

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910825685303321
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Titolo	Reorienting economics // Tony Lawson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London ; ; New York : , : Routledge, , 2003
ISBN	1-134-52594-X 1-283-59046-8 9786613902917 0-203-92996-9 1-134-52595-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (405 p.)
Collana	Economics as Social Theory
Disciplina	330.1
Soggetti	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 indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Front Cover; Reorienting Economics; Copyright Page; Contents; Preface and acknowledgements; Part I: The current orientation of the discipline and the proposed alternative; 1. Four theses on the state of modern economics; Thesis 1; Deductivism; Thesis 2; Thesis 3; Ontology; Closed systems; Atomism and isolationism; A theory of social ontology; Fictions; Modelling successes; The nature of the argument; Thesis 4; Science; The mainstream project and science; Implications for the discipline of economics; 2. An ontological turn in economics; Context and philosophical method Contending approaches to economic methodology Critical realism in economics; Transcendental analysis and social theory; Specific strategies; A theory of social ontology; Social rules; Social positions; Internal relationality; Transformation and reproduction; Reproduction over space and time; Emergence and process; Human being and subjectivity; Habitus; Consciousness; Agency/structure interaction; Forward-looking behaviour; Personal identities and meaning; Limitations of perspective; Implications of the ontological enquiry; Errors and dangers; Clarification; Directionality The context of ontology 3. What has realism got to do with it?; Realist as a contrast to non-realist; Realist: more rather than less; Competing

programmes; The problem with modern mainstream economics; A realist alternative; The situation in 'economic methodology'; Hausman and economics; Hausman and critical realism; Concluding remarks; Part II: Possibilities for economics; 4. Explanatory method for social science; Conditions of social explanatory endeavour; Causal explanation and retrodution; The central problem of social explanation; A point of departure; Contrasts and interest
An illustrative example
Scientific experiments once more; Plant breeding; Conditions of possibility of successes; Moving towards the social domain; Contrast explanation; Initiating the explanatory process and interest relativity; Directing the explanatory process;
Discriminating between causal hypotheses; Facilitating explanatory research in the social domain; A seemingly general explanatory model; Demi-regularities; Enduring or widespread social processes; The feasibility of social explanation; 5. An evolutionary economics? On borrowing from evolutionary biology
The allure of an evolutionary economics
The biological and social connection; Evolutionary theory and metaphor; Advantages of the evolutionary model for social understanding: a preliminary orientation; The nature of social material; The biological model and mainstream economics; Natural selection; A biological example: the beaks of Darwin's finches; Towards a general evolutionary model; The PVRS model; The natural selection mechanism; Back to social processes; The PVRS evolutionary model as a transformational model of social activity
Disanalogies between evolutionary biology and evolutionary social science

Sommario/riassunto

This eagerly anticipated new book from Tony Lawson contends that economics can profit from a more explicit concern with ontology (enquiry into the nature of existence) than has been its custom. By admitting that economics is not exactly a picture of health at the moment, Lawson hopes that we can move away from the bafflingly intransigent belief that economics is at its core reliant upon mathematical modelling. This maths-envy is the reason why economics is in a state of such disarray. Far from being a polemic against the mainstream, this excellent new book is concerned that if economics is
