

I love books that explain complicated things clearly. Joseph Heath uses the analytical methods of applied philosophy to assess various popular economic theories. *Filthy Lucre* is a slightly misleading and ironic title. Though his sympathies are more with the left than the right, he is reasonably even-handed: he takes six cherished beliefs from each side of the fence and carefully and lucidly demolishes them. He’s particularly good on the right’s horror of moral hazard in insurance systems, and the various well-meaning and counter-productive methods the left uses to promote equality. Not just a reaction to the latest crisis, this is an entertaining and useful contribution to popular economics.