

Review of: "Economics Rationality in the World of Amartya Sen"

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Review Report

Paper title: Economics Rationality in the World of Amartya Sen.

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The paper “focuses on the critique of economic rationality” (p. 2). The author analyses the work by Amartya Sen with a somewhat interdisciplinary approach. The author concludes that Sen has greatly shifted our paradigm of economic rationality. The nexus of ethics and economics as well as the two types of rationality (consistency versus optimization) are major contributions of Sen, according to the author. In a nutshell, Sen’s work is reconfiguring economic rationality until today.

Comments:

(1) As an economist I have to admit that the hermeneutic method should be assessed by a respective expert in this field. Nonetheless, I encourage the author to enhance the details of the paper, particularly language and type-setting (empty spaces etc.). There is some potential to improve readability and understanding.

(2) My major methodological comments are twofold:

2.1 The research requires to my reading a thorough embedding to the literature. Where does the concept of rationality come from? How has it changed over centuries or decades? Among others, Max Weber discussed the concept of rationality already in 1925; similar and related to Sen. Hence, I encourage the author to reconsider the long-standing philosophical, sociological and economic literature about rationality (particularly before Sen’s work).

2.2 The author might be unaware about recent advancements in literature of economic rationality. As a reader, one has the impression that this paper is rather unconnected to the present literature in economics. For instance, the seminal research by Nagel (1995) about second-order beliefs and constrained rationality. In addition, the subsequent large literature about rationality in experimental economics or behavioural economics (Nagel and Grosskopf 2008, Crawford 2013, Weizsäcker 2003; Ariely and others). Moreover, there are new scientific fields such as quantum rationality. Or the types of rationality, accordingly to Sen, is studied under the name “Dualism of Rationality” (Herzog and Schnee 2022).

I would encourage the author to link the paper to the literature without ignoring research findings about rationality at the

current edge. A thorough embedding to the literature helps the author to clearly explain the main (new) contribution(s).

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