Abstract

This article tries to establish the degree of influence of some discordant epistemological positions dealing with the problem of the environment, such as those arising from ecology and economics’ methodological and conceptual structure. The work examines the meaning of the analytical categories to which disciplinary discussion about the environment has given rise. It presents the controversy regarding the scope of economics within the context of development studies, analyses ecological economics as an alternative proposal, supported by the notion of paradigm and refers to the degree of advance of the dominant current’s critical positions.

Key words: environmental economy, scientific paradigm, ecological economy, sustainable development. JEL: O130, B490, Q570, Q010