

Economic Philosophy: An Analysis of Principles and Practical Applications

Filosofia Econômica: Uma Análise de Princípios e Aplicações Práticas

Thanh Quang NGO
Ho Chi Minh City University of Industry and
Trade, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Emai: thanhnq@huit.edu.vn.
ORCID: 0009-0002-4805-5281

ABSTRACT

Economic philosophy is an interdisciplinary field that integrates philosophical principles with economic theories to explain and guide economic decisions in the context of modern society. This paper aims to analyze the core aspects of economic philosophy, including foundational principles such as individualism, collectivism, economic justice, and ethical values in economics. Through philosophical analysis and literature review, the paper explores how philosophical ideas from thinkers like Adam Smith, Karl Marx, and John Rawls influence contemporary economic policies. The findings indicate that economic philosophy not only provides a theoretical framework but also shapes strategies for sustainable development and social justice. The paper also discusses challenges in applying economic philosophy principles in practice, particularly in the context of globalization and increasing economic inequality. Finally, it proposes future research directions to integrate economic philosophy into the development of more sustainable economic models.

KEYWORDS: Economic philosophy, economic justice, ethical economics, sustainable development, globalization.

RESUMO

A filosofia econômica é um campo interdisciplinar que integra princípios filosóficos com teorias econômicas para explicar e orientar decisões econômicas no contexto da sociedade moderna. Este artigo tem como objetivo analisar os aspectos centrais da filosofia econômica, incluindo princípios fundamentais como individualismo, coletivismo, justiça econômica e valores éticos em economia. Por meio de análise filosófica e revisão de literatura, o artigo explora como as ideias filosóficas de pensadores como Adam Smith, Karl Marx e John Rawls influenciam as políticas econômicas contemporâneas. Os resultados indicam que a filosofia econômica não apenas fornece uma estrutura teórica, mas também

molda estratégias para o desenvolvimento sustentável e a justiça social. O artigo também discute os desafios na aplicação prática dos princípios da filosofia econômica, particularmente no contexto da globalização e do aumento da desigualdade econômica. Por fim, propõe futuras direções de pesquisa para integrar a filosofia econômica ao desenvolvimento de modelos econômicos mais sustentáveis.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Filosofia econômica, justiça econômica, economia ética, desenvolvimento sustentável, globalização.

1. Introduction

Economic philosophy is an interdisciplinary field that combines philosophical principles with economic theories to address questions about the nature, purpose, and value of economic activities. In the modern societal context, issues such as economic inequality, climate change, and globalization have become increasingly urgent, necessitating a theoretical framework to understand and tackle these challenges. Economic philosophy meets this need by offering profound insights into how economic systems should be organized and operated while considering ethical and justice-related values. Its core questions include: How can resources be distributed fairly? Should economic decisions be based solely on efficiency, or must ethical considerations be factored in? What are the roles of individuals and communities in the economy?

The history of economic philosophy can be traced back to ancient thinkers like Aristotle, who discussed the concept of "oikonomia" (household management) and emphasized the role of ethics in economic activities. Aristotle argued that economics is not merely about wealth accumulation but should aim for the "good life" (eudaimonia) for the community. In modern times, Adam Smith laid the foundation for classical economics with *The Wealth of Nations* (1776), describing the "invisible hand" of the free market as a mechanism for promoting prosperity. However, in *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* (1759), Smith also stressed that economic actions should be guided by empathy and moral responsibility. Following Smith, Karl Marx provided a philosophical analysis of capitalism, focusing on labor alienation and social inequality, advocating for a collectivist economic system.

In the 20th and 21st centuries, philosophers like John Rawls and Amartya Sen made significant contributions to economic philosophy. Rawls, with his theory of "justice as fairness" in *A Theory of Justice* (1971), argued that economic policies should prioritize the least advantaged in society. His concept of the "veil of ignorance" suggests that economic decisions should be made impartially, without bias. Meanwhile, Amartya Sen developed the "capability approach" in *Development as Freedom* (1999), asserting that the goal of economics is not only resource distribution but also enhancing individuals' capabilities to lead lives they value. These frameworks have profoundly influenced global economic policies, from poverty reduction programs to sustainable development initiatives.

