SOCIOLOGY AND THE ECONOMIC SCIENCES
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In asking me to reflect on the relations between sociology and the economic sciences, the organizers of the IIS-congress created a nice coincidence with the publication of the second edition of *The Handbook of Economic Sociology* (Smelser and Swedberg 2005). The first appearance of that book, one decade ago (Smelser and Swedberg 1994), was meant to capture and capitalize on the recent revitalization of that subfield; the second edition was to record and systematize the ongoing momentum of the area, which has continued to be one of the most vibrant in sociology. Its appearance provides a good occasion for me to offer some recent reflections. By no means do I intend to summarize the Handbook—that might cut into its sales—but I will take the moment to offer thoughts on what I consider to be some of the most salient themes emerging from its pages.

*The Fate of Economic Man and Economic Rationality*

In this portion of my remarks I will develop a series of paradoxes concerning the evolution of fundamental underpinnings of micro-economic (and by extension much of macro-economic) theory—namely the postulate of economic rationality, its behavioral manifestations, and the dynamics of how it works out in market situations. The first paradox is that, at one time regarded as a psychological universal and the basis for economics as a system of scientific laws, that original principle has now been distorted and compromised almost beyond recognition, even though *claims* concerning its generality still exist among some economists.

The second paradox will be that while the evidence responsible for dismantling that theoretical base of economics has accumulated in the work of economists, psychologists, sociologists, and anthropologists, most of the responsibility for its demise has to be laid at the door of *economists themselves*, talking among themselves, while at the same time resisting a mountain of confirming evidence from other disciplines. I will attempt to develop some reasons for this paradox.