

Studia Gilsoniana (October–December 2019)

SPECIAL ISSUE CELEBRATING FOUNDING OF THE ASL* SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS!

Editors of the issue:

Dr. Peter A. Redpath, CEO, Aquinas School of Leadership (ASL)
Marvin B. Daniel Peláez, Fellow, ASL School of Economics
Jason Morgan, Fellow, ASL School of Economics

Authors are encouraged to consult the guidelines “For Authors” at:
<http://www.gilsonsociety.com/?for-authors,20>

Please direct any questions and submissions to

Jason Morgan (jasonmorgan@holypostles.edu) and
Marvin B. Daniel Peláez (marvinpelaez119@gmail.com).

All papers will be anonymously peer reviewed under the direction of *Studia
Gilsoniana* Editor-in-Chief, Pawel Tarasiewicz: ptarasiewicz@holypostles.edu

Themes and Topics:

Contemporary “Economic science” emerged out of the Neoclassical tradition in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The meaning of the term is a product of its time because of its strong mathematical orientation and assumptions about the rational nature of human beings and our behavior in the marketplace. In recent decades, economists have come to realize that modern economics can benefit from broader assumptions from other disciplines about the human person. In October 2017, for example, Professor Richard H. Thaler from the University of Chicago received the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Science for his work in behavioral economics, a discipline that seeks to incorporate more aspects of human psychology to increase the predictability of economic models.

Taking “economic science” as two separate terms, the pre-modern understanding of “economy” derives etymologically from a Greek word meaning household management, where management involved the ordering of domestic affairs. The classical, and later medieval, understanding of “science” (or *scientia* in Latin) is knowledge of causes. According to James Weisheipl in his “Classification of the Sciences in Medieval Thought,” *scientia* “was used to designate a discerning, penetrating, intellectual grasp of a situation or of a given subject,” which required principles, or starting points. Thus, economic science, like all other sciences, must have principles. Some economists, however, object to attempts at understanding modern economics from the contributions of the past because, they say, doing so is anachronistic. These objections are correct when it comes to economic assumptions born in their respective times, but not when it comes to principles. Scientific principles are perennial, and modern economics can benefit from the principles of pre-modern sciences or philosophy.

* ASL – AQUINAS SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP.

Some motivating questions:

A special issue of *Studia Gilsoniana* (celebrating founding of the Aquinas School of Leadership School of Economics) calls for a renewal of pre-modern scientific principles in a contemporary economic context.

From this understanding of pre-modern economic science, we entertain some of the following questions: How can principles of pre-modern economics, or science, provide insight about the management, or organization, of modern economic affairs? Do the pre-moderns have anything to say about virtue and the political community and its economic institutions? Does a pre-modern understanding of psychology play a role in economic activity by the human person? Can a pre-modern understanding of philosophy of science provide insight into what economists today understand by the ontology of economics? Finally, can a pre-modern understanding of morality inform economic policy?