,1	-0,6 (***)	4,7		4,5	
2,0	-1,2 (***)	3,4	0,8 (***)	2,2	-0,8 (***)	3,5	0,9 (***)
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1,4	-1 (***)	2,9	0,9 (***)	2,3		2,1	
1,4	-1,4 (***)	3,8	1,7 (***)	2,8		2,1	-0,7 (**)
3,1		2,5		2,7		2,6	
4,4		4,0	-0,3 (**)	4,7	0,6 (***)	4,0	
1,6	-1 (***)	3,3	1,2 (***)	1,6	-1 (***)	2,8	0,5 (*)
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4,3		4,2		4,4		4,1	
1,7	-1,1 (***)	3,4	1,1 (***)	1,4	-1,4 (***)	3,3	1 (***)
2,2	-1,2 (***)	3,9	1 (***)	3,0		3,4	
3,1		3,8	0,5 (**)	3,6		3,3	



General agreements

Instrumental posture (scientifically and politically)

Economic reality is defined by (i) situated rationality, and (ii) the importance of rules in coordination settings

Economics deals with social phenomena



Characteristics of heterodoxies

Rejection of "optimality": neither markets nor economics define optimal society's functioning

Skeptical as regard to economics:

- economics cannot and should not define optimal society's functioning
- economics concepts and tools are not fit to understand social phenomenon)

Skeptical as regard to social role of markets

- markets do not enable reaching equilibrium and optimum
- markets could not function in reality as in theory (pure and perfect)

Rejection of Naturalism (markets are not "natural")

Classification

① Identify these groups

For each proposal, how different is the evaluation within the group vs. in the rest of the sample (Wilcoxon test)?

② Proximity analysis

Which groups are closer (more distant) ?

In terms of methodological practices

51% of the economists in the sample use econometrics
(37% uses modeling)
Only 11% use experiment as a method

Only 11% use experiment as a method

CRITICAL QUALITIES	NOB. PARTICIPATION ANALYSIS	INACTIVATION ANALYSIS	STANDARDIZATION
Misclassification (40%) Honey (60%)	Non-response (100%) Misleading (35%)	Inconsistency (40%)	Biases in method (10%) Modeling (30%) Interview (15%)
2.9	2.2	2.8	1.7

Nb method declared (2.3 in gen. pop.)

Nb method declared 12.3 in gen. pop.

[illegible]

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Reyes, G. and W. Paul, 1995, *Business after 40* (Paulist).

Average of absolute difference for each proposal ($\frac{\sum |v_i - v^*|}{n}$)

AFEP/Heterodox = 0,07, and AFSE/Neither = 0,08

But, Neoclass/Neither = 0,31

	CRITICAL REALISTS	NEO-INSTITUTIONALISTS	INSTITUTIONALISTS
NEO-INSTITUTIONALISTS	0,99		
INSTITUTIONALISTS	0,48	0,65	
STANDARDS	0,70	0,53	0,62

Heterodox/Neoclass = 0,71, and AFSE/AFEP = 0,58

Average of absolute difference for each proposal ($\frac{\text{Sum } |v_i^x - v_i^y|}{n}$)

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NEO-
INSTITUTIONALISTS

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2.9	2.2	2.8	1.7

Nb method declared (2.3 in gen. pop.)

Nb method declared 12.3 in gen. pop.

	80% are "Intersective"	50% are "Intersective" (includes overlap)	70% are "Intersective"	70% are "Intersective" (includes overlap)	
	72% are AFEP members	65% are AFEP members	72% are AFEP members	74% are AFEP members	
		AFEP members only	AFEP members only	AFEP members only	
		AFEP members only	AFEP members only	AFEP members only	
CONFIDENTIAL MEMBERS					
NON-INTERSECTIVISTS					
				SCISSORS	
1	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
5	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
6	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
7	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
8	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
9	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
10	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
11	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
12	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
13	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
14	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
15	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
16	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
17	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
18	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
19	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
20	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
21	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
22	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
23	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
24	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
25	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
26	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
27	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
28	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
29	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
30	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
31	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
32	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
33	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
34	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
35	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
36	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
37	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
38	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
39	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
40	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
41	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
42	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
43	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
44	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
45	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
46	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
47	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
48	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
49	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
50	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
51	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
52	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
53	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
54	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
55	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
56	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
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58	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
59	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
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64	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
65	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
66	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
67	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
68	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
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72	Scissors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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AFEP/Heterodox = 0,07, and AFSE/Neither = 0,08

