

The paper uses of a text based exploratory study of over 20,000 academic articles published in seven top journals from 1960-2010 in order to identify the general research foci of economists over that period and the possible trends that underlie economic research patterns as they manifest themselves in a broad set of research fields. The main finding is that Macroeconomics which is one of the top three most researched fields in economics from 1960-2010 has seen its share of research attention decline relative to other fields, notably Microeconomics.

I would like to see some explanations and commenting on this trend. What characterized this decline? The underlying research atmosphere in the late 60's up to mid-70's had to do with rational expectations and the rise of anti-inflationary policies that seemed to acquire general acceptance in the profession both at the academic and policy level in the late 70's, early 80's. After that there had been an acceptance of the main paradigm regarding business cycles management and any emphasis in macro was concentrating on long run growth, until the current crisis of 2008-2009. It would be interesting to see how the analysis fares in the period after 2009. For the case in Microeconomics the big push was game theory and the advent of establishing the theory behind behavior under uncertainty.

I would like to see an attempt by the author to comment of the trends that have been identified by the data. It would be also help if the analysis was broken in the pre- and post-1980 period to identify the period of stable inflation as a way of establishing the differences in these trends.

Minor point: The paper by Kalaitzidakis et al is published in the Journal of the European Economics Association (2003).