

History of Political Economy

ARTICLE NAVIGATION



RESEARCH ARTICLE | DECEMBER 01 2011



Tobin as an Econometrician

[Robert W. Dimand](#)

History of Political Economy (2011) 43 (suppl_1): 166–187.

<https://doi.org/10.1215/00182702-1158718>

 Share 

 Tools 

Best known as a Keynesian macroeconomist and monetary theorist, James Tobin was also actively engaged in empirical economics from his doctoral dissertation onward. His innovative combination of time-series data with household budget surveys in his 1947 dissertation and 1950 food demand study, and his 1955 and 1958 papers on limited dependent variables (Tobit estimation), were contributions to econometrics, not just the use of existing techniques by an applied economist. The present essay examines Tobin's involvement with econometrics from his student days “teaching myself econometrics” at Harvard to his later advocacy of an approach to empirical macroeconomic modeling based on his “general equilibrium approach to monetary theory” that contrasted sharply with new classical macroeconomic modeling that interpreted general equilibrium in a very different way.

The text of this article is only available as a PDF.

Copyright 2011 by Duke University Press

Issue Section: [Part 2. People and Areas](#)

You do not currently have access to this content.

Sign in

Don't already have an account? [Register](#)

Client Account

Username / Email address

Password

SIGN IN

[Forgot password?](#)

[Don't have an account?](#)

Sign in via your Institution

[Sign In](#)

 **BUY THIS DIGITAL ARTICLE**

[Skip to Main Content](#)



[View Metrics](#)

CITING ARTICLES VIA

[Web Of Science \(3\)](#)

[Google Scholar](#)

[CrossRef \(4\)](#)

EMAIL ALERTS

[Advance Publication](#)

[Latest Issue](#)

RELATED ARTICLES

[The Econometricians' Statisticians, 1895–1945](#)

[Survey of Recent Work in the History of Econometrics: A Witness Report](#)

[A History of the Histories of Econometrics](#)

[The Vatican Conferences of October 7–13, 1963: Controversies over the Neutrality of Econometric Modeling](#)

RELATED TOPICS

[tobin](#)

[economic](#)

[econometric](#)

[model](#)

[Skip to Main Content](#)

[journal](#)

[demand](#)

[jame](#)

RELATED BOOK CHAPTERS

[The Changing Rhetoric of Race](#)

[Is Econometrics an Empirical Endeavor?](#)

[Why Econometricians Don't Replicate \(Although They Do Reproduce\)](#)

[Tobin Miller Shearer](#)

History of Political Economy

About History of Political Economy

[Editorial Board](#)

[For Authors](#)

[Purchase](#)

[Advertise](#)

[Rights and Permissions Inquiry](#)

Online ISSN 1527-1919

Print ISSN 0018-2702

Copyright © 2026

[Skip to Main Content](#)
Duke University Press

905 W. Main St. Ste. 18-B
Durham, NC 27701
USA

Information For

Advertisers
Book Authors
Booksellers/Media

Phone

(888) 651-0122

International

+1 (919) 688-5134

Contact

[Contact Us](#)

Careers

[View Open Positions](#)

[Customers](#)

[Educators](#)

[Journal Authors/Editors](#)

[Librarians](#)

[Prospective Journals](#)

[Licensing and Subsidiary Rights](#)

[Societies](#)

 [Join Our Mailing List](#)

 [Current Catalog](#)

Connect



© 2026 Duke University Press. All Rights Reserved.

[Accessibility](#)

[Legal](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Get Adobe Reader](#)