

**Klamer, Arjo. Speaking of economics: how to get in the conversation. Routledge, 2007. 199p bibl index ISBN 9780415395113 pbk, \$49.95**

Dutch economist Klamer eschews dry mathematics and theoretical modeling in favor of well-spun English prose "to make sense of economists and their world." Via what is to a large extent a soliloquy on his reflections about the discipline and his personal experiences with card-carrying members of that profession, this short book treats the science of economics, its use of metaphors and rhetoric to persuade, and its scholarly and cultural underpinnings. Klamer helps students of economics, philosophers and other academics, journalists, the intellectually curious, and other innocent bystanders who are forced to interact with practitioners of this strange but important science to understand how economists interact with each other and what their conversations are about--and how an outsider can get into those conversations and hold his or her own. But it is also, or certainly should be, material to be read and absorbed by those in the dismal science themselves, which could result in more effective communications in terms of their teaching, relationships with colleagues from neighboring disciplines, and intersections with the general public. This is an engaging book, in which the author's long association with, knowledge of, and affection for his field easily shows through. Summing Up: Highly recommended. General readers; upper-division undergraduate through professional collections.-- A. R. Sanderson, University of Chicago