

**N
E
W**

Imagining Economics Otherwise

Encounters with Identity/Difference

By **Nitasha Kaul**

Is it possible to be 'irrational' without being 'uneconomic'? What is the link between 'Value' and 'values'? What do economists do when they 'explain'? We live in times when the economic logic has become unquestionable and all-powerful so that our quotidian economic experiences are defined by their scientific construal. This book is the result of a multifaceted investigation into the nature of knowledge produced by economics, and the construction of the category that is termed 'economic' with its implied exclusions. It is an attempt to *think economics Otherwise*, that is, a questioning of economics as if difference mattered.

Nitasha Kaul re-examines certain understood ways of thinking about economics as a discipline, especially in relation to questions of identity and difference. This book explores the notion that economics is not a timeless, universal, objective science but a changing response to the problems of knowledge and administration. The epistemological inheritance of economics is 'rooted' in the enlightenment, and it also inherits the liberal paradoxes of that age. Kaul argues that the juxtaposition of identity with economic (culture/economy) is essential, and can only be achieved by critiquing establishment economists' discourse on identity, and taking feminist poststructural and postcolonial work seriously. The author challenges the assumption that there is a simple linkage between the category economic, the entity economy and the study of economics. She envisions an economics in the plural: contextual, social, political—econo-mixes.

The book brings together some of the most urgent topics of the day—the power of economics as a discipline, the questions of difference and the politics of identity, and feminist perspectives on this. It will be particularly relevant to heterodox economists, feminist theorists, postcolonial studies scholars, social and cultural theorists, philosophers and history of ideas or intellectual history of thought scholars.

CONTENTS: Part 1: Looking Back, Looking Ahead

1. Introduction 1.1 Introduction 1.2 The Writing of Theory in Economics

1.3 The Overview 1.4 Signpost **Part 2: Rooting and Routing**

Economics 2. Enlightenment Epistemology and the Subject-World of

Economics 2.1 Introduction 2.2 Enterprise of Economics

2.3 Enlightenment and Epistemology 2.4 Subject-World of Economics

2.5 The Theory and Science of Economics 2.6 Mathematical Formalism,

Representation and the Moralisation of Objectivity 2.7 Conclusion **Part**

3: Issues of Knowledge and Difference 3. Modernist Rendition of

Knowledge and the Question of Difference 3.1 Introduction 3.2 Time

and the Other of Modernist Knowledge 3.3 Rousseau's Discourse On

Political Economy 3.4 Subjectivity of Modernist Knowledge and the

Transcendental Pretence 3.5 Reason, History and the Hegelian Dialectic

3.6 Human Nature and the Question of Difference 3.7 The Postcolonial

Moment in Epistemology 3.8 Conclusion **Part 4: Juxtaposing**

Questions of Identity and the Economic 4. Identity Problematics 4.1

On Identity 4.2 Abstract Essentialist Individual Identity 4.3 Critiquing the

Abstract Essentialist Individual View of Identity 4.4 The Orthodox and the

Heterodox: A Possible Dialogue 4.5 Rethinking the Relation of Identity

and Difference in Knowledge 4.6 The Politics of Identity 5. Economics

and Identity 5.1 Expanding 'Economics Inc.' (Economics Incorporated)?

5.2 Illustration One: Akerlof and Kranton on 'Economics and Identity'

5.3 Illustration Two: Sen On 'Reason Before Identity' 6. Rethinking

Identity Translationally and Reconsidering the Economic 6.1

Introduction 6.2 Concentric and Translational Architectures of Identity

6.3 Identity : Economic: Culture: Economy 6.4 Conclusion **Part 5: In**

Conclusion 7. Writing Economic Theory Another Way 7.1 A Recap 7.2

Writing Economic Theory Another Way 7.3 Pedagogy Re-Visited:

Contextual Social Political Economies (Econo-Mixes) 7.4 Conclusion:

Penpoints On Mirrors

Nitasha Kaul has a doctorate in economics and philosophy. A lecturer in economics until 2006, she is currently an independent scholar and writer. Her research and publications engage with social, cultural, feminist, poststructural and postcolonial theories, in addition to critical political economy.

October 2007: 234x156: 288pp

Hb: ISBN: 978-0-415-38397-4

Price: £70.00/\$140.00/€100.00

**Discounted Launch Price: £56.00/\$112.00/
€80.00**



Routledge

Taylor & Francis Group

UK AND RoW ORDERS

Telephone:
01264 343071

Fax:
01264 343005

Post:
Customer Services
Taylor and Francis
FREEPOST
Andover
Hants SP10 5BR

Internet:
www.routledge.com

Email:
book.orders@routledge.co.uk

US ORDERS

Telephone:
Toll Free: 800-634-7064

Fax:
Toll Free: 800-248-4724

Post:
Taylor & Francis Books
Dept: Textbook Customer
Service
7625 Empire Drive
Florence, KY 41042

Internet:
www.routledge-ny.com

Email:
cserve@routledge-ny.com

☐ Please tick here if you would like receive any mailings from Taylor and Francis Group companies.

Title	ISBN	Qty.	Price	Subtotal

UK
5% of total order
MIN CHARGE £1.00
MAX CHARGE £10.00
NEXT DAY +£6.50*
* We only guarantee next
day delivery for orders

EUROPE
10% of total order
MIN CHARGE £2.95
MAX CHARGE £20.00
AIRMAIL +£6.50

REST OF WORLD
15% of total order
MIN CHARGE £6.50
MAX CHARGE £30.00

For other options call
customer services on: +44
(0)1264 343071

Postage/Shipping

GRAND TOTAL

SURNAME	FIRST NAME
DEPARTMENT	
INSTITUTION	VAT NUMBER (EU MEMBER STATES)
ADDRESS	
TOWN	COUNTY
POSTCODE	COUNTRY
TELEPHONE	FAX
EMAIL	

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: / / (eg 01/01/05)

SELECT PAYMENT METHOD (please tick or fill appropriate boxes & select card type)

☐ **Cheque** payable to Taylor & Francis £

☐ **Please send me a pre-payment invoice**

☐ **Credit Card No** (no spaces)

(my ref number)

EXPIRY DATE / Month/year

☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Amex ☐ Switch

Issue Number (only applies to Switch)