



## Human economics, human capital – a critique of biopolitical economics

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While biopolitics has become a catchword in present debates on applied life–sciences, the Foucauldian origin of the concept is almost forgotten. Foucault, and in his pathways Giorgio Agamben, analysed the efforts towards a political regulation of the population as a biological entity, but did not focus on the specific economic rationality of biopolitics. The contribution highlights this dimension by studying two different approaches to an economic theory of human life: first the concept of "Menschenökonomie", as formulated by the austrian social philosopher and sociologist Rudolf Goldscheid in the years before World War I; second the theory of human capital, whose most famous exponents are the US–economists Theodore W. Schultz and Gary S. Becker.

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