

**Sixteen Years of *Economia Politica*:
An Analysis from 1984 to 1999**

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The basic underlying principles are identified

e.g.

- * The journal was [...] established with the specific aim to overcome a degeneration of the linkage between *theory* and *analysis* which the founders recognised in the most recent developments of economics.
- * [...] The aim of reconsidering the linkage between theory and analysis makes the openness to different theoretical positions (i.e. the second point identified above) a *qualified* kind of openness.
- * [...] The attention for 'relevant' questions is indeed considered extremely important.

From Section 2 - Basic principles and leitmotifs

The structure of the journal is disentangled

e.g.

Each number is made up of four kinds of articles: (i) *Introductory Notes* –in general, one per number –that is, brief contributions which present qualified points of view about ‘important’ theoretical and methodological questions and, recently, about current empirical and economic policy questions (see Section 2.3.); (ii) *Articles* –on average, four per number –containing original essays on various topics; (iii) *Review Articles* –one per number –that is, articles which aim at providing the state-of-the-art and/or a critical evaluation of a certain economic discipline or field of research; (iv) *Book Reviews* –on average, three per number –on both Italian and foreign language books (Table 1).

Tab.1 - General statistics of *Economia Politica*: 1984-1999*

<i>Issues</i>	tot.	per year	1984 - 1999					
Volumes	16	1						
Numbers*	47	3						
		average issue		authoring			language	
<i>Type of article</i>	n.	mean	dev.std	one-auth.	two auth.	three auth.	Italian	English
Introductory Notes ¹	50	1,09	0,13	48	2	0	49	1
Articles ²	193	4,11	1,36	171	20	2	189	4
Review Articles ³	45	1,00	0,00	39	4	2	45	0
Book Reviews ⁴	152	3,23	1,70	150	2	0	89	63
Total	440	9,36	3,50	408	28	4	372	68

¹*Note di Apertura*: 1 per number, except for 1984/1 (none), 1993/3 (two), 1994/2 (three), 1999/2(two)

²*Saggi e Ricerche*: variable number depending on the total pages per volume

³*Rassegne*: 1 per number, except for 1984/1 (none) and 1998/3 (none)

⁴*Recensioni*: 89 of Italian books, 63 of foreign languages books

* At the time of the present analysis the last number of the 1999 volume (1999/3) was still in preparation

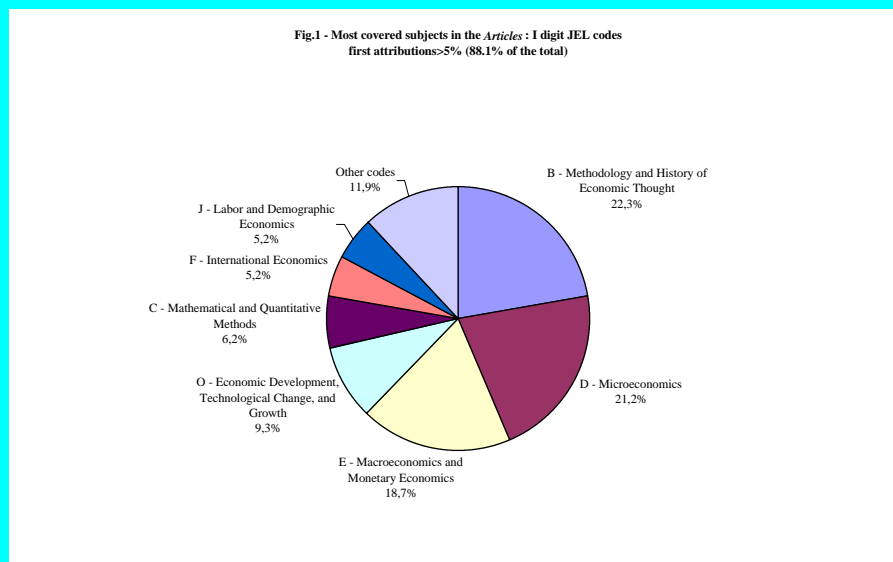
From Section 3.1. - Some general statistics

Distinguishing features are identified through a quantitative analysis

e.g.

