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If ISMEA decided to create a series of its specialized periodicals entrusted to the enlightened direction of Henri Savall it’s with a double design. Management problems seen in their specificity can only be treated by researchers who apply to them the best of their time and energy. They demand a great amount of research whose results are apt to improve the economic productivity of organizations and the full development of human resources in which they have considerable responsibilities.

The economists who chose that field are perfectly conscious that their own effort becomes even more important if it’s part of a general theory. ISMEA was among the very first scientific Centres preoccupied with the implementation of mathematics, statistic models and innovative econometrics.

Therefore we can’t be suspected of underestimating the deeper insight these secondary disciplines bring to the economy of scientific intent.

But one thinks as well that economic theory has not lost its rights. The more emphasized specializations are the greater need for partial conquests to find their place in a coherent framework of interpretation. The scientific fate of our disciplines is at stake: a really strong presentation is always situated: it is related to a layer subset of proposals and, step by step, to a general theory of economic activity.

Besides there is no private strategy on authorities-oriented economic policy that may avoid comprehensive hypotheses and coordinating diagrams meant to open the eyes of the persons in charge on the logical and practical links between subsets of phenomena.

The editor of this collection, Henri Savall, professor at the University Lyon II has often given us the opportunity to notice he was in complete harmony with the key-ideas that govern our scientific research. One critical example can be given.

Neo-classical theories, especially if they resort to the mathematizations taken from Lagrange’s mechanicist equilibrium, tend to reduce organizations and entrepreneurs to a dot.

It is not even a dot in the physical meaning of that word, that is referring to a material structure, it is a dot in the mathematical meaning which shows the place of an entrepreneur reduced to passivity.

Towards this dot production factors are flooding in; in this dot market forces combine them: simplify extremely, the market (of complete competition, i.e. pure and perfect) does everything. If the entrepreneur of flesh and blood did exist he would have nothing else to do but shows his perfect submission to the market anonymous forces being supposed to be a strict, exact and incorruptible distributor of economic resources for the best of each organization and of the whole they constitute with the rest of the economy.

The elementary observation of facts, methodological researches of sociological type, the multidisciplinary contribution of psychology and sociology applied to the domain of the organization reveal a completely different entrepreneur. In any case he is able of decision-making, that is to say he has got a memory and a project; he organizes variable/means in reference to variable/objectives (I. Tinbergen):

It means he works out a plan, or if this phrasing offends the interpreter: a program.

Even before calling in the great innovator praised by J. Schumpeter one notices that the decision-maker reaches a decision on the dynamic setup of his unit on its connections with the environment either distant or nearby.

This organization concerns a great number of decisions on agents and things. The time of blind adaptation of agents to capital is gone. Taking directly into consideration the agent, his needs, his desires, thanks to the efforts of science and the action of unions becomes one of the foremost preoccupations of any entrepreneur conscious of his interests and duties.

Besides the organization is today considered, in the wake of the remarkable works of Jacob Marshak and Roy Radner, for example, as a place where organizing information circulates, a place where information is created and a place where information is dispatched, under various forms.

It has already been noticed that the most general theory of economic activity. I mean the theory of equilibrium, the interdependence of all the units reveals trends corresponding exactly to those we just have retained for the organization: taking into account the human variables, taking in information and revising the traditional views on complete competition.

This new journal, we are sure, will concur to the deepening of an important speciality and the coherence of the fundamental theory of economic activity.

François Perroux
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