XI Encuentro de la Asociación Ibérica de Historia del Pensamiento Económico Barcelona, 2-3 Diciembre 2022

Environmental Economics vs Ecological Economics

Manuel Santos Redondo Complutense University of Madrid

In the past half-century, society has become conscious of the negative aspects of economic growth. And economists have pay attention to the environment. Most significant were Kenneth E. Boulding, Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen and Herman Daly, and report by Club of Rome in 1972 on *The Limits to Growth*.

These studies, implicitly or explicitly, advocated for a change in the way of living, and economic degrowth. Developing countries were not happy with this. So international organizations and most governments and economist turn this critique into "sustainable development", which means that development -economic growth, not degrowth - and environmental sustainability must go together.

Natural resources and the environment had become part of mainstream economic analysis, and even prominent in the formulation of economic policies. But we can recognize two groups of in the profession: 1) those refining the economic tools to deal with the environment, or "environmental" economists; and 2) those arguing for a change in our way of life, a political revolution, and the substitution of neoclassical economics form a more radical and pluralistic view.

We want to trace the history of economic thought about the environment in the past halfcentury and discuss if these two groups can be grouped together, or they are really two different, incompatible schools.