Social Ontology and Modern Economics

Edited by Stephen Pratten
Contents

Notes on contributors x
Acknowledgements xiii

Introduction 1
STEVEN PRATTEN

PART I
The Cambridge approach to social ontology 17

1 A conception of social ontology 19
TONY LAWSON

2 Quine and the ontological turn in economics 53
JOHN LATSIS

3 The scope of ontological theorising 68
STEVEN PRATTEN

PART II
Traditions and projects 95

4 The nature of heterodox economics 97
TONY LAWSON

5 Economics as progress: the LSE approach to econometric modelling and critical realism as programmes for research 127
STEVEN PRATTEN
viii  Contents

6  An evolutionary economics? On borrowing from evolutionary biology 162
TONY LAWSON

7  Structure, agency and causality in post-revival Austrian economics: tensions and resolutions 200
PAUL LEWIS

PART III
Interventions in the history of economic thought 229

8  Smith and Newton: some methodological issues concerning general economic equilibrium theory 231
LEONIDAS MONTES

9  Metatheory as the key to understanding: Schumpeter after Shionoya 265
MÁRIO GRAÇA MOURA

10 Order without equilibrium: a critical realist interpretation of Hayek's notion of spontaneous order 287
STEVE FLEETWOOD

PART IV
Methods 313

11 Methods of abstraction and isolation in modern economics 315
TONY LAWSON

12 Applied economics, contrast explanation and asymmetric information 338
TONY LAWSON

PART V
Ethics 357

13 Critical ethical naturalism: an orientation to ethics 359
TONY LAWSON

14 Realism, universalism and capabilities 388
NUNO MARTINS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PART VI</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elaborating conceptions of social reality</td>
<td></td>
<td>411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Ontology and the study of social reality: emergence, organisation, community, power, social relations, corporations, artefacts and money</td>
<td>TONY LAWSON</td>
<td>413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Open and closed systems and the Cambridge school</td>
<td>VINCA BIGO</td>
<td>465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 The nature of gender</td>
<td>TONY LAWSON</td>
<td>485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Technological objects, social positions, and the Transformational Model of Social Activity</td>
<td>PHILIP FAULKNER AND JOCHEN RUNDE</td>
<td>507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Technology and the extension of human capabilities</td>
<td>CLIVE LAWSON</td>
<td>535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 What is an institution?</td>
<td>TONY LAWSON</td>
<td>553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index</td>
<td></td>
<td>578</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>