

16 March 2022

Dear Colleague,

as in the past we are writing to ask you some of your time and effort, which may be useful to help Italian researchers in the effort to support the history of economic thought and to preserve pluralism of topics and approaches in economic research in Italy, to register as eligible referee for the evaluation of research projects to be funded by a public national agency.

Research funds are assigned through a national selection process aimed at selecting the best among different projects submitted to a national agency that organizes and supervises the selection by means of peer-review. In the past tournaments, heterodox projects or projects oriented to the history of economic thought had great difficulties to be funded. One of the reasons behind this problem, we believe, is the fact that most referees (in most cases academics with foreign affiliations) were not historians of economic thought.

We are undertaking actions aimed at favoring a selection process that is not biased against subjects such as the history of economic thought and non-mainstream perspectives. This however also requires referees that are qualified and differ for cultural interests and orientations. As s/he who applies for funds, as most of us do, is not eligible as a referee, support from colleagues with foreign affiliations would be of great help.

In order to enroll as a potential referee (the national agency selects the referee(s) for each project among registered scholars), you should open the web-page <https://reprise.cineca.it/en> and fill the online form. We urgently ask you to register, for the application deadline for the next round of "Research Projects of National Interest" is **March 31 3 p.m.** It only takes a few minutes. Projects are submitted in English, so knowledge of Italian is not required. There is a compensation for the refereeing, albeit very small.

Thanks for supporting the initiative. In the awareness that we are all under pressure and have very little time to spare, we would be very grateful for your effort.

Enrico Bellino,  
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