



Concerning Methodology

ECONOMICS CONFERENCE
Report of the 3rd Annual Meeting

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Report of the 3rd Annual Meeting

This meeting was held at the Goetheanum, Dornach (Basel), Switzerland 20 – 21 June, 2004.

Conducted mainly in English and German, the 3rd Session of the Economics Conference was attended by some 20 people from several countries. Meeting in the newly renovated Haus Halde – the new home of the Social Sciences Section – the gathering focused on methodology and especially Rudolf Steiner's observation that economic science, being both practical and ethical, required a characterising method. How this was interpreted was the subject of several contributions, which together gave a basis for lively discussion, both within and without the formal sessions.

The idea arose to take this further by finding ways together to form a picture of Rudolf Steiner's *Economics Course* as a whole, both the lectures and the discourses. What was its context and purpose? How is it structured? Is it a process with clearly identifiable stages? Could it be likened to a musical score? Is it 'right' to cherry-pick the ideas that attract one most, but which one selects without thought for the course as a whole?

Insofar as such research has not yet been undertaken (or at least not yet published), it would give new ground to the sharing of our understanding of Steiner's work in this field. With this in mind, we would like to convene the next session at the Goetheanum on the simple basis that participants come prepared to share, in whatever way seems appropriate to them, their overall image of the *Economics Course*. This will allow us together to build a larger composite image of what Rudolf Steiner said and did, and thereby to become more sensitive to the course's deeper purpose. The emphasis will be on short contributions that enable the participants as a whole to build something together.