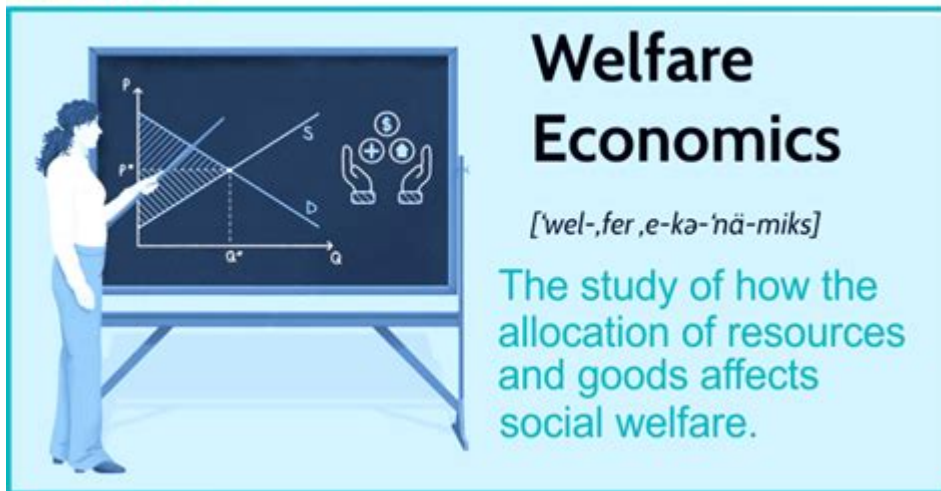


What Is Activist Oriented Approach In Economics



What is an Activist-Oriented Approach in Economics?

Are you tired of economic theories that feel detached from real-world struggles? Do you crave an economic framework that actively seeks to address inequality, injustice, and environmental degradation? Then you're likely interested in understanding the activist-oriented approach in economics. This isn't simply about analyzing existing systems; it's about actively working to change them. This in-depth guide will explore this dynamic field, examining its core tenets, key methodologies, and influential figures, ultimately demonstrating its growing importance in shaping a more just and sustainable future.

Understanding the Core Principles of Activist Economics

The activist-oriented approach in economics sharply contrasts with traditional, often neoliberal, perspectives. Instead of focusing solely on efficiency and growth, it prioritizes social justice, environmental sustainability, and democratic participation. Key principles include:

Prioritizing Social Justice: This approach fundamentally challenges the status quo, questioning existing power structures and advocating for policies that redistribute wealth and opportunity more equitably. It acknowledges that economic systems often exacerbate existing inequalities along lines of race, gender, class, and geography.

Environmental Sustainability: Activist economists emphasize the ecological limits of economic growth and advocate for policies that protect the environment and promote ecological balance. This includes challenging unsustainable practices and promoting circular economies.

Democratic Participation: This approach emphasizes participatory decision-making, ensuring that marginalized communities have a voice in shaping economic policy that affects their lives. It challenges top-down approaches and promotes community-based initiatives.

Challenging Neoliberal Orthodoxy: Activist economics directly confronts the tenets of neoliberalism, criticizing its focus on deregulation, privatization, and austerity measures, arguing that these policies often worsen inequality and harm vulnerable populations.

Key Methodologies Employed in Activist Economics

Activist economists employ a diverse range of methodologies to achieve their goals. These are often interdisciplinary, drawing on insights from sociology, political science, and environmental studies. Key methodologies include:

Participatory Action Research: This approach emphasizes collaboration with communities to identify problems, develop solutions, and implement change. It prioritizes local knowledge and empowers marginalized groups to shape research agendas.

Policy Advocacy and Campaigning: Activist economists actively engage in advocacy efforts, working to influence policy decisions and promote social change through lobbying, public education, and community organizing.

Critical Analysis of Economic Data: This involves scrutinizing official statistics to expose biases and inequalities, revealing the often-hidden impacts of economic policies on different social groups.

Development of Alternative Economic Models: Activist economists contribute to developing alternative economic models, such as solidarity economies and social enterprise models, that prioritize social and environmental goals over profit maximization.

