Resenha de livro

BARANZINI, Mauro; MIRANTE, Amalia. ***A Compendium of Italian Economists at Oxbridge: Contributions to the Evolution of Economic Thinking. Library of Congress Control, number*** **2016950016, ISBN 978-3-319-32218-6.** ***Palgrave/Macmillan,*** **2016. 288 páginas.**

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This book may well be described as an attempt to appraise the success of Italian economists and researchers who proceeded to MSc/PhD at the University of Cambridge and Oxford (thus Oxbridge) in the second half of the last century (1950 to about 1990-95). Their works and degrees has been noted for being associated with outstanding scholars such as Richard Kahn, Piero Sraffa, John Hicks, Richard Stone, Nicholas Kaldor, Joan Robinson, Richard Goodwin, James Meade, David Champernowne, Maurice Dobb, James Mirrlees, Geoffrey Harcourt and other fine scholars.

The book could also be considered an important and extensive bibliography and painstaking cross-indexing of Italian economists and contemporary surveys of subjects. Perhaps, Mauro Baranzini and Amalia Mirante accomplished more than such objectives, since they guide the reader to what are indeed important theoretical, empirical and institutional issues.

The book provides a detailed list of almost five decades of efforts made by three generations of Italian economists who came to Oxbridge and whose scientific works has been significant contributions to the advancement of research programmes and lines of economic thinking. It traces the influence of Oxbridge in terms of: i) the evolution of economic thought; ii) the promotion of key controversies on technical progress (on capital theory, on income and wealth distribution, and on the inter-generational transmission of income) and iii) the flow and counter-flow of scholars to Italy and Oxbridge, invigorating research and lecturing till nowadays.

Within this book are many valuable insights on the benefits of academic integration. A number of Italian economists have held official and non-official affiliation in Oxbridge, involving the circulation and cross-fertilization of ideas among schools (or streams) of economic thought. The list of Italian outstanding scholars is headed by Luigi Pasinetti who may well be considered the "senior heir" of the post-Keynesian school. He proposed new analytical techniques and has a message to transmit that should not be neglected by either orthodox economists or those critical of the way the subject is developing, or perhaps failing to develop.

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Some other fellows include Pierangelo Garegnani, Roberto Scazzieri, Mauro Baranzini, Alberto Quadro Curzio, Pier Luigi Porta, Neri Salvadori, Ferdinando Meacci, Alexandro Roncaglia, Joseph Halevi, Claudio Sardoni and many others whose academic activities "literally exploded" in such a way that Oxbridge lecturers and researchers are often celebrated internationally at the forefront of academic, political and administrative activities.

In the last few decades there has been an invigorating flow of returning Italian economists teaching at Oxbridge, "but also an important flow of non-Italian Oxbridge dons who moved permanently to Italian universities. Among the latter are Richard Goodwin, Frank Hahn, Michio Morishima, Amit Bhaduri, [...] Jan Kregel. Their arrival in Italy has further enriched the research and teaching strength of Italian universities". I am persuaded on the positive significance that can be attached to this insightful cooperation helping to develop a proper background and the literature dissemination on themes such as Neo-Ricardian School, Post-Keynesian Analysis, Production Theory to Structural Change, Economic Dynamics, Institutional Socioeconomic, *etc*.

The book contains some omissions. For instance, it does not contemplate the contributions of Michal Kalecki, one of the greatest economists of last century. He never was the formal supervisor of Italian research students either at Cambridge and Oxford, but he influenced some of their works, especially during his stay at the Institute of Economics and Statistics in Oxford. Also, on the Pasinetti's classical/Keynesian formulation to economic analysis the present book fails to mention that such framework is not affected by the main theoretical results and criticisms of the Cambridge Capital Theory controversies, because there is no presumption in this/his approach that prices of commodities and services of factors of production have to be indexes of scarcity. Furthermore, his various aggregations are not concerned with capital as such, but with labour, so that no unit independent of distribution and prices in which to measure capital is involved. This is an important point to raise in any survey on the theme.

However, these troubles do not detract the reader from what is otherwise a very stimulating and penetrating analysis of Oxbridge/Italy cooperation. This is: "a must-read for all those interested in the way Italian and British research has shaped the study and teaching of economics". It also highlights the relevance of international cooperation: a lesson to be learned by a number of countries.

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