MA09-017 - The Evolution of Norms and Conventions in Economics

Abstract

Evolutionary game theory has developed into a major field of research at the interplay of mathematics, economics and biology. One of the main general aims of the analysis of evolutionary game theory is to study the conditions under which a population of players settles over time on a stable behavioural pattern. Economists have been interested in these developments in order to better understand (i) how social norms and conventions emerge, (ii) how these norms and conventions influence individual economic behaviour and (iii) the conditions under which these norms and conventions are stable over time. The present research project aims to contribute to this general field of inquiry by studying four subprojects, namely on (a) Social norms and economic incentives, (b) Work ethics and minimum effort games, (c) Selecting with whom to play and (d) Evolutionary equilibrium selection techniques.

Keywords:
game theory, evolutionary game theory, social norms, social networks

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Status: Completed (01.01.2010 – 30.09.2015)

Further links to the persons involved and to the project can be found under
https://www.wwtf.at/funding/programmes/past/ma/MA09-017/