

C A G G E

Why Economics, Oh Why?
March 2025

Mirko Draca



Economic
and Social
Research Council

C A G E

Astronaut, surgeon, Youtuber, banker, baker, private investigator, DJ, entrepreneur, engineer....

C A G E

Astronaut, surgeon, Youtuber, banker, baker, private investigator, DJ, entrepreneur, engineer....

Why be of all things, an *economist*?

C A G E

Astronaut, surgeon, Youtuber, banker, baker, private investigator, DJ, entrepreneur, engineer....

Why be of all things, an *economist*?

For me it's because being an economist isn't about being a single thing...

C A G E

Modern Economics is Ultra-Modern

- Yes, formally it's about the 'science of scarcity' and allocating resources.

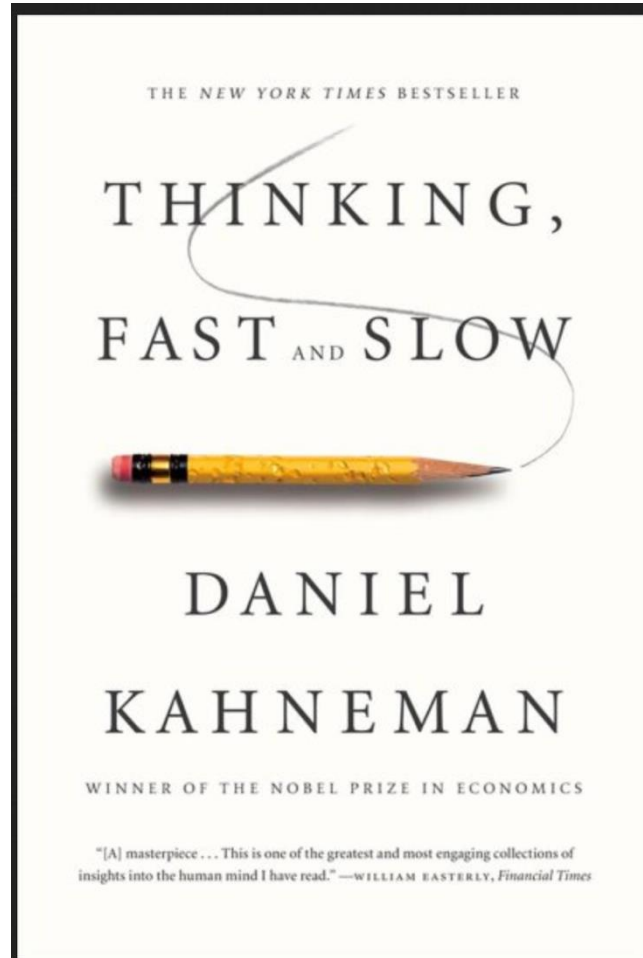
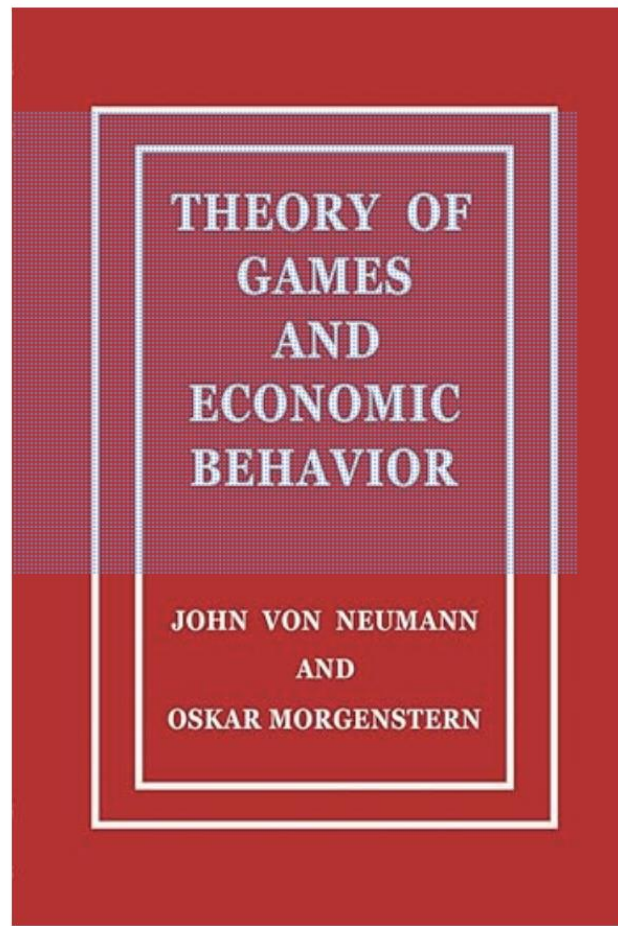
Modern Economics is Ultra-Modern

- Yes, formally it's about the 'science of scarcity' and allocating resources.
- But practically, to be an economist you need to know 'economics' as well as some maths, statistics, computer science, history, political science and psychology.

