

Economic Systems Research >

Volume 18, 2006 - [Issue 4: The History of Input-Output Analysis, Leontief's Path and Alternative Tracks](#)

631 | 20 | 3
Views | CrossRef citations to date | Altmetric

Original Articles

Introduction: the History of Input-Output Analysis, Leontief's Path and Alternative Tracks

Olav Bjerkholt  & Heinz D. Kurz

Pages 331-333 | Published online: 21 Dec 2006

🗨️ Cite this article [🔗 https://doi.org/10.1080/09535310601020850](https://doi.org/10.1080/09535310601020850)

Sample our
Environment and Sustainability
Journals
>> [Sign in here](#) to start your access
to the latest two volumes for 14 days

 Full Article

 Figures & data

🗨️ Citations

 Metrics

 Reprints & Permissions

Read this article

 Share

Introduction: the History of Input–Output Analysis, Leontief’s Path and Alternative Tracks

OLAV BJERKHOLT* & HEINZ D. KURZ**

*Department of Economics, University of Oslo, Norway, **Department of Economics, University of Graz, Austria

The term ‘input–output analysis’ is, for well-known reasons, closely associated with the name of Wassily Leontief, widely considered as being the founder of the subject. Leontief’s input–output analysis may be seen as epitomized by one of the most frequently repeated equations in the economics literature, namely $x = Ax + y$. Many students of Leontief and practitioners of input–output analysis may have reflected upon the almost paradoxical fact that such a general and wide ranging approach as input–output analysis represents, with a strikingly simple and transparent analytic structure, has been so exclusively associated with the work of a single scholar. In his pioneering contributions Leontief paid homage to François Quesnay but gave few clues as to other predecessors who might have inspired his work.

To place input–output analysis in the context of the history of economic thought requires careful consideration of the development of the ideas constituting input–output analysis. An important step in this direction was made in an earlier special issue of *Economic Systems Research* (Vol.12, No.2, 2000) on input–output analysis and classical economic theory.

At the Fifteenth International Conference on Input–Output Techniques, held in Beijing, 27 June–1 July 2006, a special session, organized by one of the guest editors of this issue, was devoted to the theme ‘History of Input–Output Analysis.’ The present volume contains the revised versions of four of the papers presented in the special session. The common feature of these papers is that they deal with attempts undertaken independently of, and partly prior to, those of Leontief to come to grips with problems for which input–output analysis provides a suitable framework and powerful tool of the analysis. They may thus all be said to discuss ‘alternative tracks’ to the path Leontief followed. In addition, there are included two valuable source documents on the background and early life of

Correspondence Address: Olav Bjerkholt, Department of Economics, University of Oslo, PO Box 1095, N-0317 Oslo, Norway. Email: olav.bjerkholt@econ.uio.no

0953-5314 Print/1469-5758 Online/06/040331–3 © 2006 The International Input–Output Association
 DOI: 10.1080/09535310601020850

Log in via your institution

➤ Access through your institution

> [Log in](#)

Restore content access

> [Restore content access for purchases made as guest](#)


Purchase options *

[Save for later](#)

PDF download + Online access

- 48 hours access to article PDF & online version
- Article PDF can be downloaded
- Article PDF can be printed


EUR 48.00

 Add to
cart

Issue Purchase

- 30 days online access to complete issue
- Article PDFs can be downloaded
- Article PDFs can be printed

EUR 638.00

 Add to
cart

* Local tax will be added as applicable

Related Research

People also read

Recommended articles

Cited by
20

Information for

[Authors](#)

[R&D professionals](#)

[Editors](#)

[Librarians](#)

[Societies](#)

Opportunities

[Reprints and e-prints](#)

[Advertising solutions](#)

[Accelerated publication](#)

[Corporate access solutions](#)

Open access

[Overview](#)

[Open journals](#)

[Open Select](#)

[Dove Medical Press](#)

[F1000Research](#)

Help and information

[Help and contact](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[All journals](#)

[Books](#)

Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources by email



Sign me up



Copyright © 2026 Informa UK Limited [Privacy policy](#)

[Cookies](#) [Terms & conditions](#) [Accessibility](#)

Registered in England & Wales No. 01072954
5 Howick Place | London | SW1P 1WG



Taylor & Francis
by informa