



518297-LLP-2011-IT-ERASMUS-FEXI

GUIDE TO TRANSLATIONS OF J. A. SCHUMPETER'S WORKS, FROM GERMAN INTO ENGLISH AND ENGLISH INTO GERMAN

NIELS GEIGER

UNIVERSITÄT HOHENHEIM
STUTTGART, GERMANY
niels.geiger@uni-hohenheim.de

ABSTRACT

This guide provides a short overview of Joseph A. Schumpeter's life, economic writings especially on economic evolution, and legacy. Particularly, it lists the major works which were translated, first from German into English, and later from English into German (and other European languages, where archived in the EE-T database).

1. INTRODUCTION

This guide aims at providing an introduction to the background of Joseph A. Schumpeter's evolving theory against which the translations of Schumpeter's works, first from German into English, and later from English into German, may be seen. It starts with an obligatory overview on Schumpeter, including a short biography, which provides links and references to his most important works, as well as secondary literature interpreting and developing further Schumpeter's positions. Section 3 adds to this a short overview of English translations of Schumpeter's early German works, and German translations of his later English publications, including links to entries and available e-translations on the [EE-T website](#). Some exercises and a short test conclude the guide.

2. THE AUTHOR: JOSEPH ALOIS SCHUMPETER

2.1. BIOGRAPHY

Joseph Alois Schumpeter was born on February 8th 1883, the same year as Keynes, in Třešť, then part of Austria-Hungary, as the only child to clothing industrialist Josef Schumpeter and his wife Johanna. After the father's early death, the family moved to Graz in 1888, where Schumpeter's future step-father Sigismund von Kéler, field marshall in the Austro-Hungarian army, would take Schumpeter under his wings.

In 1893, the family moved to Vienna where Schumpeter visited the renowned [Theresianum](#). After graduating from this school in 1901, Schumpeter immediately began to study at the [University of Vienna](#), where he gained a doctoral degree as Dr. iur. (i.e. in law) in early 1906. Schumpeter's economic teachers at the University of Vienna included Friedrich von Wieser, and in the summer semester of 1905, he notably participated in Eugen von Böhm-Bawerk's economic seminar, together with other, later famous economists such as Emil Lederer, Ludwig von Mises, Rudolf Hilferding and others.

After one year of studies in England, Schumpeter initiated his habilitation in October 1908, complete in March 1909, with [Das Wesen und der Hauptinhalt der theoretischen Nationalökonomie](#). For part of the following two semesters, he was *Privatdozent* at the University of Vienna, before becoming extra-ordinary Professor in the winter semester of 1909/1910 at the Franz-Joseph-University, today's [Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University](#), in Chernivtsi, then part of Austria-Hungary, now in the Ukraine. Already in 1911, however, Schumpeter moved on to the [Karl-Franzens-University of Graz](#), where he would stay for 10 years. Schumpeter's move is particularly noteworthy because Schumpeter was pushed by Eugen von Böhm-Bawerk, against the explicit will of the faculty. From 1913-1914, Schumpeter was also appointed visiting professor at New York's [Columbia University](#).



518297-LLP-2011-IT-ERASMUS-FEXI

After leaving Graz in 1921 and a venture into bank management, Schumpeter took his next academic position in 1925 as professor of public finance at the [University of Bonn](#), following a call by fellow business cycle and crises theorist Arthur Spiethoff. After a move to Berlin had failed in 1931-32, Schumpeter ultimately left Bonn in 1932 to become professor at [Harvard University](#), where he had already been a visiting professor in 1927-28 and 1930, and then stayed until the end of his life. Schumpeter's academic achievement was crowned late in his life when he became President to the [American Economic Association](#), publisher of premier economic journals such as the *American Economic Review*, in 1948.

Throughout his life, Schumpeter was not only active as an economist, but as a "practical man" as well. These episodes, however, often did not turn out to be quite successful. From 1907-1908, Schumpeter worked as a lawyer at the international court in Cairo. After World War I, Schumpeter first advised the socialization committee for the Weimar Republic's first government, before he shortly ventured into politics as he was appointed head of treasury in the Austrian Republic, a position he was dismissed from soon afterwards. Between 1921 and 1924, stepping back from his professorship in Graz and before receiving the call to Bonn, Schumpeter was the unsuccessful President of the Biedermann Bank. When the bank collapsed in 1924, Schumpeter took over some of the company's debts as private dept.

