

**Valentin Cojanu**

# **Reason and the Self**

**A collection of philosophical enquiries in economic science**

**Editura ASE  
București  
2023**



**Academia de Studii Economice din București**

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**Editura ASE**

Piața Romană nr. 6, sector 1, București, România

cod 010374

[www.ase.ro](http://www.ase.ro)

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**Descrierea CIP a Bibliotecii Naționale a României**  
**COJANU, VALENTIN**

**Reason and the self : a collection of philosophical enquiries in the economic science / Valentin Cojanu. -**

București : Editura ASE, 2023

Conține bibliografie

ISBN 978-606-34-0477-1

330

**Editura ASE**

**Redactor:** Silvia Răcaru

**Tehnoredactor:** Violeta Rogojan

**Coperta:** Violeta Rogojan

Autorul își asumă întreaga responsabilitate pentru: ideile exprimate, corectitudinea științifică, originalitatea materialului și sursele bibliografice menționate.

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# Foreword

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Philosophers may find too little philosophy in this collection and economists may find too little or peripheral economic content on the fundamental questions of their science. With this risk, which we do not minimize and which we hope to prove unfounded, we offer this collection of published papers with two expected benefits. The first is to give a coherent and consistent view of the essence of economic reasoning, which we call historical reasoning. The second objective is to attract a wider audience interested in the subject by publishing them in English, the original language of publication. Some of the present contributions have been translated into Romanian in *The Logic of Economic Reasoning* (Cojanu 2010), but other published and unpublished texts have also been included in this volume.

This collection has thus become a complementary material for *The Logic* and continues the initial argument by providing a more detailed explanation of the direction in which economic theory must develop in order to produce a science relevant to people's material concerns, applied to suggest possible solutions to these needs, and also consistent in the field of social thinking.

The book is no longer about the failure of the dominant forms of economic science. From Thorstein Veblen, Fernand Braudel, John K. Galbraith, Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen to contemporary writers, accumulated criticism has created sufficient assumptions to support this hypothesis. Here, attention is drawn to two objectives. The first is to understand how our reasoning develops under the influence of philosophical contributions, old and new. The second is related to understanding the Vichian thesis of history as a source of reason about 'the study of what people have done', which may affect the definition of our field of research.