

The Economists' Philosophy Day – A celebration of philosophical reflection in economic science - 19 Nov. 2026

In deference to the work of all inquisitive minds, past and present, who have embraced philosophical reflection to understand the consequential events for people's wellbeing, the *Journal of Philosophical Economics* in partnership with the *Research Center for the History and Circulation of Philosophical Ideas* announce this call for the fifth edition of the Economists' Philosophy Day.

In October 2005, the UNESCO General Conference proclaimed the third Thursday of November every year 'World Philosophy Day' recalling that 'philosophy is a discipline that encourages critical and independent thought and is capable of working towards a better understanding of the world and promoting tolerance and peace.'

It is in this spirit that the organizers propose to celebrate Economists' Philosophy Day by organizing online plenary sessions on scientific communication dedicated to the philosophical landmarks through which our science has been challenged, for better or for worse. For this edition, this call invites contributions in the theme of

Acting in the Unknown: Rationality Across Space and Time

Convenor: Dr. Pascal Stiefenhofer

Newcastle University, UK & Associate Editor of J Philos Econ

In a world increasingly shaped by complexity, volatility, and accelerated change, questions about what it means to act rationally have never been more urgent—or more contested. From the climate crisis to global health emergencies, from fragile supply chains to algorithmic governance, contemporary decision-making is marked by deep uncertainty, systemic disruption, and profound spatial and temporal disjunctions. Simultaneously, the very norms governing what counts as rational, ethical, or appropriate action are shifting—reshaped by technological mediation, social transformations, and institutional change. How do individuals, institutions, and artificial agents navigate such terrains of unpredictability? What qualifies as rational agency in contexts where information is incomplete, time is constrained, norms are evolving, and outcomes remain unknowable?

This call invites contributions that reimagine rational agency in light of spatial and temporal complexity. We encourage work that goes beyond idealized or static models of decision-making to engage with the situated, dynamic, and often improvisational

nature of action in uncertain conditions. We welcome interdisciplinary perspectives from philosophy, economics, management studies, ethics, and history. Relevant themes for submission may include, though are not limited to:

- 📖 How do temporal constraints—urgency, delay, or long-term consequences—reshape our understanding of rational action?
- 📖 What ethical responsibilities do agents bear when outcomes unfold across distant geographies or extended timeframes?
- 📖 How can institutions design decision-making structures that are resilient to spatial and temporal complexity?
- 📖 In what ways do dominant economic or managerial theories of rationality succeed—or fail—under real-world conditions?
- 📖 What roles do affective, embodied, or non-propositional forms of reasoning (e.g., trust, intuition, care, fear) play in navigating complex futures?

Proposals of approx. 500 words are expected by **April 24, 2026**. After acceptance, authors are invited to submit the full version of their study for peer-review. Proposals will be sent to editor@jpe.ro and Pascal.Stiefenhofer@newcastle.ac.uk.

Organizers

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