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| 1. Record Nr. | UNINA990009251540403321 |
| Titolo | Reasoning Web [Risorsa elettronica] : Second International Summer School 2006, Lisbon, Portugal, September 4-8, 2006, Tutorial Lectures / edited by Pedro Barahona, François Bry, Enrico Franconi, Nicola Henze, Ulrike Sattler |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | Berlin ; Heidelberg : Springer, 2006 |
| ISBN | 9783540384120 |
| Collana | Lecture Notes in Computer Science , 0302-9743 ; 4126 |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Inglese |
| Formato | Risorsa elettronica |
| Livello bibliografico | Monografia |
| 2. Record Nr. | UNINA9910817189803321 |
| Titolo | Beyond economic man : feminist theory and economics // edited by Marianne A. Ferber and Julie A. Nelson |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | Chicago, : University of Chicago Press, 1993 |
| ISBN | 1-282-42639-7
9786612426391
0-226-24208-0 |
| Edizione | [1st ed.] |
| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (188 p.) |
| Altri autori (Persone) | FerberMarianne A. <1923->
NelsonJulie A. <1956-> |
| Disciplina | 330.01
330.082
330/.082 |
| Soggetti | Feminist theory - Economic aspects
Economics |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Inglese |
| Formato | Materiale a stampa |
| Livello bibliografico | Monografia |
| Note generali | Description based upon print version of record. |
| Nota di bibliografia | Includes bibliographical references and index. |

Nota di contenuto

Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface -- Introduction: The Social Construction of Economics and the Social Construction of Gender -- 1. The Study of Choice or the Study of Provisioning? Gender and the Definition of Economics -- 2. The Separative Self: Androcentric Bias in Neoclassical Assumptions -- 3. Not a Free Market: The Rhetoric of Disciplinary Authority in Economics -- 4. Some Consequences of a Conjective Economics -- 5. Socialism, Feminist and Scientific -- 6. Public or Private? Institutional Economics and Feminism -- What Should Mainstream Economists Learn from Feminist Theory? -- Race, Deconstruction, and the Emergent Agenda of Feminist Economic Theory -- Feminist Theory, Women's Experience, and Economics -- Economics for Whom? -- Biographies of the Contributors -- Index

Sommario/riassunto

This is the first book to examine the central tenets of economics from a feminist point of view. In these original essays, the authors suggest that the discipline of economics could be improved by freeing itself from masculine biases. *Beyond Economic Man* raises questions about the discipline not because economics is too objective but because it is not objective enough. The contributors—nine economists, a sociologist, and a philosopher—discuss the extent to which gender has influenced both the range of subjects economists have studied and the way in which scholars have conducted their studies. They investigate, for example, how masculine concerns underlie economists' concentration on market as opposed to household activities and their emphasis on individual choice to the exclusion of social constraints on choice. This focus on masculine interests, the contributors contend, has biased the definition and boundaries of the discipline, its central assumptions, and its preferred rhetoric and methods. However, the aim of this book is not to reject current economic practices, but to broaden them, permitting a fuller understanding of economic phenomena. These essays examine current economic practices in the light of a feminist understanding of gender differences as socially constructed rather than based on essential male and female characteristics. The authors use this concept of gender, along with feminist readings of rhetoric and the history of science, as well as postmodernist theory and personal experience as economists, to analyze the boundaries, assumptions, and methods of neoclassical, socialist, and institutionalist economics. The contributors are Rebecca M. Blank, Paula England, Marianne A. Ferber, Nancy Folbre, Ann L. Jennings, Helen E. Longino, Donald N. McCloskey, Julie A. Nelson, Robert M. Solow, Diana Strassmann, and Rhonda M. Williams.