*** Articles**

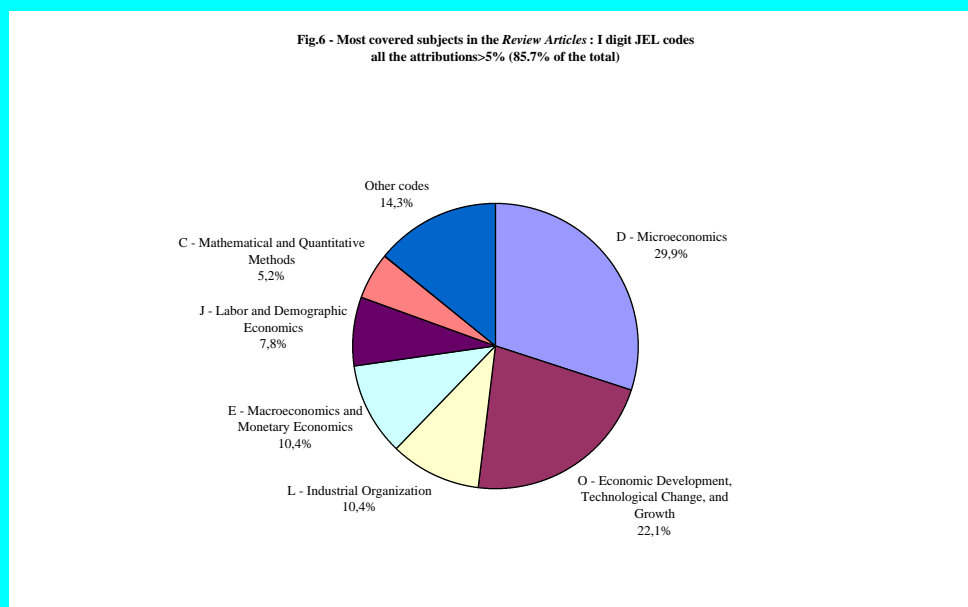
[...] the share of *Articles* which focus on microeconomic and macroeconomic themes is relatively large (21% and 19%, respectively), providing a quite predictable result for a journal of theory and analysis. On the other hand, those about methodology and history of economic thought are even more numerous (22%), suggesting a first specific characteristic of the journal (Figure 1).



From Section 3.2. - Analysis of the Articles

*** Review Articles**

A sort of complementarity can be found. [...] Development, technological change and growth, only slightly above the threshold in the *Articles* (at least in terms of first attributions), becomes the second subject in the *Review Articles*, and with a consistent gap with respect to the others, thus suggesting a greater alignment with those topics that have been most discussed at the international level (Figure 6).



From Section 3.3. - Analysis of the Review Articles

The main contents are analysed in detail

e.g.

*** Articles**

Microeconomics: the appeal of general equilibrium

The majority of the *Articles* classified as microeconomic (27%) deal with general equilibrium and disequilibrium models (D5). [...] the topic is discussed at large in a general way [...], both in 'sympathetic' and in critical terms, so that it is possible to argue that the 'general equilibrium approach' is neither accepted nor rejected within *Economia Politica*, but rather considered as a powerful tool of analysis whose limitations should be clearly recognised.

Macroeconomics and monetary economics: Mr Keynes and the classics

[...] out of the numerous approaches that have been suggested in the relevant literature to explain the determination and the variations of macroeconomic variables (e.g. employment, production and prices), only Keynesian – in their several specifications – and 'classical' – mainly Sraffian – positions have been hosted within *Economia Politica* [...].

From Section 3.2.2. –Articles: analysis of the main contents

*** Review Articles**

Microeconomics: the recent 'revenge' of information and uncertainty

Although it is still the main subject for 23% of all the microeconomic surveys (and one of the relevant subjects for 26% of them), general equilibrium and disequilibrium (D5) is no more the dominant code, as it is superseded by information and uncertainty (D8), the principal topic (i.e. in terms of first attributions) for 31% of them. [...] This fact is extremely important, as it seems to suggest that a recent change of route has occurred within *Economia Politica*, at least among the *Review Articles*, towards a proper consideration of the role of information within economic theory.

