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Nota di contenuto	; I. Introduction: -- Dismal queen of the social sciences / Uskali Maki -- ; II. Setting the scene: -- Ugly currents in modern economics / Mark Blaug -- Modern economics and its critics / Partha Dasgupta -- Some nonreasons for nonrealism about economics / Uskali Maki -- ; III. Economic models and economic reality: -- Credible worlds: the status of theoretical models in economics / Robert Sugden -- Limits of causal order, from economics to physics / Nancy Cartwright -- Econometrics and reality / Kevin D. Hoover -- Models, stories, and the economic world / Mary S. Morgan -- Economic models and reality: the role of informal scientific methods / Roger E. Backhouse -- Truthlikeness and economic theories / Ilkka Niiniluoto -- ; IV. The constitution of economic reality: -- Rational choice, functional selection, and "empty black boxes" / Philip Pettit -- Reality of common cultures / Shaun P.

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Sommario/riassunto

There is an embarrassing polarization of opinions about the status of economics as an academic discipline, as reflected in epithets such as the Dismal Science and the Queen of the Social Sciences. This collection brings together some of the leading figures in the methodology and philosophy of economics to provide a thoughtful and balanced overview of the current state of debate about the nature and limits of economic knowledge. Authors with partly rival and partly complementary perspectives examine how abstract models work and how they might connect with the real world, they look at the special nature of the facts about the economy, and they direct attention towards the academic institutions themselves and how they shape economic research. These issues are thus analysed from the point of view of methodology, semantics, ontology, rhetoric, sociology, and economics of science.