Schumpeter, the Austrian cosmopolitan who had attained German citizenship in 1925, and US-American citizenship in 1939, died childless on January 1st, 1950 in Taconic (CT), one month before his 67th birthday.

As with other great economists, the academic literature provides an array of Schumpeter biographies. A standard reference is probably [Joseph Alois Schumpeter. The Public Life of a Private Man](#) by Schumpeter's student Wolfgang F. Stolper (1994). Another longer biography has been written by Richard Swedberg (1991). After Schumpeter's death, *The Review of Economics and Statistics* published an [obituary issue](#) which contains articles by Samuelson, Tinbergen, Haberler and others which primarily discuss Schumpeter's works, but also other parts of his biography. [Another article](#) by Haberler (1950) illustrates Schumpeter's life in the first sections as well. A very concise biography can also be found on pp. 215-217 of Mark Blaug's (1986) [Great Economists before Keynes](#).

For the German reader, additional biographical sources are available. For a comprehensive overview, the books by Erich Schneider (1970) and Heinz D. Kurz and Richard Storn (2012) are definitely worth a look. The first section of Stephan Böhm's (2008) article also provides a short biographical overview. Online, there is a short biography available on Ulrich Hedtke's [website](#).

2.2. MAJOR WORKS

Maybe also owing to the fact that Schumpeter first published both his monographs and scientific papers in German, and then gradually more and more in English, there are no collected writings available which would offer a complete impression of Schumpeter's life-time efforts. However, a good impression of Schumpeter's primary research interests and core theoretical ideas can be gained from his major monographs. The following list will therefore be limited to some references, a more complete list of relevant writings by Schumpeter may be found in the listed secondary literature.

The primary topic of interest to Schumpeter, which he dealt with most extensively and intensely throughout both monographs and individual papers, had always been the theory of economic development, i.e. for Schumpeter the theory of business cycles (economic fluctuations), driven through innovation put forward by a pioneering entrepreneur, and economic growth. According to Schumpeter (1939, p. v), "[a]nalyzing business cycles means neither more nor less than analyzing the economic process of the capitalist era." Schumpeter discussed the question of economic development through business cycles thoroughly in the [Theorie der wirtschaftlichen Entwicklung](#) (1912), the [Business Cycles](#) (1939) and [Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy](#) (1942). The most relevant papers dealing with this kind of economic dynamics are probably "Die Wellenbewegung des Wirtschaftslebens" (1914-15), "[The Explanation of the Business Cycle](#)", a review of Pigou's [Industrial Fluctuations](#) (1927), "[The Instability of Capitalism](#)" (1928) and "[The Analysis of Economic Change](#)".

Schumpeter was always more than a pure theorist, and is especially renowned for his knowledge and systematic ordering respectively analysis of the history of economic thought. Already in 1914, he published an article in German, entitled "Epochen Der Dogmen- und Methodengeschichte", which appeared in a book edited



518297-LLP-2011-IT-ERASMUS-FEXI

by Max Weber. The monumental volume he started to work on later in life, which was then published posthumously, is the [History of Economic Analysis](#), a standard reference in the field even today.

As concerns the secondary literature, to get an impression of the topics Schumpeter wrote about, and especially of his own opinions on all kinds of economic and related topics, the aforementioned [obituary issue](#) in *The Review of Economics and Statistics* from 1951 provides a good starting point. The same applies for Haberler (1950), who summarizes Schumpeter's contributions to economics in a later section and also discusses the question of why, at the time of Schumpeter's death, he had not left a more decisive mark on the discipline yet (see the next section for a more detailed overview of Schumpeter's legacy). A lengthy and elaborate discussion of the ideas expressed in Schumpeter's work, and how they evolved over time, can be found in Esben Andersen's [2011 book](#). The role of the central concept of "creative destruction" in Schumpeter's various writings is elaborately discussed by [McCraw](#) (2007). Hagemann (2003) specifically analyzes Schumpeter's early (German), contributions to crises and business cycle theory.

