

**Rodrik, Dani. Economics rules: the rights and wrongs of the dismal science. W. W. Norton, 2015. 253p index ISBN 9780393246414, \$27.95.**

*M* is the key letter in this book: it stands most of all for models (or modeling) but also for methodology, empirical measurement, misinformation about, and misapplication and misinterpretation of those mathematical models. A respected authority on globalization, Rodrik (international political economy, Harvard) spent two years at the Institute for Advanced Study, and the present title is largely a result of that experience. He puts into this brief, coherent, readable volume his thoughts—complete with solid endnotes—about what economics, as science, has to offer noneconomists, policy makers, and others in the social sciences, and about the failures of his own discipline and what changes it has to make from within. The titles of the first four chapters—"What Models Do," "The Science of Economic Modeling," "Navigating among Models," "Models and Theories"—suggest the scope and flavor of the book; the last two chapters—"When Economists Go Wrong" and "Economics and Its Critics"—open a dialogue for all parties around the research table. The epilogue offers ten commandments for economists and ten for noneconomists; though not as profound as the ten God gave Moses, they nevertheless should instill a little humility in both factions. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals.