

Querying economic orthodoxy

Are you weary of the hectoring message of free-market economists and their followers, that there can be no escape from the relentless pressures of deregulated global markets?

Are you disillusioned with the *laissez-faire* economy and its instabilities, its gaping inequalities, its ugly aggressiveness, its endless upheavals and too rapid changes, its deteriorating public services?

Have you had enough of the obsession with cost-cutting, which persistently destroys jobs or diminishes their quality?

If your answer is yes, this site is for you. It offers a series of more than 60 articles, with a new one every three months, which attack fashionable economic doctrines and also explore the writings of "heterodox" economists who propose better ideas. It exposes the glaring or hidden flaws in the underlying philosophy of the free-marketeters. It undermines their basic assumptions. It shows that there are indeed other possibilities; that we are not fated to suffer the destiny wished upon us by economists in Chicago and elsewhere.

Why the site name equilibrium-economicum? Because this site will argue that sound economic policy means finding and preserving acceptable equilibrium between opposing principles. Between the need for competition and the damage caused by its excesses. Between the need for freedom of enterprise and the abuses of the deregulated jungle. Between the virtues of international trade and the error of allowing foreign competitors to destroy our industries just because, for the moment, their costs are lower than ours.

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He is the author of more than ninety published articles on finance, on economics and on religious and philosophical topics, as well as two recent books.* He is particularly interested in the economic and social teachings of the Catholic Church, and in how they offer better alternatives to conventional economic thinking and practice. Among his other interests are music, architecture, literature and travel.

**The 'poisoned spring' of economic libertarianism* (PAX ROMANA, Washington, DC, 2011)

**Catholic Economics: Alternatives to the Jungle* (Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota, 2015)