

'Approaches to (teaching) agricultural economics - orthodoxy vs heterodoxy'

Warwick, April 16th, 2019

David R. Harvey,
CRE and SNES, University of Newcastle upon Tyne
Editor, JAE.



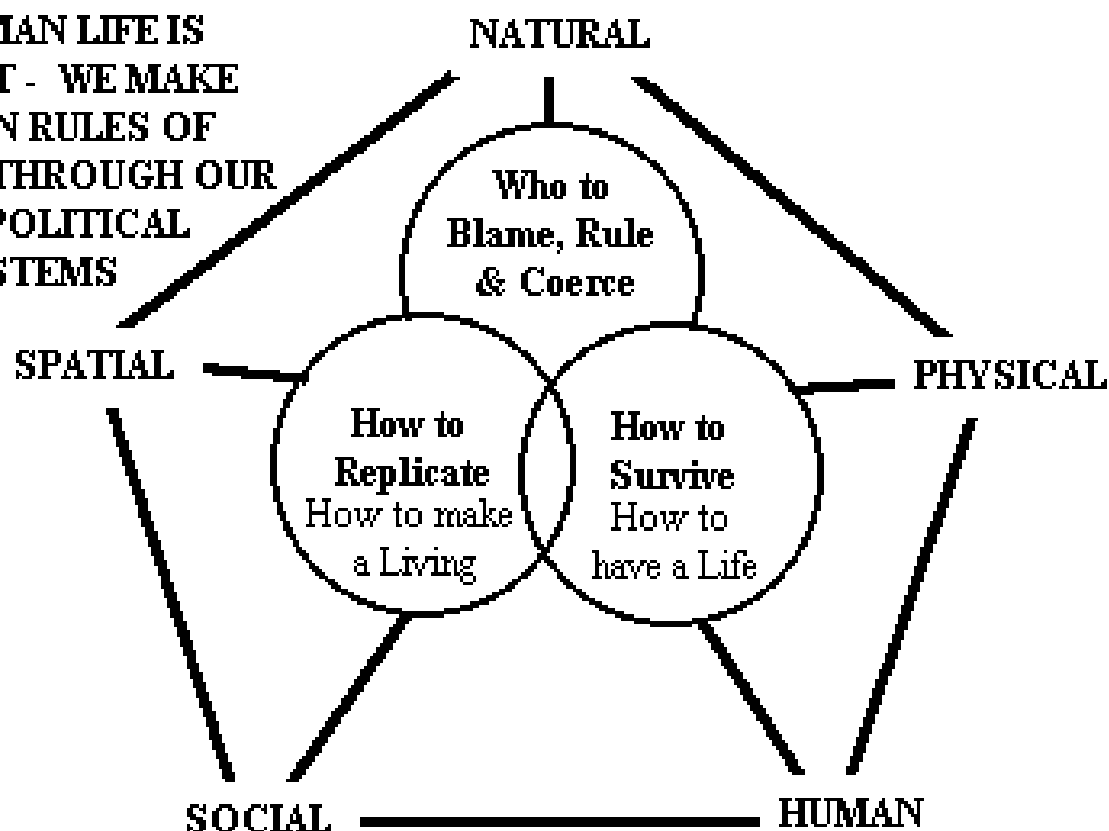
Ceci n'est pas une pipe.

This is Not a Pipe . . . by Rene Magritte . . . Surrealism

WHAT DOES ECONOMICS DO?

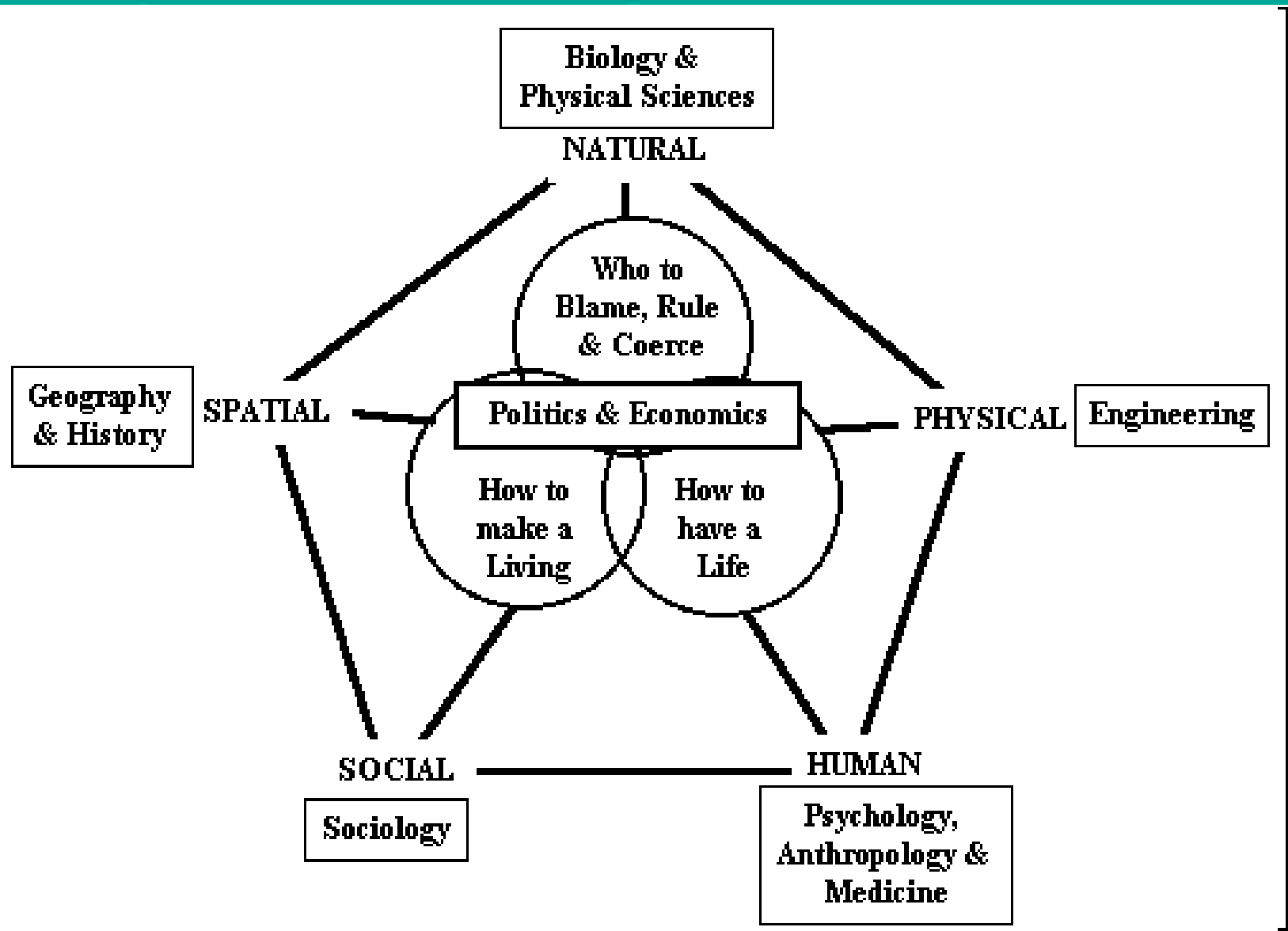
THE BASIC ECONOMIC PROBLEM IS ESSENTIALLY
THE SAME FOR ALL LIVING THINGS

BUT HUMAN LIFE IS
DIFFERENT - WE MAKE
OUR OWN RULES OF
SURVIVAL - THROUGH OUR
SOCIO-POLITICAL
SYSTEMS



WHICH ONLY MAKES SENSE WHEN RESOURCES ARE LIMITED: ->
TRADE, DIFFERENTIATION & COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

WHERE DOES ECONOMICS FIT?