The German reader is referred to section 2 (pp. 145 ff.) in Böhm (2008) as well as to Hagemann (2008), who elaborates on Schumpeter's theory of economic development, i.e. his explanation of economic fluctuations and growth. Online, you can find a great comprehensive overview of Schumpeter's works on the [website](#) of Ulrich Hedtke.

2.3. INTERPRETATION AND LEGACY

During Schumpeter's lifetime, the mark he left on economics remained relatively unspectacular. In the 1930s and 1940s, the influence of Keynes on the discipline had been far more notable instead. However, later decades, especially since the 1980s, brought increasing interest in Schumpeterian theory and ideas, so that today, there is a diverse, broad and prolific branch of so-called neo-Schumpeterian theory which forms subsets of growth theory and evolutionary economics. The shift in economic policy to supply-side approaches in the 1980s, personified by Ronald Reagan in the USA and Margaret Thatcher in the UK, has been labelled "[The Age of Schumpeter](#)" by Herbert Giersch (1984). This delayed development is exemplified when searching for "Schumpeter" or "Schumpeterian" in the [JSTOR](#) database (especially in the [Data For Research](#) engine). Searching for Schumpeter on [WorldCat Identities](#), connected to the vast international WorldCat database, will also provide you with [some interesting figures](#).

The neo-Schumpeterian literature, although often not much older than about 25 years, has grown to a substantial size since then, so a comprehensive overview is impossible to achieve here. The following references will, however, provide a starting point and give a first impression of what directions this literature takes, and may therefore serve as point of departure for a further venture into the literature.

In general, although not directly bearing Schumpeter's name, [evolutionary economics](#) picked up his dynamic vision of the economy and economic development (see, for example, Nelson and Winter 2002 and Witt 2008). Looking at neo-Schumpeterian economics in particular, one major branch of this literature is neo-Schumpeterian growth theory, a subfield of endogenous neoclassical growth theory. Primarily relevant texts from this literature are Grossman and Helpman (1991) and Aghion and Howitt (1992). Aghion and Howitt also published two prominent textbooks on their vision of neo-Schumpeterian growth theory (1998; 2009). Next to this, there are more orthodox branches of neo-Schumpeterian thinking. An excellent overview of the different topics discussed can be gained from the collective volume by Hanusch and Pyka (2007a), the [Elgar Companion to Neo-Schumpeterian Economics](#). While Aghion and Howitt primarily centre their discussion around the Schumpeterian term of "[creative destruction](#)" (see Caballero 2008 for an overview of the usage of the term in both Schumpeter and later writings; see [Aghion 2008](#) for economic policy insights gained from Aghion and Howitt's model), the literature assembled by Hanusch and Pyka provides a more comprehensive perspective, especially on economic policy. This is summarized in [another paper](#) as well (Hanusch and Pyka 2007b).

Taking a broad perspective, much of economic literature discussing innovation today can indeed be traced back to Schumpeter. This applies especially to theories incorporating the idea of "long" [Kondratieff waves](#) (see Solomou 2008a; named by Schumpeter after Russian economist [Nikolai Kondratieff](#), see Solomou 2008b), as for example [Freeman and Louçã](#) (2001). The same applies for modern discussions of entrepreneurs and their role for economic development, see for example [Baumol and Schilling](#) (2008) or the [respective handbook](#) edited



518297-LLP-2011-IT-ERASMUS-FEXI

by Casson et al. (2006). The German reader is referred to Böhm (2008) once more, on this particular issue pp. 155 ff.

Additionally, a somewhat superficial impression of Schumpeter's legacy can also be gained from two further noteworthy online sources which deserve a special mention. The first one is the website of the [International Schumpeter Society](#), founded in 1986 on initiative of Horst Hanusch and Wolfgang F. Stolper, where you can find general information about Schumpeterian economics today. Furthermore, in 2005, the [Graz Schumpeter Centre, associate partner of the EE-T project](#), was founded by Heinz D. Kurz at Schumpeter's long-time university. On their website, you can also find recent publications relating to Schumpeter's and Schumpeterian economics.

3. TRANSLATIONS OF SCHUMPETER'S EARLY GERMAN WORK, AND GERMAN TRANSLATIONS OF HIS LATER ENGLISH WRITINGS

Earlier in his academic life, Schumpeter almost exclusively published in German, and then more and more of his work originally appeared in English. There are translations of both the German work into English, as well as the English publications into German. The following list provides links to the respective translation entries in the [EE-T database](#), where additional information on the translations can be obtained.