Labour and demographic economics: from 'particular' markets to 'general' questions

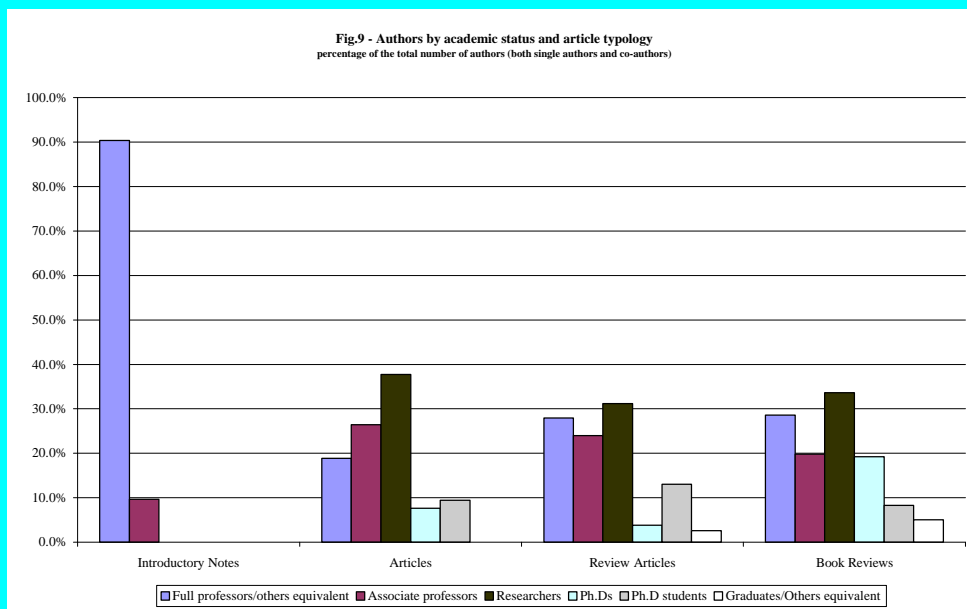
Quite interestingly, from a temporal point of view, the topics that have been analysed reflect a certain shift of attention in the relevant literature: from the boom of studies about particular labour markets in the early issues, to the interpretation and modelling of more general aspects (such as macroeconomic and growth implications) in the most recent.

From Section 3.3.2. –Review Articles: analysis of the main contents

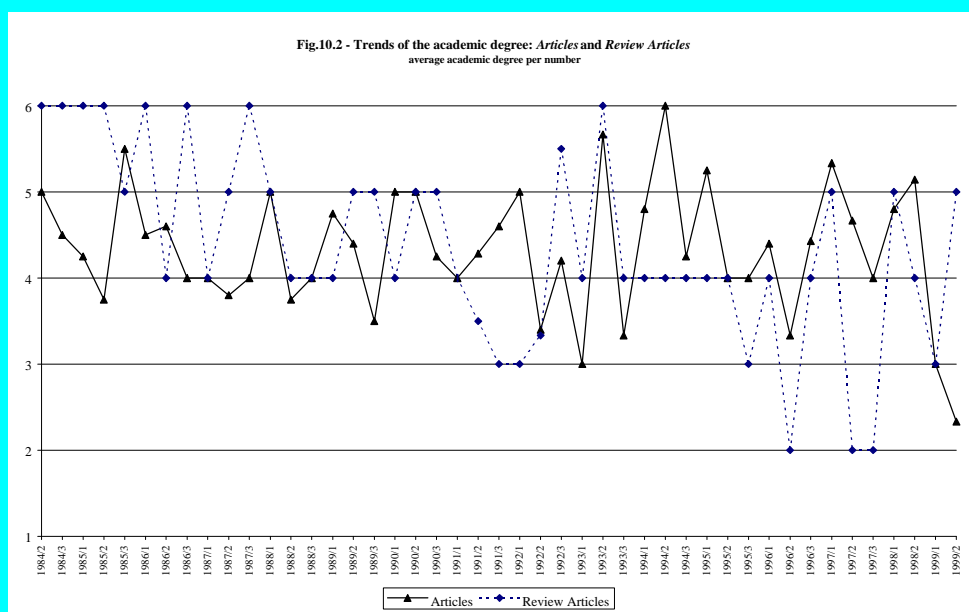
Characterising editorial aspects are identified

e.g.

* [...] *Full Professors* (and the like) are nearly the exclusive authors of the *Introductory Notes*, a fact that is consistent with their main objective of conveying, as we said, prominent points of view about quite important questions. *Researchers* are instead dominant in the *Articles*, in which the relative weight of *PhDs* and *Ph.D Students* is much lower than that of the *Professors*, both *Full* and *Associate*, while *Graduates* are absent.



* [...] in the *Articles*, the average academic degree fluctuates quite steadily in the range between the *Associate Professors* (5) and the *Researchers* (4) codes, but only up to the middle '90s. [...] As for the *Review Articles*, instead, apart from some relevant exceptions in the latest issues, a decreasing trend emerges, showing how the corresponding authors have been increasingly those with a lower qualification [...].



From Section 4 –Editorial aspects