Economic philosophy not only provides a theoretical foundation but also guides practical economic policies. For instance, principles of justice and ethics have been applied to design progressive taxation, social welfare, and education programs to reduce inequality. In the context of globalization, economic philosophy plays a crucial role in addressing issues like labor exploitation and disparities between nations. However, applying philosophical principles to practice faces challenges, including conflicts between short-term economic goals and long-term objectives, as well as cultural and value differences across countries.

This paper aims to analyze the foundational principles of economic philosophy, evaluate their impact on modern economic policies, and propose future research directions. The paper is structured as follows: Section 2 outlines the research methodology, employing literature review and philosophical analysis to explore core concepts. Section 3 discusses the principles of economic philosophy, including individualism, collectivism, justice, and ethics. Section 4 examines practical applications, such as sustainable development and inequality reduction. Section 5 addresses challenges and limitations in applying economic philosophy. Finally, Section 6 offers conclusions and suggests future research directions, particularly in the context of rapidly evolving technology and artificial intelligence.

2. Research Methodology

This study employs a qualitative research approach, combining philosophical analysis and literature review to explore the core concepts of economic philosophy and their connections to modern economic theories. Data were collected from primary sources, including works by Adam Smith, Karl Marx, John Rawls, and Amartya Sen, as well as secondary sources such as scholarly articles, books, and studies published in reputable journals. The selection of sources was based on their relevance and academic rigor. Data analysis was conducted using content analysis, focusing on key themes such as economic justice, ethical economics, and the role of philosophy in economic policy. Concepts were compared and contrasted to highlight differences and similarities among various schools of economic philosophy, providing deep insights into how these principles shape contemporary economic policies.

3. Principles of Economic Philosophy

3.1. Individualism and Collectivism

Individualism and collectivism represent two opposing yet complementary pillars in economic philosophy, forming the core of debates about how economic systems should be organized and operated. Individualism, championed by Adam Smith, emphasizes the role of individual freedom and free markets in promoting economic prosperity. In *The Wealth of Nations* (1776), Smith argued that individuals pursuing their self-interest inadvertently contribute to the common good through the market's "invisible

hand." According to Smith, free markets, driven by competition and innovation, are the primary mechanism for optimizing resource allocation, fostering economic growth, and improving living standards. This idea laid the foundation for classical economics and profoundly influenced modern capitalist systems (Smith, 1937).

However, Smith's individualism has faced criticism. Karl Marx, a prominent 19th-century thinker, argued that an excessive focus on individual self-interest in capitalism leads to economic inequality and labor alienation. In *Das Kapital* (1867), Marx analyzed how capitalism creates class divisions, with the working class exploited to serve the profits of the capitalist class. He contended that unchecked individualism results in power imbalances and social injustice, exacerbating the wealth gap. Marx's perspective inspired socialist economic theories, emphasizing the role of the state and community in regulating economic activities (Hausman, 2003).

In contrast to individualism, collectivism, advocated by Marx, prioritizes the role of the community and the state in ensuring equitable resource distribution. Marx argued that a just economy must eliminate exploitation and distribute resources based on need rather than individual gain. This idea influenced centralized planned economies, particularly in 20th-century socialist countries. However, such systems faced challenges like lack of innovation and bureaucratic inefficiencies, raising questions about the practicality of collectivism.

Modern theories have sought to reconcile these perspectives. John Rawls, in *A Theory of Justice* (1971), proposed the concept of "justice as fairness," arguing that economic policies should prioritize the least advantaged in society. Rawls did not entirely reject individualism but emphasized that individual freedom must be balanced with social responsibility to ensure fairness. For example, he supported progressive taxation and social welfare policies to reduce inequality while maintaining market mechanisms. Rawls' ideas have influenced modern economic policies, particularly in welfare-state economies like those in Scandinavia.