Prominent Figures and Influential Works in Activist Economics

The activist-oriented approach isn't a monolithic entity; it encompasses diverse perspectives and approaches. However, some key figures and works have significantly shaped the field:

Amartya Sen: His work on capability approach challenges traditional economic measures of well-being, focusing instead on individual capabilities and freedoms.

Vandana Shiva: A prominent environmental activist and scholar, her work highlights the impacts of globalization and industrial agriculture on ecological sustainability and food sovereignty.

Noam Chomsky: His critical analysis of global capitalism and its effects on inequality and social justice has been hugely influential.

Naomi Klein: Her work on the intersection of climate change and capitalism highlights the need for systemic change to address both environmental and social crises.

The Growing Importance of an Activist-Oriented Approach

In a world facing unprecedented challenges – climate change, rising inequality, and political polarization – the activist-oriented approach in economics is increasingly relevant. Its focus on social justice, environmental sustainability, and democratic participation offers a powerful counterpoint to traditional economic models that often fail to address these urgent concerns. It provides a framework for building more equitable, sustainable, and democratic societies. The ongoing challenges facing our globalized world necessitate a more human-centered and ethically informed economic approach, and activist economics provides a crucial pathway towards achieving this goal.

Conclusion

The activist-oriented approach in economics is not just a theoretical framework; it's a call to action. It demands a critical examination of existing economic systems and a commitment to building a more just and sustainable future. By combining rigorous analysis with active engagement in social and political movements, activist economists are shaping a new paradigm that prioritizes human well-being and ecological integrity above all else. This approach challenges us to reimagine economics not just as a science of resource allocation, but as a tool for social transformation.

FAQs

1. How does activist economics differ from mainstream economics? Mainstream economics often prioritizes efficiency and growth, sometimes at the expense of social justice and environmental sustainability. Activist economics prioritizes these latter concerns, often challenging the assumptions and methodologies of mainstream approaches.
2. What are some practical examples of activist economic initiatives? Examples include community-supported agriculture, worker cooperatives, fair trade initiatives, and campaigns for living wages and affordable housing.
3. Is activist economics relevant to developing countries? Absolutely. Many of the challenges addressed by activist economics – poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation – are particularly acute in developing countries. The approach offers valuable tools and frameworks for addressing these issues.
4. How can I get involved in activist economics? You can support organizations working on economic justice and environmental sustainability, participate in advocacy campaigns, and engage in critical analysis of economic policies. Consider further education in related fields like development economics or environmental studies.
5. What are some criticisms of the activist-oriented approach? Some critics argue that it lacks the

rigor of mainstream economics, is overly idealistic, or is impractical to implement on a large scale. However, proponents counter that these criticisms often stem from a misunderstanding of the approach's goals and methodologies.

what is activist oriented approach in economics: Finance & Development, September 2014 International Monetary Fund. External Relations Dept., 2014-08-25 This chapter discusses various past and future aspects of the global economy. There has been a huge transformation of the global economy in the last several years. Articles on the future of energy in the global economy by Jeffrey Ball and on measuring inequality by Jonathan Ostry and Andrew Berg are also illustrated. Since the 2008 global crisis, global economists must change the way they look at the world.

what is activist oriented approach in economics: *The Power of Economists within the State* Johan Christensen, 2017-04-11 The spread of market-oriented reforms has been one of the major political and economic trends of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Governments have, to varying degrees, adopted policies that have led to deregulation: the liberalization of trade; the privatization of state entities; and low-rate, broad-base taxes. Yet some countries embraced these policies more than others. Johan Christensen examines one major contributor to this disparity: the entrenchment of U.S.-trained, neoclassical economists in political institutions the world over. While previous studies have highlighted the role of political parties and production regimes, Christensen uses comparative case studies of New Zealand, Ireland, Norway, and Denmark to show how the influence of economists affected the extent to which each nation adopted market-oriented tax policies. He finds that, in countries where economic experts held powerful positions, neoclassical economics broke through with greater force. Drawing on revealing interviews with 80 policy elites, he examines the specific ways in which economists shaped reforms, relying on an activist approach to policymaking and the perceived utility of their science to drive change.

what is activist oriented approach in economics: *Hedge Fund Activism* Alon Brav, Wei Jiang, Hyunseob Kim, 2010 Hedge Fund Activism begins with a brief outline of the research literature and describes datasets on hedge fund activism.

what is activist oriented approach in economics: *Hedge Fund Activism in Japan* John Buchanan, Dominic Heesang Chai, Simon Deakin, 2012-05-24 Hedge fund activism is an expression of shareholder primacy, an idea that has come to dominate discussion of corporate governance theory and practice worldwide over the past two decades. This book provides a thorough examination of public and often confrontational hedge fund activism in Japan in the period between 2001 and the full onset of the global financial crisis in 2008. In Japan this shareholder-centric conception of the company espoused by activist hedge funds clashed with the alternative Japanese conception of the company as an enduring organisation or a 'community'. By analysing this clash, the book derives a fresh view of the practices underpinning corporate governance in Japan and offers suggestions regarding the validity of the shareholder primacy ideas currently at the heart of US and UK beliefs about the purpose of the firm.

what is activist oriented approach in economics: Karl Polanyi Gareth Dale, 2010-06-21 Karl Polanyi's *The Great Transformation* is generally acclaimed as being among the most influential works of economic history in the twentieth century, and remains as vital in the current historical conjuncture as it was in his own. In its critique of nineteenth-century 'market fundamentalism' it reads as a warning to our own neoliberal age, and is widely touted as a prophetic guidebook for those who aspire to understand the causes and dynamics of global economic turbulence at the end of the 2000s. Karl Polanyi: *The Limits of the Market* is the first comprehensive introduction to Polanyi's ideas and legacy. It assesses not only the texts for which he is famous – prepared during his spells in American academia – but also his journalistic articles written in his first exile in Vienna, and lectures and pamphlets from his second exile, in Britain. It provides a detailed critical analysis of *The Great Transformation*, but also surveys Polanyi's seminal writings in economic anthropology, the economic history of ancient and archaic societies, and political and economic theory. Its primary source base

includes interviews with Polanyi's daughter, Kari Polanyi-Levitt, as well as the entire compass of his own published and unpublished writings in English and German. This engaging and accessible introduction to Polanyi's thinking will appeal to students and scholars across the social sciences, providing a refreshing perspective on the roots of our current economic crisis.

what is activist oriented approach in economics: *Development as Freedom* Amartya Sen, 2011-05-25 By the winner of the 1988 Nobel Prize in Economics, an essential and paradigm-altering framework for understanding economic development--for both rich and poor--in the twenty-first century. Freedom, Sen argues, is both the end and most efficient means of sustaining economic life and the key to securing the general welfare of the world's entire population. Releasing the idea of individual freedom from association with any particular historical, intellectual, political, or religious tradition, Sen clearly demonstrates its current applicability and possibilities. In the new global economy, where, despite unprecedented increases in overall opulence, the contemporary world denies elementary freedoms to vast numbers--perhaps even the majority of people--he concludes, it is still possible to practically and optimistically retain a sense of social accountability. *Development as Freedom* is essential reading.

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what is activist oriented approach in economics: *Engaging Contradictions* Charles R. Hale, 2008-05-07 Scholars in many fields increasingly find themselves caught between the academy, with its demands for rigor and objectivity, and direct engagement in social activism. Some advocate on behalf of the communities they study; others incorporate the knowledge and leadership of their informants directly into the process of knowledge production. What ethical, political, and practical tensions arise in the course of such work? In this wide-ranging and multidisciplinary volume, leading scholar-activists map the terrain on which political engagement and academic rigor meet. Contributors: Ruth Wilson Gilmore, Edmund T. Gordon, Davydd Greenwood, Joy James, Peter Nien-chu Kiang, George Lipsitz, Samuel Martínez, Jennifer Bickham Mendez, Dani Nabudere, Jessica Gordon Nembhard, Jemima Pierre, Laura Pulido, Shannon Speed, Shirley Suet-ling Tang, João

Vargas

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what is activist oriented approach in economics: **Supporting a Movement for Health and Health Equity** Alison Mack, Alina Baci, Roundtable on Population Health Improvement, Nirupa Goel, Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice, Roundtable on the Promotion of Health Equity and the Elimination of Health Disparities, Institute of Medicine, 2014-12-03 Supporting a Movement for Health and Health Equity is the summary of a workshop convened in December 2013 by the Institute of Medicine Roundtable on the Promotion of Health Equity and the Elimination of Health Disparities and the Roundtable on Population Health Improvement to explore the lessons that may be gleaned from social movements, both those that are health-related and those that are not primarily focused on health. Participants and presenters focused on elements identified from the history and sociology of social change movements and how such elements can be applied to present-day efforts nationally and across communities to improve the chances for long, healthy lives for all. The idea of movements and movement building is inextricably linked with the history of public health. Historically, most movements - including, for example, those for safer working

conditions, for clean water, and for safe food - have emerged from the sustained efforts of many different groups of individuals, which were often organized in order to protest and advocate for changes in the name of such values as fairness and human rights. The purpose of the workshop was to have a conversation about how to support the fragments of health movements that roundtable members believed they could see occurring in society and in the health field. Recent reports from the National Academies have highlighted evidence that the United States gets poor value on its extraordinary investments in health - in particular, on its investments in health care - as American life expectancy lags behind that of other wealthy nations. As a result, many individuals and organizations, including the Healthy People 2020 initiative, have called for better health and longer lives.

what is activist oriented approach in economics: General Theory Of Employment , Interest And Money John Maynard Keynes, 2016-04 John Maynard Keynes is the great British economist of the twentieth century whose hugely influential work *The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money* is undoubtedly the century's most important book on economics--strongly influencing economic theory and practice, particularly with regard to the role of government in stimulating and regulating a nation's economic life. Keynes's work has undergone significant revaluation in recent years, and Keynesian views which have been widely defended for so long are now perceived as at odds with Keynes's own thinking. Recent scholarship and research has demonstrated considerable rivalry and controversy concerning the proper interpretation of Keynes's works, such that recourse to the original text is all the more important. Although considered by a few critics that the sentence structures of the book are quite incomprehensible and almost unbearable to read, the book is an essential reading for all those who desire a basic education in economics. The key to understanding Keynes is the notion that at particular times in the business cycle, an economy can become over-productive (or under-consumptive) and thus, a vicious spiral is begun that results in massive layoffs and cuts in production as businesses attempt to equilibrate aggregate supply and demand. Thus, full employment is only one of many or multiple macro equilibria. If an economy reaches an underemployment equilibrium, something is necessary to boost or stimulate demand to produce full employment. This something could be business investment but because of the logic and individualist nature of investment decisions, it is unlikely to rapidly restore full employment. Keynes logically seizes upon the public budget and government expenditures as the quickest way to restore full employment. Borrowing the money to finance the deficit from private households and businesses is a quick, direct way to restore full employment while at the same time, redirecting or siphoning

what is activist oriented approach in economics: A Political Economy of Justice Danielle Allen, Yochai Benkler, Leah Downey, Rebecca Henderson, Josh Simons, 2022-04-29 Defining a just economy in a tenuous social-political time. If we can agree that our current social-political moment is tenuous and unsustainable—and indeed, that may be the only thing we can agree on right now—then how do markets, governments, and people interact in this next era of the world? *A Political Economy of Justice* considers the strained state of our political economy in terms of where it can go from here. The contributors to this timely and essential volume look squarely at how normative and positive questions about political economy interact with each other—and from that beginning, how to chart a way forward to a just economy. *A Political Economy of Justice* collects fourteen essays from prominent scholars across the social sciences, each writing in one of three lanes: the measures of a just political economy; the role of firms; and the roles of institutions and governments. The result is a wholly original and urgent new benchmark for the next stage of our democracy.

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awards and prizes. Drawing on extensive interviews with Daly and in-depth analysis of his publications and debates, Peter Victor presents a unique insight into Daly's life from childhood to the present day, describing his intellectual development, inspirations and influence. Much of the book is devoted to a comprehensive account of Daly's foundational contributions to ecological economics. It describes how his insights and proposals have been received by economists and non-economists and the extraordinary relevance of Daly's full world economics to solving the economic problems of today and tomorrow. Innovative and timely, this book will be of great interest to students, scholars, researchers, activists and policy makers concerned with economics, environment and sustainability.

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what is activist oriented approach in economics: Rethinking the Economics of War Cynthia J. Arnson, I. William Zartman, 2005-10-12 This collection of essays questions the adequacy of explaining today's internal armed conflicts purely in terms of economic factors and re-establishes the importance of identity and grievances in creating and sustaining such wars. Countries studied include Lebanon, Angola, Colombia and Afghanistan.

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the reader a broad view of the development of economic thought and analysis over time. This book will be useful for students, scholars, and lay people with an interest in the history of economic thought and the history of ideas generally.

what is activist oriented approach in economics: *Emergent Strategy* adrienne maree brown, 2017-03-20 In the tradition of Octavia Butler, here is radical self-help, society-help, and planet-help to shape the futures we want. Change is constant. The world, our bodies, and our minds are in a constant state of flux. They are a stream of ever-mutating, emergent patterns. Rather than steel ourselves against such change, Emergent Strategy teaches us to map and assess the swirling structures and to read them as they happen, all the better to shape that which ultimately shapes us, personally and politically. A resolutely materialist spirituality based equally on science and science fiction: a wild feminist and afro-futurist ride! adrienne maree brown, co-editor of Octavia's Brood: Science Fiction from Social Justice Movements, is a social justice facilitator, healer, and doula living in Detroit.

what is activist oriented approach in economics: *Activist Unionism* Donald R. Stabile, 2016-09-16 First Published in 1994. Sol Barkin was never an elected official in the trade union movement, but for twenty-six years, from 1937 until he retired in 1963. His role also saw him serve on government advisory bodies, originate public policy in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, lead the Industrial Relations Research Association, and teach in an American university.

what is activist oriented approach in economics: *Encyclopedia of Political Economy: L-Z* Phillip Anthony O'Hara, 1999 This groundbreaking Encyclopedia is the very first fully-refereed A-Z compendium of the main principles, concepts, problems, institutions, schools and policies associated with political economy. Based on developments in political economy since the 1960s, it is designed to provide a comprehensive introduction to the field as well as being an authoritative reference work. Undergraduates taking courses in political economy or graduate students coming to the field for the first time will rely on this work as a key point of reference and for direction in their further reading. This lucid work compares for the first time the disparate theories of political economy (e.g, Marxist, Feminist, Sraffian etc.) and emphasizes the application of their principles to real world problems such as inflation, unemployment, development and financial instability. The extensive international team of consultants and contributors has produced a monumental work with truly global perspective.

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Amidst a searing critique of the university's neoliberal and imperial character, Joseph-Salisbury and Connelly situate the university as a contested space, full of contradictions and tensions. Drawing upon original empirical data, the book considers how anti-racist scholar-activists navigate barriers and backlash in order to leverage the opportunities and resources of the university in service to communities of resistance. Showing praxes of anti-racist scholar-activism to be complex, diverse, and multi-faceted, and paying particular attention to how scholar-activists grapple with their own complicities in the harms perpetrated and perpetuated by Higher Education institutions, this book is a call to arms for academics who are, or want to be, committed to social justice.

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what is activist oriented approach in economics: Mountains Beyond Mountains Tracy Kidder, 2009-08-25 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • “[A] masterpiece . . . an astonishing book that will leave you questioning your own life and political views.”—USA Today “If any one person can be given credit for transforming the medical establishment’s thinking about health care for the destitute, it is Paul Farmer. . . . [Mountains Beyond Mountains] inspires, discomforts, and provokes.”—The New York Times (Best Books of the Year) In medical school, Paul Farmer found his life’s calling: to cure infectious diseases and to bring the lifesaving tools of modern medicine to those who need them most. Tracy Kidder’s magnificent account shows how one person can make a difference in solving global health problems through a clear-eyed understanding of the interaction of politics, wealth, social systems, and disease. Profound and powerful, Mountains Beyond Mountains takes us from Harvard to Haiti, Peru, Cuba, and Russia as Farmer changes people’s minds through his dedication to the philosophy that “the only real nation is humanity.” WINNER OF THE LETTRE ULYSSES AWARD FOR THE ART OF REPORTAGE This deluxe paperback edition includes a new Epilogue by the author

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