From the Editor

A number of interesting questions will come to mind when we consider the relationship between economics and other sciences. For example, why is the mode of thinking in economics closer to physics than to biology? How has this happened? Is it because physics was born earlier than biology as a science? Is it because evolution is difficult to model? Would economists feel more comfortable among fellow social scientists had they followed the evolutionary approach? And so on.

In the past, we have published papers about the influence of physics and biology on economics, and also papers on evolutionary economics. In this issue, Roger Koppl traces the influence of Descartes on Walras, while John Fisher writes on economic growth from the perspective of evolution. The influence of physics and biology on economics is both conceptual and methodological.

For biology, there is much more to it than just evolution. We are thankful that, in response to our call, Elias Khalil has prepared an elaborate paper for us on “Economics and Biology: Eight Areas of Research” in which he organizes the contemporary economic literature which relates in one form or another to biology. It is published here in this issue as a lead-paper for our Symposium on Economics and Biology next issue (see Announcement).

We plan to have similar symposia in the future. Instead of guarding our own fortress somewhat jealously, the need for dialogue between economists and other (social) scientists has become all the more urgent, now that the ‘imperialist’ Gary Becker has won a Nobel Prize. We earnestly call for lead-papers on the relationship between economics and other disciplines.

Among other things, we have in this issue some substantive papers in our Book Review Column which has developed, thanks to Kevin Hoover, in the way we envisaged.

Victor Mok

Instructions to Contributors

1. Manuscripts should be type-written on one side of the paper, double-spaced with sufficient margins.

2. Manuscripts should preferably not exceed 30 pages. They should be carefully checked and considered final.

3. All pages should be numbered consecutively. The first page should contain the article title, name(s) and institutional affiliation(s) of author(s), and the present address of the author to be contacted.

4. Acknowledgements (if any) should be given in a note at the end of the article before the Endnotes.

5. Endnotes should be used instead of Footnotes. They should be numbered consecutively and kept to a minimum.

6. References should include only the most relevant items. They should be numbered consecutively according to alphabetical order of the last names of authors, and be complete in respect of year and place of publication, pages, etc.

7. To facilitate production, articles on disks can be submitted. We accept ASCII Text File, Pagemaker 4.0 File, Microsoft Word File and Word Perfect 5.0 File with hard copies.

8. Upon acceptance of publication, the author(s) will be asked to transfer copyright to the publisher.

9. Articles should be preceded by abstracts of 150 words or less which will be published for online indexing and abstracting services of the American Economic Association.

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Deadline for submission to the June 1993 issue will be 15 April, 1993. All papers can be sent to Dr. Victor Mok, Department of Economics, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong.