



# ESHET

European Society for the History of Economic Thought

<http://www.eshet.net/>

Professor Dr. Maria Leptin  
President of the European Research Council

18 May 2023

Dear President Leptin,

We are writing to you on behalf of the European Society for the History of Economic Thought as well as a number of national societies dedicated to the same intellectual discipline. The reason for this letter is our dismay at finding out that all mentions of our area of study have been removed from the latest classification list of ERC funding panels.

Previously the history of economic thought, that is the study of the works, ideas and influence of economists throughout history, was covered under two headings. First, in the previous list our field of study was included under the general heading of Economics, Finance and Management (SH1), to be precise, it was covered under SH1-16 by the term 'Historical Economics'. Second, 'History of Economic Thought' previously occurred under SH14. For reasons unknown to us, both mentions have disappeared from the new list.

The history of economic thought is a vibrant area of research, with several dedicated and well-regarded journals, academic societies in different parts of the European Union and regular well-attended conferences. In recent years, partly in response to major economic and financial events that have shaken current theoretical understanding amongst economists, a renewed impulse has been given to the study of the history of economic thought. In particular, a greater number of younger academics has joined our communities, who also have started to employ new research methodologies. Where previously our study in most cases involved mostly visits to library and archives, the next generations are also turning to digital research technologies and other types of research that require the combined efforts of teams of researchers.

This has implications for the funding needs of research. Younger historians of economic thought have started bidding for ERC funding in recent years, where previously academics did, perhaps regrettably, not see the need for it. The removal of the two mentions of our field from the panel list will significantly reduce the chances for any researchers in the history of economic thought to be successful in bids for ERC funding. As mentioned, this dismays us because it goes very much against the trend of greater academic engagement in our field.

Our request is to have the heading 'History of Economic Thought' reinstated in both places on the list. As you will be aware, one would like to maximise chances of submitting project proposals to panels that are most likely to include a panel member with expertise in the relevant field. Since in our field, some research is more directed towards economic analysis and policy strictly

speaking and other research has more affinity with intellectual history, we request a reinstatement of mentions under both headings mentioned.

Sincerely,



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Professor Sylvie Rivot (Université de Mulhouse, BETA)  
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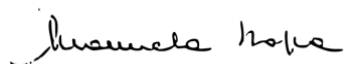
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Professor Manuela Mosca (University of Salento)  
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Professor Terry Peach (Manchester University)  
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