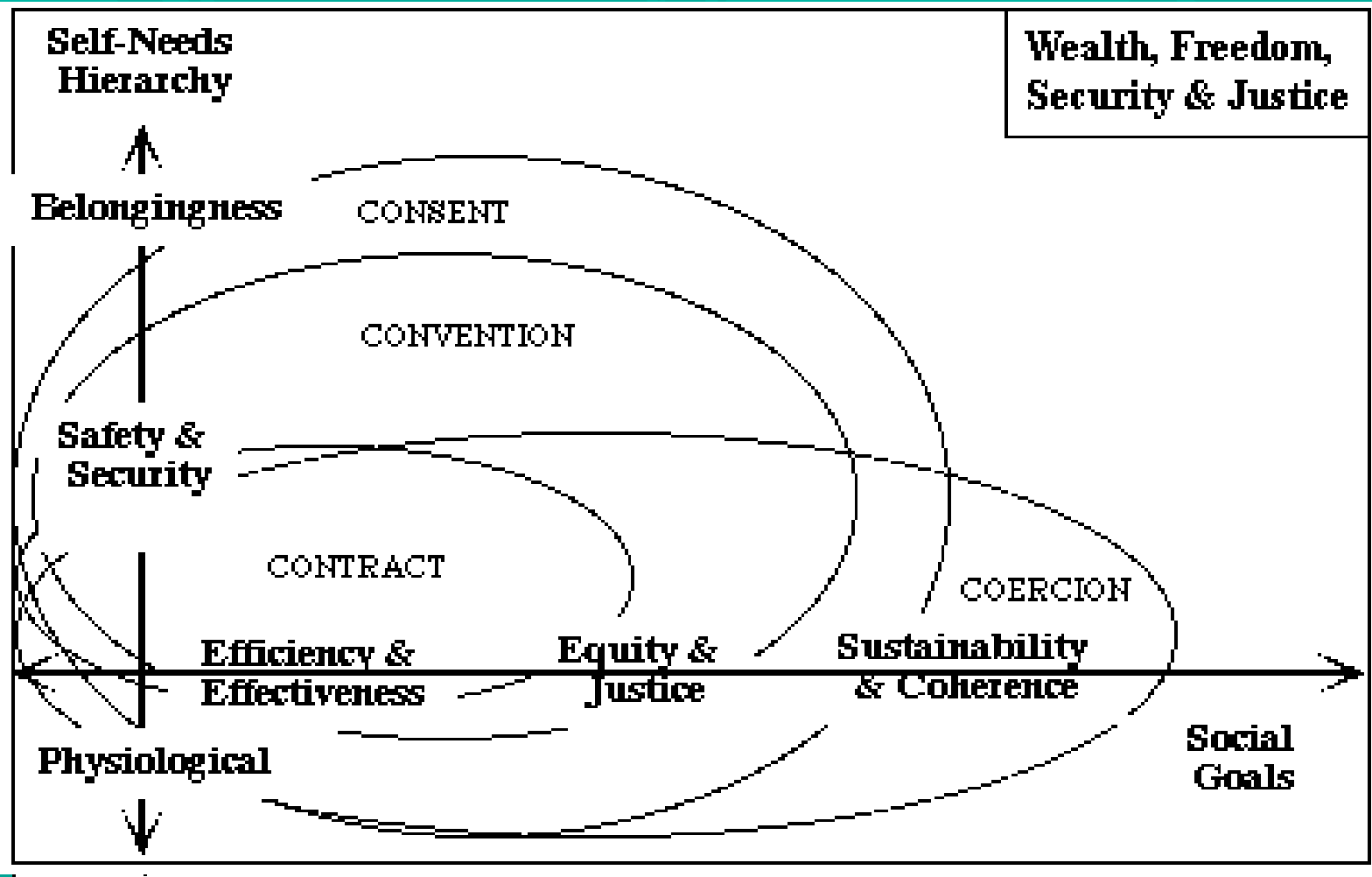


HOW TO DO SOCIAL SCIENCE?

- “Postmodernism is the antithesis of the Anglo-American analytical thesis. Out of the resulting dialectical synthesis, however, an enriched new philosophy of science could emerge” (Tweeten & Zulaf, 1999)
- “There remains a common theme for a science of human society, and that while much progress has been made in developing its various facets and aspects, it is still important to try and tie the parts together - not in search of a ‘world formula’ but to make sense of the social habitat in which we live, have lived and are likely to live”. Dahrendorf, 1995
- Social Science must believe there to be underlying patterns to social behaviour -
- so what might the synthesis or common theme look like?