The debate between individualism and collectivism is not only theoretical but also has significant practical implications. In the context of globalization, nations face the challenge of balancing individual economic freedom with social justice. Mixed economic models, combining free markets with state intervention, have become prevalent. However, finding the right balance between these two ideologies remains a significant challenge, requiring policymakers to consider both economic efficiency and ethical values.

3.2. Economic Justice

Economic justice is a central concept in economic philosophy, focusing on ensuring that resources and opportunities are distributed fairly within society. John Rawls, in *A Theory of Justice* (1971), provided a critical framework for economic justice through his concept of "justice as fairness." Rawls argued that a just economic system must ensure equal opportunities for all individuals to access resources, regardless of their background or circumstances. He introduced the "veil of ignorance," suggesting that policymakers should make decisions without knowing their own social position, ensuring impartial and equitable policies that benefit all, particularly the least advantaged. This principle has become a cornerstone for modern economic policies, such as social welfare programs and progressive taxation.

Rawls' theory emphasizes not only resource distribution but also equality of opportunity. He argued that economic inequalities are permissible only if they benefit the least advantaged, a concept known as the "difference principle." For instance, higher salaries for professionals like doctors or engineers can be justified if they lead to improved healthcare or infrastructure for society as a whole. Rawls' ideas have influenced economic policies in many countries, particularly in designing public welfare and education systems (Fleurbaey, 2002).

Amartya Sen expanded the concept of economic justice through his "capability approach," presented in *Development as Freedom* (1999). Sen argued that the goal of economic policies is not merely resource distribution but also enhancing individuals' capabilities to lead lives they value. The capability approach emphasizes that factors like education, healthcare, and economic opportunities are essential for human development. For example, providing free education is not just about resource allocation but also about ensuring individuals can participate in the labor market and contribute to society.

Sen's theory has significantly shaped global development policies. Organizations like the World Bank and the United Nations have adopted the capability approach to design poverty reduction and human development programs. For instance, the United Nations' Human Development Index (HDI), which includes factors like life expectancy, education, and income, reflects Sen's influence. However, applying the capability approach faces challenges, including cultural and resource disparities across countries.

Economic justice is not only a philosophical concept but also a guiding principle for practical economic policies. Programs like universal basic income (UBI) and unemployment benefits are rooted in the justice principles of Rawls and Sen. However, achieving economic justice in the context of globalization and rising inequality requires balancing economic efficiency with ethical values and fostering cooperation among nations and international organizations.

3.3. Ethics in Economics

Ethics plays a crucial role in economic philosophy, guiding economic decisions to ensure they are not only efficient but also fair and humane. Adam Smith, in *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* (1759), emphasized that economic actions are not driven solely by self-interest but also by empathy and moral responsibility toward the community. Smith argued that through empathy, individuals can make economic decisions that benefit society, even when pursuing personal interests. This idea laid the groundwork for viewing ethics as an integral part of economics (Grassl and Habisch, 2011).

In the modern context, ethical economics has become a focal point of discussion, particularly with rising issues like inequality, climate change, and labor exploitation. Corporate social responsibility (CSR) has emerged as a key trend, encouraging companies to prioritize not only profits but also social welfare and environmental protection. For example, businesses adopting policies to reduce carbon emissions or improve working conditions reflect the integration of ethics into economic activities.

The circular economy is another example of how ethics shapes modern economic models. Unlike the traditional linear economy (produce-use-dispose), the circular economy emphasizes resource reuse and recycling to minimize environmental impact. This model reflects the ethical principle of intergenerational justice, ensuring that future generations are not harmed by current economic decisions. Philosophers like Hans Jonas have highlighted the importance of this principle in guiding sustainable economic policies.

However, integrating ethics into economics faces challenges. A significant issue is the conflict between short-term economic gains and long-term ethical values. For instance, businesses may face higher costs when adopting environmentally friendly policies, while shareholders prioritize immediate profits. Additionally, differences in ethical values across cultures and nations complicate the establishment of global ethical standards. What is considered "fair" in one country may not be accepted in another.

Ethics in economics also raises questions about the responsibilities of individuals and organizations in addressing social issues. International organizations like the IMF and the World Bank have begun integrating ethical principles into their policies, emphasizing fairness and human development. For example, financial aid programs for developing countries often include conditions for improving education and healthcare, reflecting the influence of ethical values. Ethics in economics is not merely a theoretical concept but a critical factor in shaping modern economic policies. Integrating ethics into economics requires balancing individual interests, community welfare, and environmental responsibility while overcoming cultural and economic challenges to achieve sustainable development.

4. Practical Applications of Economic Philosophy

4.1. Sustainable Development Policies

Economic philosophy provides a robust theoretical framework for designing sustainable development policies that meet the needs of the present without compromising future generations. A core concept supporting sustainable development is intergenerational justice, proposed by philosopher Hans Jonas in *The Imperative of Responsibility* (1984). Jonas argued that current economic decisions must consider their impact on future generations, particularly in addressing environmental challenges like climate change, resource depletion, and pollution. This principle emphasizes that ethical considerations extend beyond spatial boundaries to include temporal responsibilities, ensuring future generations have access to essential resources (Jabareen, 2008).

Carbon emission reduction policies exemplify the application of economic philosophy to sustainable development. The Paris Agreement (2015), which aims to limit global temperature rise to below 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels, is grounded in the ethical principle that nations are responsible for mitigating the environmental impact of economic activities. Countries like Germany and Denmark have pioneered the transition to renewable energy, with policies promoting solar and wind energy, reflecting a commitment to intergenerational justice. These policies not only reduce emissions but also advance the circular economy model, where resources are reused and recycled to minimize waste.

Economic philosophy also informs the evaluation of other sustainable development models, such as the green economy. The green economy focuses on developing environmentally friendly industries while ensuring social justice. For example, green job programs in countries like Brazil have created employment opportunities in sectors like organic agriculture and renewable energy, improving living conditions for disadvantaged communities. These initiatives reflect the integration of philosophical principles of justice and ethics with practical economic goals.

However, applying economic philosophy to sustainable development policies faces challenges. A major issue is the conflict between short-term economic goals, such as GDP growth, and long-term objectives, like environmental protection. Developing countries often face economic pressures to exploit natural resources, such as deforestation in the Amazon, creating tensions between economic development and environmental preservation. Economic philosophy, through concepts like ethical responsibility and intergenerational justice, provides a framework to address these conflicts, encouraging nations to prioritize sustainable strategies.

Additionally, economic philosophy shapes indicators for assessing sustainable development. For instance, the Happy Planet Index integrates factors like life expectancy, well-being, and ecological footprint, reflecting philosophical ideas about balancing human and environmental needs. These

indicators help policymakers evaluate economic policies based on quality of life and sustainability, not just economic growth.

In conclusion, economic philosophy, with its principles of intergenerational justice and ethics, serves as a foundation for sustainable development policies. These policies address environmental challenges while promoting social justice, creating an economic model that balances human, environmental, and future generational needs. Continued integration of economic philosophy into sustainable development strategies will be key to addressing global challenges in the 21st century (Abdallah et al., 2009).

4.2. Reducing Economic Inequality

Economic inequality is one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century, with the wealth gap widening in many countries. Economic philosophy, through the theories of John Rawls and Amartya Sen, provides a theoretical basis for designing policies to reduce inequality, ensuring resources and opportunities are distributed more equitably.

John Rawls' theory of "justice as fairness," outlined in *A Theory of Justice* (1971), has become a cornerstone for modern economic policies. Rawls argued that a just economic system must prioritize the least advantaged. His "veil of ignorance" suggests that policies should be designed as if decision-makers are unaware of their social position, ensuring impartiality and fairness. Based on this principle, progressive taxation policies have been implemented in countries like Sweden and Finland, where higher-income individuals pay more taxes to fund social welfare programs, such as free healthcare and education. These policies reduce inequality while fostering social cohesion.

Amartya Sen's "capability approach," presented in *Development as Freedom* (1999), expands the concept of economic justice by emphasizing that economic policies should not only distribute resources but also enhance individuals' capabilities to lead valued lives. According to Sen, inequality is measured not just by income but also by access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. For example, free education programs in countries like Vietnam and India have helped millions escape poverty by enhancing individual capabilities, improving labor market participation, and contributing to society.

A prominent practical application of economic philosophy in reducing inequality is universal basic income (UBI). Tested in countries like Finland and Canada, UBI provides a fixed income to all citizens, regardless of their economic status. Rooted in Rawls' principle of economic justice, UBI ensures a minimum income to meet basic needs. Results from UBI trials show reduced inequality, improved mental health, and enhanced access to education and employment (Wijngaarde et al., 2021).

However, implementing policies to reduce economic inequality faces challenges. A significant issue is opposition from high-income groups to progressive taxation or social welfare programs.

Additionally, programs like UBI require substantial financial resources, straining public budgets, particularly in developing countries. Economic philosophy, through the principles of Rawls and Sen, provides a theoretical justification for these policies, emphasizing that economic justice is not only a moral issue but also essential for social stability and prosperity.

Globally, economic inequality extends beyond national borders. International organizations like the United Nations have applied economic philosophy concepts to design development programs, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), aimed at reducing inequality within and between countries. These programs emphasize providing education, healthcare, and economic opportunities to disadvantaged communities, narrowing the global wealth gap. Economic philosophy offers a robust framework for designing policies to reduce economic inequality. The principles of Rawls and Sen guide both national and global initiatives, fostering a fairer world. However, implementing these policies requires balancing economic efficiency with ethical values and fostering cooperation among nations and international organizations.

4.3. Globalization and Ethical Economics

Globalization has profoundly transformed how economies operate, creating opportunities but also posing significant ethical and justice challenges. Economic philosophy provides principles to address issues like labor exploitation, disparities between nations, and the impact of global trade on vulnerable communities. Philosophical concepts of ethics and justice have been integrated into the policies of international organizations like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, promoting human development and reducing injustice in the context of globalization.

A key ethical issue in globalization is labor exploitation in developing countries. Multinational corporations often leverage low labor costs in countries like Bangladesh or Vietnam to maximize profits, leading to unsafe working conditions and low wages. Economic philosophy, through the ethical principles of Adam Smith and Amartya Sen, offers a basis for critiquing these practices. Smith, in *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* (1759), emphasized that economic actions should be guided by empathy and responsibility toward the community. Similarly, Sen's capability approach stresses that companies and governments must ensure workers have opportunities to develop their potential, rather than being treated as mere production tools.

International organizations have applied economic philosophy principles to address these issues. For example, the World Bank has implemented human development programs, such as providing education and vocational training to workers in developing countries. These programs enhance individual capabilities, reducing reliance on low-wage jobs and improving living conditions. Similarly, international trade agreements, like the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership

(CPTPP), have incorporated provisions on labor rights and environmental protection, reflecting the influence of ethical economic principles.

Disparities between nations are another challenge of globalization. Developed countries often hold advantages in global trade, while developing countries face barriers like limited technology and infrastructure. Economic philosophy, through concepts like intergenerational justice and ethical responsibility, provides a basis for designing policies to bridge this gap. For instance, development aid programs by the United Nations and the World Bank focus on supporting poor nations in investing in education, healthcare, and infrastructure, enhancing their position in the global economy.

However, applying economic philosophy principles to globalization faces challenges. A significant issue is the variation in ethical and cultural values across countries. What is considered "fair" in one nation may not be accepted in another, complicating the establishment of global ethical standards. Additionally, international organizations like the IMF have faced criticism for imposing stringent economic policies, such as structural adjustment programs, which can exacerbate inequality in recipient countries. Economic philosophy offers a framework to evaluate and improve these policies, emphasizing that global economic decisions must prioritize fairness and human development.

In the context of globalization, economic philosophy also promotes new economic models, such as fair trade. Fair trade programs, implemented in countries like Colombia and Kenya, ensure that farmers and workers receive fair prices for their products, improving incomes and living conditions. These initiatives reflect the integration of ethical principles into global economic activities, contributing to a fairer economy.

In conclusion, economic philosophy plays a vital role in guiding globalization policies, ensuring that economic activities not only deliver economic benefits but also promote fairness and ethics. However, implementing these principles requires close collaboration among nations, international organizations, and the private sector, as well as balancing economic interests with ethical values.

5. Discussion

5.1. Challenges in Applying Economic Philosophy

Economic philosophy provides a robust theoretical framework for guiding economic policies, emphasizing fairness, ethics, and sustainable development. However, applying these principles in practice faces complex challenges that require careful consideration of both theory and reality. One of the most significant challenges is the conflict between short-term and long-term economic goals. Short-term objectives, such as GDP growth or corporate profits, are often prioritized by policymakers and businesses due to market and shareholder pressures. For example, developing countries like Indonesia or Nigeria frequently focus on exploiting natural resources, such as oil or timber, to drive immediate economic growth, but this can lead to long-term consequences like environmental degradation or resource

depletion. In contrast, long-term goals, such as economic justice and sustainability, require substantial investments and extended timelines, making it difficult to gain stakeholder support. Economic philosophy, through concepts like Hans Jonas' intergenerational justice, emphasizes the need for sustainable economic policies, but balancing these objectives remains a complex issue (Sunny et al., 2024).

Secondly, ethical values in economic philosophy are often subjective, leading to difficulties in achieving consensus on economic policies. Concepts like fairness or ethical responsibility may be interpreted and applied differently depending on cultural, social, and political contexts. For instance, while Nordic countries like Sweden support progressive taxation to reduce inequality, based on Rawls' justice principle, such policies are often opposed in countries like the United States, where they are seen as limiting individual freedom. Ethical differences also arise in debates about corporate social responsibility (CSR). Some companies in developed nations adopt strict CSR standards, such as reducing carbon emissions, but firms in developing countries may view these as financial burdens that reduce competitiveness in global markets. Economic philosophy, through principles like Smith's empathy or Sen's capability approach, provides a basis for ethical policymaking, but achieving global consensus on these values is a significant challenge.

Thirdly, globalization adds complexity to applying economic philosophy principles on a global scale. Countries have diverse cultural, economic, and political values, leading to differences in addressing issues like economic justice or sustainability. For example, developed nations like Germany and Japan may prioritize green economic policies, while developing countries like India or Brazil face economic pressures to industrialize, even at environmental costs. International organizations like the IMF and the World Bank have attempted to integrate economic philosophy principles, such as fairness and human development, into their policies, but their structural adjustment programs have been criticized for exacerbating inequality in recipient countries. For instance, austerity measures imposed on Greece during the European debt crisis (2009-2015) led to reduced social welfare, raising ethical concerns. Economic philosophy provides a framework to evaluate and improve global policies, but their application requires close cooperation among nations and sensitivity to diverse cultural contexts.

Finally, a lack of empirical data to assess the effectiveness of policies based on economic philosophy poses another challenge. For example, universal basic income (UBI) trials in Finland and Canada show potential for reducing inequality, but long-term studies are needed to determine their overall impact. Economic philosophy, with its principles of justice and ethics, provides theoretical guidance, but translating these principles into viable policies requires integrating theoretical and empirical analysis.

5.2. Limitations of the Study

This study primarily relies on theoretical analysis and literature review, which offers significant insights but also comes with notable limitations. First, the focus on theoretical analysis results in a lack

of empirical data to validate the findings. While economic philosophy theories, such as Rawls' "justice as fairness" or Sen's "capability approach," provide robust frameworks for understanding and guiding economic policies, this study has not evaluated the practical effectiveness of policies based on these theories. For instance, programs like progressive taxation or universal basic income (UBI) are proposed based on philosophical principles, but their impact on economic growth, inequality, or social welfare requires validation through empirical studies, such as randomized controlled trials (RCTs) or long-term data analysis. The absence of empirical data limits the study's ability to provide specific policy recommendations, particularly across diverse economic and social contexts.

Secondly, the study has not fully considered cultural and regional aspects in applying economic philosophy, particularly in developing countries. Economic philosophy, with concepts like justice and ethics, is often developed in Western contexts, where values like individualism and democracy are emphasized. However, in developing countries like Vietnam, India, or Nigeria, cultural values such as collectivism, family traditions, or religion may significantly influence how economic philosophy principles are interpreted and applied. For example, Rawls' concept of economic justice may be understood differently in collectivist cultures, where community interests are prioritized over individual ones. This study has not deeply analyzed how economic philosophy principles can be adapted to diverse cultural contexts, limiting the applicability of its findings globally.

Additionally, the study has not addressed modern technological developments, such as artificial intelligence (AI) and automation, which are rapidly transforming the economic landscape. These technologies raise new ethical questions, such as how to distribute economic benefits from AI or the responsibility of businesses to mitigate automation's impact on employment. Economic philosophy could provide a framework to address these issues, but this study has not fully explored these aspects, reducing its relevance in the modern economic context (Abbas et al., 2024).

Finally, the reliance on primary and secondary sources, mainly from Western philosophers and economists like Smith, Marx, Rawls, and Sen, may introduce bias in the approach. Perspectives from thinkers in other regions, such as Asia or Africa, could offer fresh insights into economic philosophy but have not been adequately considered. For example, philosophies like Confucianism or Ubuntu could provide unique approaches to justice and ethical economics, but they have not been integrated into the analysis.

In conclusion, this study offers a profound theoretical analysis of economic philosophy but is limited by the lack of empirical data and insufficient consideration of cultural, regional, and technological factors. Future research should incorporate empirical analyses and explore diverse cultural contexts to enhance the applicability of economic philosophy in addressing global economic challenges.

6. Conclusion

Economic philosophy plays a pivotal role in shaping fair and sustainable economic policies. Principles such as economic justice, ethics, and the balance between individualism and collectivism have proven valuable in addressing modern economic challenges. However, applying these principles requires careful consideration of cultural, political, and social contexts. Future research should focus on developing economic models that integrate economic philosophy principles, particularly in the context of rapidly evolving technology and artificial intelligence. Additionally, empirical studies are needed to evaluate the effectiveness of policies based on economic philosophy, especially in developing countries.

References

Abbas Khan, M., Khan, H., Omer, M. F., Ullah, I., & Yasir, M. (2024). Impact of artificial intelligence on the global economy and technology advancements. In Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) Security: Smart Applications and Sustainable Technologies (pp. 147-180). Singapore: Springer Nature Singapore.

Abdallah, S., Thompson, S., Michaelson, J., Marks, N., & Steuer, N. (2009). The Happy Planet Index 2.0: Why good lives don't have to cost the Earth.

Fleurbaey, M. (2002). Equality of resources revisited. *Ethics*, 113(1), 82-105.

Grassl, W., & Habisch, A. (2011). Ethics and economics: Towards a new humanistic synthesis for business. *Journal of Business Ethics*, 99(1), 37-49.

Hausman, D. M. (2003). Philosophy of economics.

Jabareen, Y. (2008). A new conceptual framework for sustainable development. *Environment, Development and Sustainability*, 10(2), 179-192.

Smith, A. (1937). The Wealth of Nations [1776] (Vol. 11937). na.

Sunny, F. A., Jeronen, E., & Lan, J. (2024). How does theories of economics contribute to the sustainable development concept formation? *OEconomia*.

Wijngaarde, I., Vinanchiarachi, J., & Readman, J. (2021). Universal Basic Income (UBI) for reducing inequalities and increasing socio-economic inclusion: a proposal for a new sustained policy perspective. In *Crime Prevention and Justice in 2030: The UN and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (pp. 107-123). Cham: Springer International Publishing.



NGO, Thanh Cuang. Economic Philosophy: An Analysis of Principles and Practical Applications. *Kalagatos*, Fortaleza, vol.23, n.1, 2026, eK26006, p. 01-13.

Received: 10/2025
Approved: 12/2025