Modern Economics is Ultra-Modern

- Yes, formally it's about the 'science of scarcity' and allocating resources.
- But practically, to be an economist you need to know 'economics' as well as some maths, statistics, computer science, history, political science and psychology.
- A good economist is ready for anything and can absorb anything...

CAGE



On the ground with CAGE...

Phd student desk...

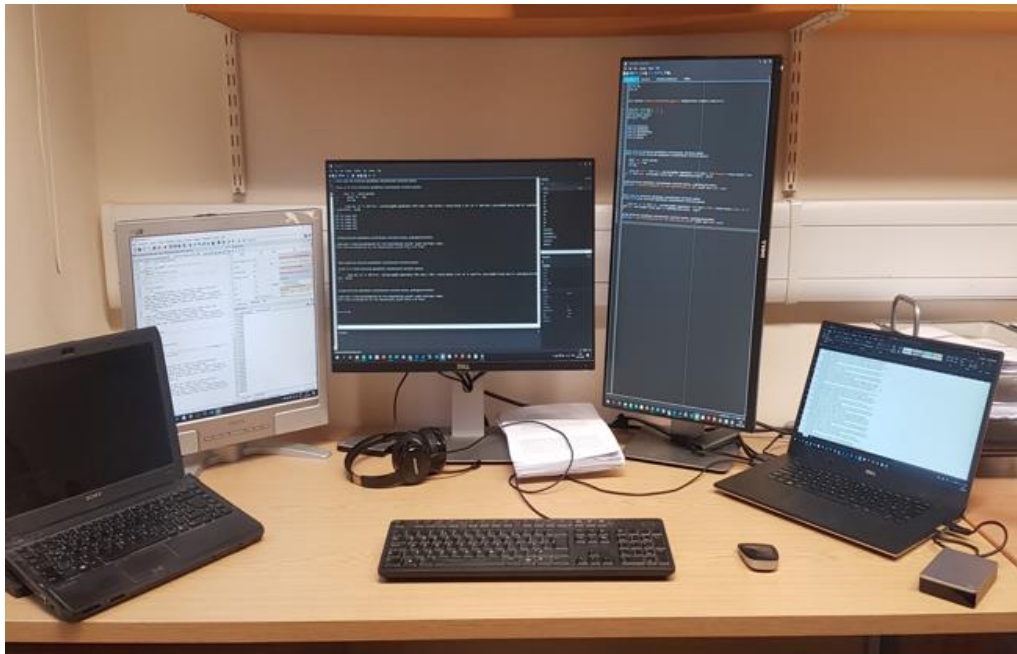
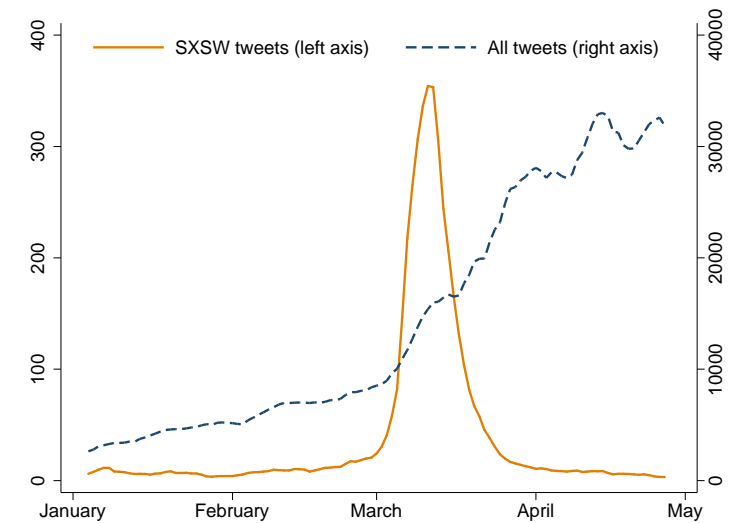


Figure 5: South by Southwest (SX SW) 2007 and the Spread of Tw

(a) Twitter Activity Around SX SW 2007



Modern economics is intense, immersive and multi-skilled....

C A G E

Write your own script.

- Yes, you can be a banker or a management consultant if you really want to.

C A G E

Write your own script.

- Yes, you can be a banker or a management consultant if you really want to.
- But you have the skills to do A LOT. Academic, entrepreneur, policy designer, tech professional, data scientist. Any domain is open to you: sports, culture, the environment, welfare. Potential for a long-lived career where you have agency.

C A G E

Write your own script.

- Yes, you can be a banker or a management consultant if you really want to.
- But you have the skills to do A LOT. Academic, entrepreneur, policy designer, tech professional, data scientist. Any domain is open to you: sports, culture, the environment, welfare. Potential for a long-lived career where you have agency.
- Economists should be the most interesting person at any party. But there is often a gap between theory and practice.