

Causal Reasoning in Economics

A Selective Exploration of Semantic, Epistemic and Dynamical Aspects

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Economists reason causally. Like many other scientists, they aim at formulating justified causal claims about their object of study. This thesis contributes to our understanding of how causal reasoning proceeds in economics.

By using the research on the causes of unemployment as a case study, three questions are addressed. What are the meanings of causal claims? How can a causal claim be adequately supported by evidence? How are causal beliefs affected by incoming facts? In the process of answering these semantic, epistemic and dynamical questions, the richness of causal reasoning in economics is brought to the foreground.

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