

**ANTHROPOLOGY OF ECONOMICS:  
TOWARDS A VIRTUE ETHICS APPROACH TO PRODUCTION**

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ABSTRACT

This paper reflects on the notion of human production through an anthropological approach to economics. After briefly reviewing the cultural dimension of human life, which has been largely ignored in modern economics, we go on to present this dimension's importance for understanding not only economics and collaborative work, but also for understanding human beings' ultimate ends. Beginning with the Aristotelian view of production as a human activity subordinate to ethics and politics, we then trace how that view shifted in modernity, becoming a technical and impersonal process guided by the maximization principle. This paper then links the Aristotelian view with principles that emerged from Catholic Social Teaching (CST), showing that, contrary to the accumulation of capital that the industrialization process set off, economics properly understood involves the promotion of human work as a personal action. In turn, it requires the cooperation of many people working towards a common good, which takes priority over capital and implies the subordination of external goods to virtues.