

# **IMMANUEL KANT AND THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD OF ECONOMICS**

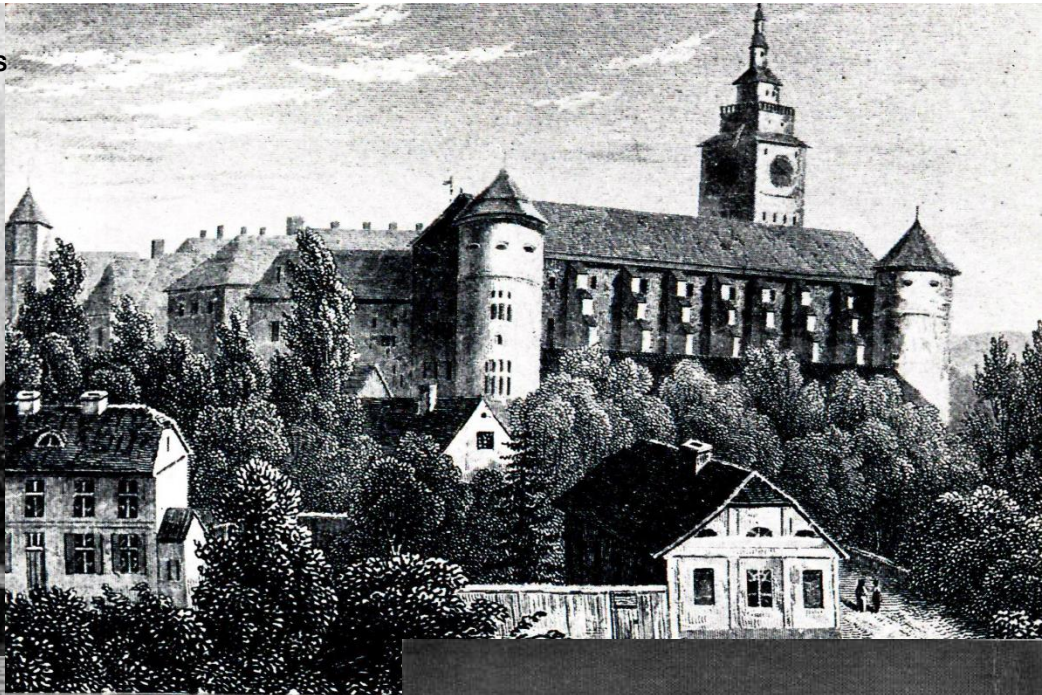
By Thorsten Polleit

Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University (IKBFU)  
Kaliningrad, Russia

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POLLEIT: IMMANUEL KANT AND THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD OF ECONOMICS





Critik  
der  
reinen Vernunft

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von  
Immanuel Kant  
Professor in Königsberg.



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K i g a,  
verlegt Johann Friedrich Hartnoch  
1781.

„But although all our knowledge begins with experience, it does not follow that it arises from experience.“

Immanuel Kant (1781), Critique of Pure Reason, B1, 2.

## „A priori – a posteriori“ and „analytic – synthetic“



Immanuel Kant  
1724 – 1804

	a priori	a posteriori
analytic	(1)	(2)
synthetic	(3)	(4)



Ludwig von Mises  
1881 – 1973

„Praxeology is a theoretical and systematic, not a historical science. ... Its statements ... are not derived from experience. They are, like those of logic and mathematics, a priori. They are not subject to verification or falsification on the ground of experience and facts.“

Ludwig von Mises (1998), *Human Action*, p. 32.

Economics thus consists of the elaboration of the logical implications of the concept of action:

(1) Assert *A*, the axiom of human action.

(2) If *A*, then *B*; if *B* then *C*; if *C*, then *D*, etc.

(3) Therefore, we assert the truth of *B*, *C*, *D*, etc.

See Murray N. Rothbard (2009), *Man, Economy, and State*, p. 72.



- ▶ The ***axiom of human action***
  
- ▶ Some ***categories*** of human action:
  - Human action is ***purposeful***
  - **Individuals act**, not groups or collectives
  - Human action pursues ***ends*** by employing ***means***
  - Means are ***scarce***
  - Human action implies ***causality***
  - Human action takes place under ***uncertainty***
  - ***Time*** is a category of human action
  - ***Time preference*** is always positive, ...
  - ... and so is the ***originary interest***
  - ***Private property*** is a category of human action
  - ...



„Mises, in addition to his great achievements as an economist, also contributed pathbreaking insights regarding the justification of the entire enterprise of rationalist philosophy.“

Hans-Hermann Hoppe (2006), On Praxeology and the Praxeological Foundation of Epistemology, p. 266.

Thank you very much  
for your attention!

*thorsten.polleit@uni-bayreuth.de*