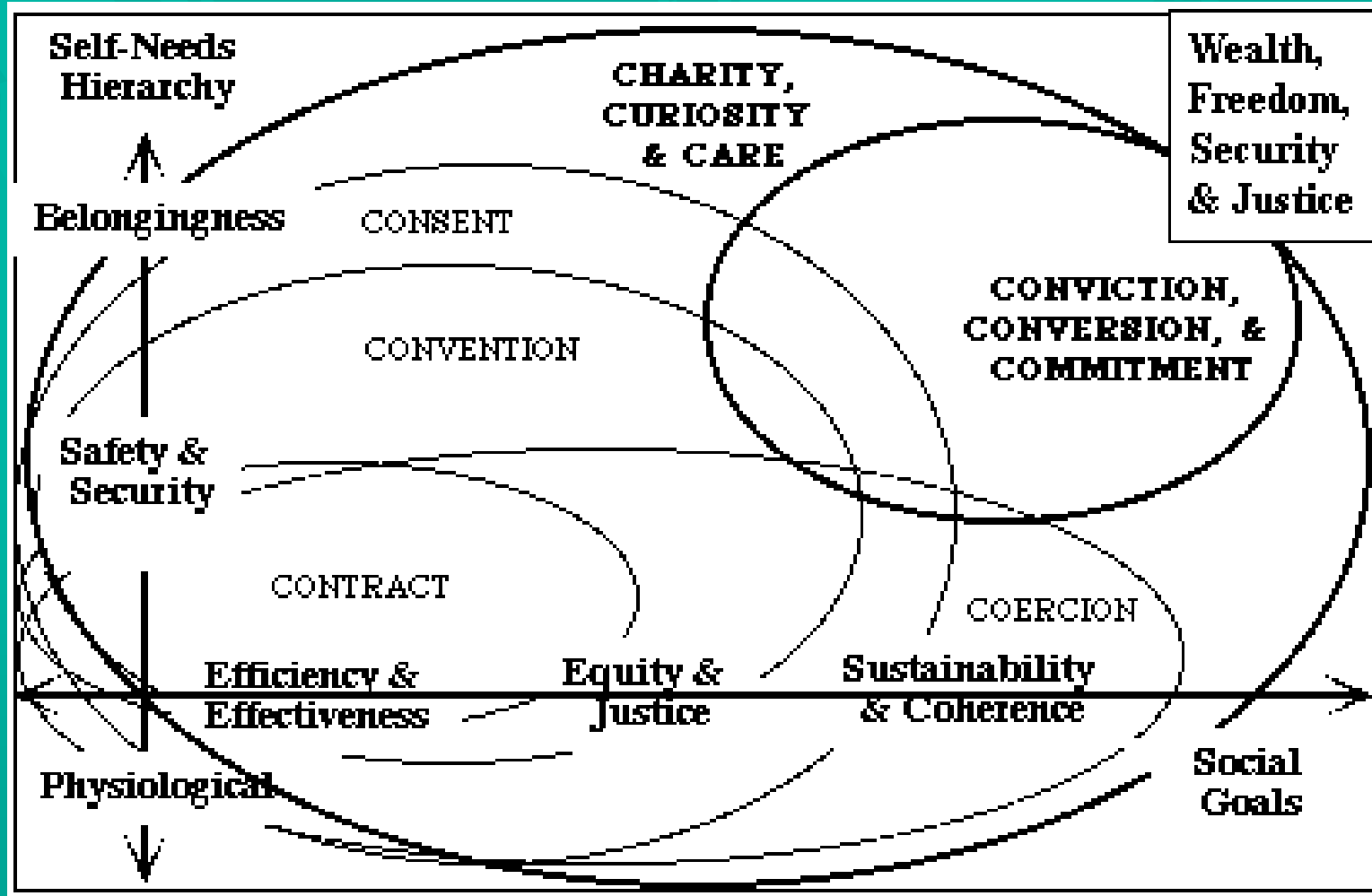
HOW DOES THIS HELP?

Social Behaviour needs to reconcile private and public lives:
With Economics being very distinctly limited in its scope.



HOW DOES THIS HELP?

Social Behaviour needs to reconcile private and public lives:
BUT some major Institutions & Transactions are MISSING:



CONCLUSIONS

- Economics is important,
- But primitive - survival of the fittest - and we don't tell it well.
- And we decide, through our remaining transaction systems, what counts as socially responsible rather than simply commercially viable.
- We need an integrating framework (Dahrendorf's more common story) for our social sciences.

WE SHOULD DROP THE AGRI FROM OUR TITLE
AND PRACTICE CULTURAL ECONOMY

- WE NEED TO TELL BETTER STORIES
OVER TO YOU