



## *Econ Journal Watch*

*Scholarly Comments on Academic Economics*

The electronic triannual *Econ Journal Watch* brings lively commentary to professional economics. It watches the journals for inappropriate assumptions, weak chains of argument, phony claims of relevance, and omissions of pertinent truths. It tests the science of the scientists. *EJW* appears three times per year at **econjournalwatch.org**.

*EJW* publishes Comments on articles appearing in prestigious economics journals and provides the commented-on authors the opportunity to respond. *EJW* serves as a forum for discourse about economics research and the economics profession.

In the prestigious journals, give and take of this kind is largely absent. Space allotted to comments and replies has shrunk and in many journals been eliminated. Even when a journal runs comments the editors have an incentive to bury news that they ran a defective article. Pointed, constructive criticism requires an independent forum and an accessible and timely medium.

Other material including essays, reflections, investigations, and classic critiques speaks to the nature and character of economics. *EJW* explores tensions and problems in the discipline. It applies economists' theories of failure—market, government, organizational—to their own practices. Themes include:

- the role of the economist in society
- whether scholarly economic research reaches policy conclusions
- in what ideas and evidence *oomph* really lies
- whether economists neglect institutional alternatives by failing to think beyond the status quo

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*EJW* is edited in the U.S. but welcomes reports and commentaries from elsewhere.

#### ***Call for papers and ideas for papers:***

Authors are invited to contact the Editor, a Co-Editor, or the Managing Editor with manuscripts or ideas for comments and papers.

***Editorial policy:*** Submissions must be in Word and submitted electronically. The editors will actively edit for clarity and plain language.

Once a Comment has been provisionally accepted, it will be sent to the commented-on authors, who will be allowed to submit a reply to appear along with the Comment.

In addition to Comments, *EJW* solicits inquiries and submissions for several other ongoing feature series:

#### ■ **Do Economists Reach A Conclusion?**

This section reports on whether economists who have published on a specific policy issue reach the same conclusions. Papers have address drug prohibition, postal services, and occupational licensing. *EJW* currently seeks authors to write about whether economists reach a conclusion on recycling, gun control, free trade versus protectionism, housing market or land use regulation, etc. ***EJW* welcomes proposals for papers on other policy issues.**

#### ■ **Intellectual Tyranny of the Status Quo.**

Many fields of economics are focused on status quo policies and institutions. In deciding its focus economic analysis has always faced a tension between the desirable and the politically feasible. Does it make

sense for economists to talk about desirable policies that are far beyond the 40 yard lines of practical political discourse? *EJW* publishes investigations by field to see whether thinking gets beyond status quo policy alternatives. Recent papers and papers in production address agricultural economics, development economics, public finance, transportation, and monetary economics. *EJW* seeks authors to write further on those fields as well as about international finance, environmental economics, defense economics, science policy economics, public economics, and health economics. ***We welcome suggestions for other fields.***

- **Investigating the Apparatus.** Are the systems of validation in academic economics well aligned with the public interest? Does doing well in economics mean doing good? The economics of economics requires investigating the institutional apparatus of economics. *EJW* has published papers on the Social Science Citation Index, the National Research Council, and the self-referential structure of academic economics. ***Proposals for papers on other topics are encouraged.***
  
- **Economics in Practice.** One way to understand academic economics is to examine the behavior of economists. Papers in this section investigate whether economists speak to the public, believe in what they are doing, seriously test their ideas, develop theories or merely build models, and relate their findings to significant issues. ***Paper proposals are welcome.***
  
- **Others.** The editors invite ideas for other features.

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