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Knowledge and persuasion in economics

Deirdre N. McCloskey



出版者:Cambridge University Press

装帧:Hardcover

isbn:9780521434751

Is economics a science? Deidre McCloskey says 'Yes, but'. Yes, economics measures and predicts, but - like other sciences - it uses literary methods too. Economists use stories as geologists do, and metaphors as physicists do. The result is that the sciences, economics among them, must be read as 'rhetoric', in the sense of writing with intent. McCloskey's books, *The Rhetoric of Economics*(1985) and *If You're So Smart*(1990), have been widely discussed. In *Knowledge and Persuasion in Economics* he converses with his critics, suggesting that they too can gain from knowing their rhetoric. The humanistic and mathematical approaches to economics, says McCloskey, fit together in a new 'interpretive' economics. Along the way he places economics within the sciences, examines the role of mathematics in the field, replies to critics from the left, right and centre, and shows how economics can again take a leading place in the conversation of humankind.

作者介绍:

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