

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/the-ordinary-business-of-life/>

This video is a transcription of an interview discussing the evolution of economic thought and the author's motivations for writing a comprehensive history of economics. The author reveals that he was invited by a publisher to undertake a project that integrates modern economics into a broader historical context. He emphasizes the originality of his work lies in how he presents and organizes existing ideas rather than in the ideas themselves.

The author describes his rigorous research process, highlighting the importance of both primary sources (like works by Adam Smith and Keynes) and secondary literature from specialists to gain a deeper understanding of economic history. He notes the complexity and gradual emergence of economics as a discipline, arguing that it is influenced by earlier ideas that can be traced back to ancient civilizations and not solely by figures like Adam Smith.

As the conversation progresses, the author addresses the transition of economics into a more formal academic discipline, particularly in the late 19th century, when technical and mathematical approaches became prevalent. He discusses significant historical events, such as the Great Depression and the Second World War, which prompted shifts in economic thought and methodology.

Moreover, the interview highlights how modern economics has become heterogeneous, incorporating a variety of techniques from experiments to big data analysis, contrasting with the primarily textual and theoretical basis of earlier economic thought. The author concludes by stressing the interconnectedness of economics with other disciplines and the impact of political and social events on economic theories. Throughout, he emphasizes that economic ideas have deep historical roots and that their evolution is complex and multifaceted.