

impact of their 'sound finance' doctrine before this support grows too strong.

References

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Interdisciplinary Economics: Kenneth E. Boulding's engagement in the sciences
W Dolfsma and S Kesting (eds).
Routledge, 2013.
ISBN: 978 0 415 48347 6

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Kenneth Ewart Boulding (1910-1993), a self-described 'impure economist', was widely known during his lifetime as very much a renaissance man; a systems thinker whose ideas crossed traditional academic boundaries from economics to the other social sciences, human behavior, conflict resolution, religion, peace, ecology, the physical and biological sciences and beyond.

A prolific writer and poet, Boulding was at the forefront of a number of what were then 'new' fields of study from general systems theory to ecological economics to peace and conflict resolution, authoring hundreds of publications and often providing the foundation for this transformation from 'image' to field of study to discipline.

Boulding, however, did not view these disciplines in isolation, but rather adopted a 'transdisciplinary' approach, integrating ideas to go 'beyond economics' as a profound thinker and one of the more creative social scientists of his time.

It is to this end that Wilfred Dolfsma, (Chair of Innovation at the University of Groningen) and Stefan Kesting, (Teaching Fellow at the University of Leeds), have edited this volume of both original papers by Boulding and (some new and previously published) commentary papers by experts in their respective fields on his contributions across disciplines. Unique among edited volumes, Dolfsma and Kesting recognize Boulding's artistic side (and the influence of religion and his early life on his future endeavors) by opening each section with one of Boulding's insightful poems. An incessant doodler, many of his drawings are included as well.

The volume is divided into 13 parts. The first six parts of the volume focus upon Boulding's contribution to General Systems Theory (with particular attention to Boulding's conceptual framework of the Integrative, Exchange and Threat Systems that permeate the Boulding selections throughout the book), integration of disciplines across the social sciences, the importance of

religion and morality in Boulding's ideas, communication and persuasion and power. Each section includes a seminal article by Boulding with one or two interpretative articles that follow discussing the content of Boulding's work.

What might perhaps better be described as the second section of the book turns attention more directly to Boulding's contributions to economics in what might be characterized as an eclectic heterodox approach that incorporates both institutional and Post-Keynesian ideas. Boulding's contributions to economics extend much beyond that by describing economics as an evolutionary and ecological system with an emphasis on stocks instead of flows as the unit of measure where it is the social betterment 'end' that matters rather than the 'means'.

At a time when orthodoxy in economics has come into question as the only prescription for solving many social problems, this collection on interdisciplinary economics provides a valuable (re)introduction to Boulding's trans-disciplinary body of work. It provides a useful summary of his many contributions to the advancement of knowledge and should reignite interest in the importance of systems theory across disciplines and Boulding's ideas in particular as a more unified approach to addressing the social issues of the day.

Development and Financial Reform in Emerging Economies

K Ruziev and N Perdikis (eds)

Pickering and Chatto, 2015

ISBN 13: 978184894580

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Over the last twenty years the history of economic thought and economic history have had limited influence on current research in the various fields of economics. Economic research was dominated by neoclassical theory summarized in the Chicago School motto: 'economics ended with Marshal'. This intellectual environment imposed strict limits on the ideas and perspectives economists could consider in their work, save for a few exceptions. The volume under review challenges this mainstream approach and contributes to the field of economic development using a different methodological and conceptual approach.

Market fundamentalism, summarized by the term the 'Washington Consensus', is criticized mainly for the marginal importance it places on the vitality and role of institutions. However, the volume commences with six papers in the history of economic thought, implicitly or explicitly addressing development issues in classical political economy as well as Keynesian and Kaleckian economics.