- Schumpeter's first monograph, his habilitation thesis from 1908/09, was translated (rather badly) into English and published only as late as 2010 by Transaction Publishers as [The Nature and Essence of Economic Theory](#) (edited by Bruce A. McDaniel). The *Wesen* was also translated into [Italian](#) (1982).
- The first of his monographs on economic development, the *Theorie der wirtschaftlichen Entwicklung*, was translated into English and published in 1934 by Harvard University Press as *The Theory of Economic Development. An Inquiry Into Profits, Capital, Credit, Interest, and the Business Cycle*. A second edition was published in 1951. These editions were based on the 2nd German edition of 1926, in which the seventh chapter had been omitted by Schumpeter. An [English translation of the second half of this chapter](#) was only just released in 2002 by [Markus Becker and Thorbjørn Knudsen](#) in the *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*. One year later, a translation of the whole chapter by Ursula Backhaus was published in [a volume on Schumpeter](#). Next to this eminent English translation of the *Theorie*, you can also find information on [Italian \(1932 and 1971\)](#), [French](#) (1935, 1983) and [Spanish](#) (1967) translations into on EE-T website.

After his move to Harvard in 1932, Schumpeter's publications primarily appeared in English. All of the three monographs of this time, however, were translated into German.

- In addition to the monographs, the short article "[The Analysis of Economic Change](#)", which neatly summarizes Schumpeter's core theses, was translated into German by Helmut Kramer, and featured as "[Die Analyse von Veränderungen der Wirtschaft](#)" in the collective volume *Konjunktur- und Beschäftigungstheorie* edited by Wilhelm Weber and published by Kiepenheuer & Witsch in 1967.
- The *Business Cycles*, originally published in English in 1939, were translated into German by Klaus Dockhorn and first published in 1961 by Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht with an introduction by Cord Siemon as [Konjunkturzyklen. Eine theoretische, historische und statistische Analyse des kapitalistischen Prozesses](#). A second edition of the same translation was released in 2008.
- The 1942 oeuvre *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy* was translated by Susanne Preiswerk soon after the original publication and already published in 1946 by Francke in Bern, Switzerland, with an introduction by Edgar Salin as [Kapitalismus, Sozialismus und Demokratie](#). The translation went into several editions, with the second released in 1950, and the third in 1972. [More recent editions](#), were published in 1993 (7th) and 2005 (8th), with an introduction by Eberhard K. Seifert.
- Schumpeter's posthumously published *History of Economic Analysis* was first published in German by Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht in 1965, edited by Gottfried and Johanna Frenzel, as [Geschichte der ökonomischen Analyse](#). Two further editions followed in 2007 and 2009, respectively.

Through the various translations of Schumpeter's work, especially when looking at what exactly was translated, and also taking Schumpeter's own prefaces and introductions into account, one can also follow the evolving states in Schumpeter's own theory. See the [related EE-T research paper](#) on this issue.



