

Resource Allocation Through Social Interaction

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One implication of Lord Robbins' famous definition is that the subject of economics is 'a series of relationships --- relationships between ends conceived as the possible objectives of conduct, on the one hand, and the technical and social environment on the other.' The technical has long been firmly entrenched in the corpus of economics; the social environment, until recently much less so. This paper surveys some recent work on the impact of social relations on economic outcomes. In particular, it surveys theoretical developments and further opportunities in the study of phenomena denoted by the contested term 'social capital'.