

Call for a special session on

**"Theorizing and modeling economic change –
How can computational models complement theory?"**

EAEPE Annual Conference 2015
Genova, Italy, 17-19 September 2015

Many of the theoretical traditions within EAEPE have a common starting point: Original Institutionalists, evolutionary economists, economic philosophers, economic sociologists and historians of economic thought, among others, reject most of the formal modelling approaches of mainstream economic theory for their limited scope and their restrictive and unreflected assumptions. Within these traditions, however, there is more work on methodology and theory than on formal models.

Due to their flexibility and the potential focus on social mechanisms, a range of computational models – e.g. system dynamics, evolutionary game theory and agent-based modelling - may be compatible with these approaches and may thus profit from the theoretical frameworks provided. This is particularly true as much use of computational models was motivated by the literature on social complexity, where formal models abound, but methodological considerations are rare. How a potential complementarity of computational models and theory on social complexity with the abovementioned frameworks can be exploited in practice is, however, not a trivial question and requires attention. Every kind of model - be it formal or not - requires some simplification, compared to the phenomena it mirrors. It is thus difficult to say which kinds of models are theoretically possible, feasible, and promising. Consequently, methodological considerations must play a key role. Unfortunately they tend to be extremely rare.

We therefore invite contributions focusing on how these strands of economic research can and should fit together: how computational models can enrich economic research as well as what methodological issues they raise. Papers may lay emphasis either on methodological and theoretical issues or on the applications of specific computational models, provided they concentrate on how the relation between these two aspects of research may, or may not, lead to an enhanced understanding of reality.

The sessions will be accompanied by a panel discussion during the conference. Selected papers are eligible for a special issue of the "Forum for Social Economics".

Important Dates:

Paper Submission Deadline	1 May 2015
Notification of Acceptance	8 June 2015
Full Paper Submission	4 September 2015

Abstract submissions (300-750 words) should be made through the online submission system at the [conference website](#). Please select the topic "Theorizing and Modeling Economic Change" in the drop-down menu. You need a registered EAEPE-account to submit your abstract. Registration is possible on the [EAEPE website](#). For questions please contact the organizers of the special session: Paolo Ramazzotti (ramazzotti@unimc.it) and Claudius Gräbner: graebnerc@uni-bremen.de

For more information on the overall conference with the theme „A New Role for the Financial System“ visit: www.eaepe.org