518297-LLP-2011-IT-ERASMUS-FEXI

REFERENCES

- Aghion, Philippe (2008), "Schumpeterian growth and growth policy design", in Steven N. Durlauf and Lawrence E. Blume (eds), *The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics*, 2nd ed., London: Palgrave Macmillan. Online version: http://www.dictionaryofeconomics.com/article?id=pde2008_G000176
- Aghion, Philippe, Howitt, Peter (1992), "A Model of Growth Through Creative Destruction", *Econometrica* 60(2), pp. 323-351.
- Aghion, Philippe, Howitt, Peter (1998), *Endogenous growth theory*, Cambridge: MIT Press.
- Aghion, Philippe, Howitt, Peter (2009), *The Economics of Growth*, Cambridge: MIT Press.
- Andersen, Esben Sloth (2011), *Joseph A. Schumpeter. A Theory of Social and Economic Evolution*, London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Baumol, William J., Schilling, Melissa A (2008), "entrepreneurship", in Steven N. Durlauf and Lawrence E. Blume (eds), *The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics*, 2nd ed., London: Palgrave Macmillan. Online version: http://www.dictionaryofeconomics.com/article?id=pde2008_E000274
- Blaug, Mark (1986), *Great Economists before Keynes: An Introduction to the Lives & Works of One Hundred Great Economists of the Past*, Brighton: Wheatsheaf.
- Böhm, Stephan (2008), "Joseph A. Schumpeter (1883-1950)", in Heinz D. Kurz (ed.), *Von Vilfredo Pareto bis Amartya Sen*, vol 2 of *Klassiker des ökonomischen Denkens*, München: C. H. Beck, pp. 137-160.
- Caballero, Ricardo J. (2008), "creative destruction", in Steven N. Durlauf and Lawrence E. Blume (eds), *The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics*, 2nd ed., London: Palgrave Macmillan. Online version: http://www.dictionaryofeconomics.com/article?id=pde2008_C000421
- Casson, Mark, Basu, Anuradha, Wadeson, Nigel, Yeung, Bernard (eds) (2006), *The Oxford handbook of entrepreneurship*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Freeman, Christopher, Louçã, Francisco (2001), *As Time Goes By. From the Industrial Revolutions to the Information Revolution?*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Giersch, Herbert (1984), "The Age of Schumpeter", *The American Economic Review* 74(2), pp. 103-109.
- Grossman, Gene M., Helpman, Elhanan (1991), "Quality Ladders in the Theory of Growth", *The Review of Economic Studies* 58(1), pp. 43-61.
- Haberler, Gottfried (1950), "Joseph Alois Schumpeter 1883-1950", *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 64(3), pp. 333-372.
- Hagemann, Harald (2003), "Schumpeter's early contributions on crises theory and business-cycle theory", *History of Economic Ideas* XI(1), pp. 47-67.
- Hagemann, Harald (2008), "Schumpeters Konjunktur- und Wachstumstheorie", in Reinhard Neck (ed.), *Die Österreichische Schule der Nationalökonomie*, Frankfurt a. M.: Peter Lang, pp. 149-176.
- Hanusch, Horst, Pyka, Andreas (eds) (2007a), *Elgar Companion to Neo-Schumpeterian Economics*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.



518297-LLP-2011-IT-ERASMUS-FEXI

- Hanusch, Horst, Pyka, Andreas (2007b), "Principles of Neo-Schumpeterian Economics", *Cambridge Journal of Economics* 31(2), pp. 275-289.
- Kurz, Heinz D., Sturn, Richard (2012), *Schumpeter für jedermann: Von der Rastlosigkeit des Kapitalismus*, Frankfurt: FAZ Buch.
- McCraw, Thomas K. (2007), *Prophet of Innovation. Joseph Schumpeter and Creative Destruction*, Cambridge (MA) and London: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.
- Nelson, Richard R., Winter, Sidney G. (2002), "Evolutionary Theorizing in Economics", *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 16(2), pp. 23-46.
- Pigou, Arthur Cecil (1927), *Industrial Fluctuations*, London: Macmillan.
- Schneider, Erich (1970), *Joseph A. Schumpeter. Leben und Werk eines großen Sozialökonom*, Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck.
- Schumpeter, Joseph Alois (1914-15), "Die Wellenbewegung des Wirtschaftslebens", *Archiv für Sozialwissenschaft und Sozialpolitik* 39, pp. 1-32.
- Solomou, S. N. (2008a), "Kondratieff cycles", in Steven N. Durlauf and Lawrence E. Blume (eds), *The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics*, 2nd ed., London: Palgrave Macmillan. Online version: http://www.dictionaryofeconomics.com/article?id=pde2008_K000037
- Solomou, S. N. (2008b), "Kondratieff, Nikolai Dmitrievich (1892–1938)", in Steven N. Durlauf and Lawrence E. Blume (eds), *The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics*, 2nd ed., London: Palgrave Macmillan. Online version: http://www.dictionaryofeconomics.com/article?id=pde2008_K000038
- Stolper, Wolfgang F. (1994), *Joseph Alois Schumpeter. The Public Life of a Private Man*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Swedberg, Richard (1991), *Schumpeter. A Biography*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Witt, Ulrich (2008), "evolutionary economics", in Steven N. Durlauf and Lawrence E. Blume (eds), *The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics*, 2nd ed., London: Palgrave Macmillan. Online version: http://www.dictionaryofeconomics.com/article?id=pde2008_E000295