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The Evolutionary Foundations of Economics

It is widely recognized that mainstream economics has failed to translate micro- consistently into macroeconomics and to provide endogenous explanations for the continual changes in the economic system. Since the early 1980s a growing number of economists have been trying to provide answers to these two key questions by applying an evolutionary approach. This new departure has yielded a rich literature with enormous variety, but the unifying principles connecting the various ideas and views presented are, as yet, not apparent. This volume brings together fifteen original articles from scholars – each of whom has made a significant contribution to the field – in their common effort to reconstruct economics as an evolutionary science. Using mesoeconomics as an analytical entity to bridge micro- and macroeconomics as well as static and dynamic realms, a unified economic theory emerges, offering an entirely new approach to the foundations of economics.

KURT DOPFER is Professor of Economics and Director of the Institute of Economics at the University of St Gallen, Switzerland.

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