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Economics, Cognition, and Society

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Social Science Knowledge and Economic Development

An Institutional Design Perspective

Vernon W. Ruttan
To the social scientists who serve on the staffs of the national and international development agencies. They have become increasingly effective in bringing social science knowledge to bear on the design and implementation of development policies and programs.
We contract the boundaries of our subjects, and of our sub-subjects, to make them more manageable; and we are enabled to do this because our academic specialization is in fact happening in the “real world.” But it is not all that is happening in the world.

—Sir John Hicks (1969)