

Adam Smith and the Scottish Enlightenment: Method, Theory and History

The Scottish Historical School had produced a diversity of intellectual figures which had determined the progress of social sciences. Adam Smith is the most eminent reflection of its determination. His multifaceted work, in spite of being the *locus classicus* of classical political economy, has promoted a chemical symphysis between theory and history. Evidently, the epistemic framework of the Scottish Enlightenment determined the dimensions of the Smithian work. His philosophy of science, together with the empirical element of his methodology, rendered history as the *raison d' etre* of his work. More specifically, the acceptance and the extension of Newton's analytic-synthetic method, opened the door to history to become a congenial ingredient of his economic analysis. Substantially, Smith's work produced a special conjunction between method, epistemology, theory and history which determines the history of economic thought.

Manolis Manioudis

PhD Candidate

Dept of Economics, University of Crete

Korthiou 5, Patisia, Athens Attici