

# **Systematicity in Economic Thought**

## **A Neo-Kantian Approach to the History and Epistemology of Economics**

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The Marburg School was a Neo-Kantian philosophical movement that attained a leading position in German philosophy during the late 19th and early 20th century, and which is mainly known for its knowledge theory. The central thesis of the Marburg epistemology is that scientific understanding basically endeavours to reconstruct experience as an ordered and stable system of dependencies, and that for scientific thought the commitment to conceptual systematicity is stronger than that to realism.

In a previous paper I showed that the epistemology of the Marburg School allows us to rationalize the history of consumer theory in a persuasive way. The present paper is an outgrowth of the previous one. I illustrate how the commitment to systematicity characterizes not only the development of consumption analysis, but also that of other branches of economic theory. I also compare the Marburg epistemology with the other trends in the philosophy of economics, and argue that it rationalizes the history and the current state of economic science better than other methodological perspectives.

My final goal is to show that the Marburg one is an original and promising approach to the history and epistemology of economics, which makes it possible to avoid the difficulties of traditional methodologies without resorting to the extrinsic narratives of the sociological studies of science.