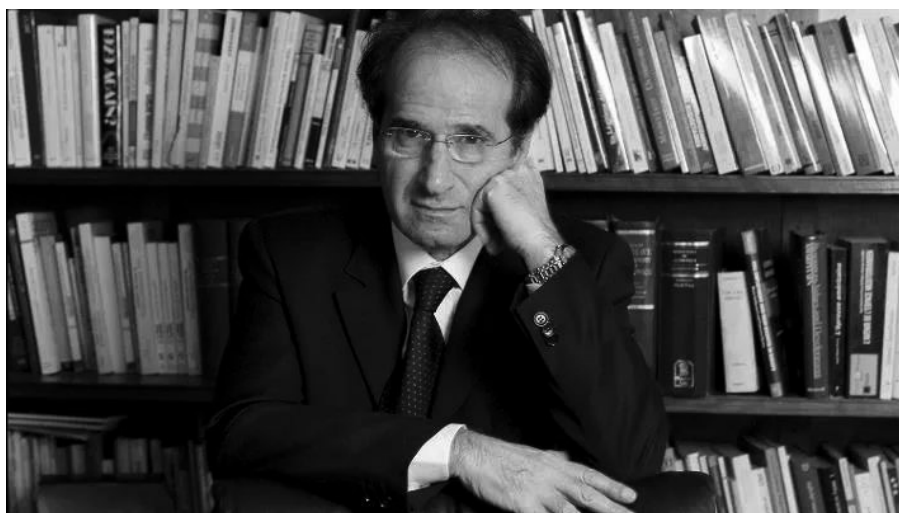


Jean-Paul Fitoussi
19 August 1942 – 15 April 2022

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Jean-Paul Fitoussi (henceforth JPF) was born on the 22nd of August, 1942 in La Goulette, Tunisia but emigrated to France and studied at Strasbourg University where he earned his doctoral degree, *cum laude*, in law and economics.



Jean-Paul Fitoussi in a typically pensive mood, surrounded by books (downloaded from the Internet edition of *La Stampa*, 15/4/2022)

In 2013, *Sciences Po* – where he was a Professor – organised a day honouring JPF's lifelong research by inviting leading economists, all Nobel Laureates – and critical, in various ways and degrees of the dominant paradigm in macroeconomics, as JPF was of newclassical macroeconomics¹ (though not all were traditional economists by that time) – Joseph Stiglitz,

Edmund Phelps, Amartya Sen, Robert Solow and Kenneth Arrow. It was a memorable occasion where issues that JPF felt were close to his analytic heart, European integration, European democratic deficit, inequality, unemployment – both macroeconomically – and environmental sustainability (as an economic issue), were discussed; closing the day of debate were speeches by Laurent Fabius, minister of foreign affairs in the French cabinet, and François Hollande, the French President at that time.

¹ Newclassical economists believed in a unified economic theory, encompassing both microeconomics and macroeconomics.

It was an emphasis of JPF's allegiance to men of 'fame' who were critical towards the ruling paradigm in his chosen field and his ability to show uncompromising adherence to ordinary economists – from any and all backgrounds - in choosing them for employment or as his research students. For many years he was the Secretary of the International Economic Association and in this capacity, he was familiar with most contemporary economists of diverse doctrine-historical persuasion. This familiarity did not mean that he was persuaded to adopt their views on the desirability of a ruling economic system.

In his early years, during and immediately after the Strasbourg years, at the European University Institute, in Fiesole, Italy, JPF was enamoured with disequilibrium economics of the Bent Hansen - 'Bill' Phillips variety and therefore Georgescu-Roegen, Clower, Leijonhufvud were important – and so was Hicks. They – and JPF – demonstrated the inadequacy of standard equilibrium analysis and tried to develop alternative notions of equilibrium which enabled one to – at least – consider disequilibrium economics in the reasonably long-run.

He wrote and contributed several important articles, in respected Journals and well-known books; of these his contributions in the *Journal of Money, Credit and Banking* and the *American Economic Review* are worth mentioning because they emphasise the two aspects of his interests: theory and policy.

JPF was the author, singly or jointly of many books and edited several highly regarded books. Of these, I might be forgiven for choosing two: his jointly authored – with Edmund Phelps – 1988, book, *The Slump in Europe: Reconstructing Open Economy Theory* and his edited earlier (1983) book, *Modern Macroeconomic Theory*.

A Festschrift for JPF was published in 2004 with the title *Macroeconomic Theory and Economic Policy* and including contributions by leading economists, among whom were three Nobel laureates and many who may get it in the future. In reacting to a request from the Editor for a contribution in honour of JPF's 60th birthday, Edmund Phelps wrote, p.1 (italics added):

'I'm shocked that Jean-Paul is anywhere near 60! Have you ever checked your dates? It was only *a few years ago* that he moved into his 50s.'

His demise now, when 'only a few years ago' he moved into his 70s, caught me – and many of his friends – by genuine surprise.

He was the recipient of numerous honours and prizes; it was unfortunate that the award committee of the *Riksbanken's Prize in Memory of Alfred*

Noble, also known as the *Nobel Prize in Economics*, overlooked JPF's fundamental contribution to macroeconomic theory and economic policy. However, amongst the numerous Prizes JPF was the recipient of the Italian one of the *Fondazione Pescarabruzzo NordSud prize for the Social Sciences*.

For many years JPF was the President of the *Sciences Po* based *Observatoire français des conjonctures économiques* (OFCE), which was located very conveniently in 69, Quai d'Orsay; he had his office there, before, during and after his Presidency.

In February 1981 I had just begun my tenure as Director of Studies at Peterhouse (the oldest College in Cambridge) in succession to my teacher, Richard Goodwin, when I had a call from him in Siena to the effect that JPF wanted to interview me with the intention of employing me as his assistant; I gave a seminar at the EUI and was interviewed by JPF, who offered me the job – but stated in unambiguous words:

‘I want you here, in Fiesole – not with Goodwin in Siena.’

Thus began *my* association with JPF, EUI, Tuscany and Italy² – *which has never ceased!*

He was of Sephardic Jewish origin but was very sympathetic to all underdeveloped people and treated them with the utmost sympathy; this did not mean he was not critical of the French attitude to Jewish people and equally forceful in his critique of the Israeli state's stance on the Palestinians.

He is survived by his wife, Annie Fitoussi and his daughter and son.

² JPF ‘confessed’ many times that his years at the EUI in Fiesole were the happiest and he had a particular affection for Italy (he spoke flawless Italian).