But, Neoclass/Neither = 0,31

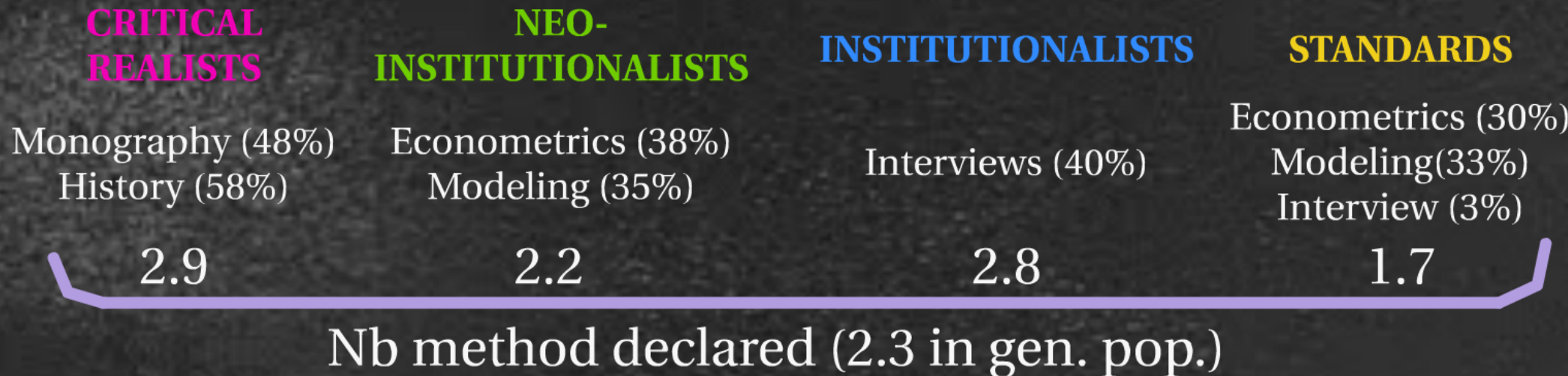
	CRITICAL REALISTS	NEO-INSTITUTIONALISTS	INSTITUTIONALISTS
NEO-INSTITUTIONALISTS	0,99		
INSTITUTIONALISTS	0,48	0,65	
STANDARDS	0,70	0,53	0,62

Heterodox/Neoclass = 0,71, and AFSE/AFEP = 0,58

methodological

51% of the economists in the sample use econometrics
(37% uses modeling)

Only 11% use experiment as a method

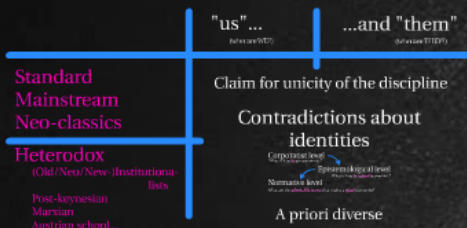


Postures and practices of economists:

Introduction

The French academic context is relatively tensed

Contradictions between:



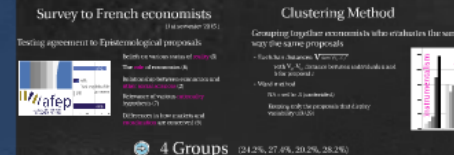
To what extent economists (which ones) share identity?

➡ Question systems of thoughts and beliefs

AFSE Meeting - Paris - 14-16 May 2018

Convergence or divorce?

Data and method



Classification

- 1 Identify these groups
For each proposal, how different is the evaluation within the groups vs. in the rest of the sample (Wilcoxon test)?
- 2 Proximity analysis
Which groups are closer (more distant)?
In terms of methodological practices



Conclusions: No definitive answer

Some shared foundations (instrumentalism)

Mainstream is as diverse as the heterodoxies

They dissemble more than they resemble

Improve the research design (eg. equivocal proposals)



AGIR

Recherche ODYSSE

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Organisations, Dynamiques des Connaissances et des innovations dans les Écosystèmes