

In this Issue

In the ‘Introducing a new journal’ statement, we briefly describe the origins of the journal, tracing back to the year 2007, when the first methodological seminar was held at the Warsaw School of Economics (SGH). The primary objective of the seminar was to bring together scholars representing various branches of social science so that they could engage in a methodological debate. The need to call for such a meeting was prompted by realization of growing gaps and lack of interdisciplinary communication within the academic community of the SGH. Subsequently, we grew to believe that such a state was not uncommon in other leading academic institutions across the country as well. While such atomization certainly seemed a threat to the quality of academic discourse in the future, it also appeared an opportunity for scholars willing to look beyond their main fields of expertise and establish interdisciplinary links with the colleagues who often happen to concentrate on the very same phenomena in their studies, albeit seen from different angles and tackled with various methodological approaches. If nobody takes any action to animate such a debate beyond frontiers, then why cannot we try.

The seminar was originally intended to be a one-time event, although we quietly hoped it would institutionalize into a regular form of exchanging views. That is why the participants who took part in the discussion were asked to develop their verbal contributions into full-sized articles. The vast majority of speakers responded positively to the call and eventually delivered their contributions in writing. Having been trusted by a number of eminent scholars with their work, we became aware that we reached the point of no return. The conclusion was plain clear: the contributions must be published.

The first issue comprises eight articles that are related to the broadly defined institutionalism tackled from both sociological and economic perspectives.

In his substantial contribution Piotr Chmielewski directs our attention to the issue of integration of social sciences. The author suggests that new institutionalism may provide a platform on which an attempt to bring various branches of social

science can be undertaken. The article forwards number of theoretical propositions from the sociological perspective.

Zbigniew Staniek analyses the process of diversification of institutional economics. The author reviews various notions of the term 'institution' applied by the economists, resulting in advanced diversity of the field of economics referred to as 'institutional'.

The likely directions of cooperation between economy and sociology are also nurtured by Sławomir Sztaba. The author acknowledges potential difficulties in an endeavour to establish such cooperation, yet argues it is very much needed.

Tadeusz Kowalik discusses the chances and obstacles for cooperation between sociologists and economists. The author also ventures the issue of potential benefits resulting from such cooperation. The article is written from the comparative political economy position.

Witold Morawski discusses the structuralist perspective in contemporary globalization research, profoundly examining strengths and weaknesses of such an approach from sociological standpoint.

Jacek Tittenbrun shares his thoughts on how and in what terms the field of economic sociology should be defined. His propositions are addressed from a neo-Marxist perspective.

Honorata Sosnowska in short and concise form discusses various aspects of the theory of social choice.

Ewa Freyberg points to the need to improve methods of designing better policies and laws. The author also highlights the advantages of the joint research by economists and sociologists.

The first issue is devoted to the matter of feasibility of cooperation between two branches of social science, economy and sociology, that is. Now, we can only hope that the content of this issue will arise interest and result in new, equally valuable articles delivered.