

CHOOSING AND EVALUATING TECHNOLOGY POLICY: A MULTICRITERIA (NON NEOCLASSICAL) APPROACH

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Abstract: The multicriteria nature of choosing and evaluating technology policy can be dealt with by outranking methods, enabling us to avoid weak approaches such as rules or routines following or best practices imitation on the one hand, and fictitious multicriteria methods on the other. Outranking methods can support concretely policy makers and social scientists respectively in choosing and evaluating technology policy. They are consistent with behavioral-evolutionary theory, and they allow enable us maintain the variety and realism of problem solving in technology policy. Being based on formal and robust algorithms, they also represent a sound theoretical alternative to neoclassical approaches, both in their orthodox or hidden versions. The adoption of outranking methods have a number of theoretical and policy implications. A tutorial (and numerical) example shows how easily they can be applied.

Keywords: behavioral-evolutionary economics, decision making, neoclassical economics, outranking methods, technology policy.