

## ELEVEN PROPOSITIONS (ATTACHED TO THE THESIS)

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1. Choice anomalies prompt economists to adopt reformist modeling strategies that pursue explanatory progress as scope expansion and enhanced causal articulation.
2. The use of unrealistic behavioral assumptions does not thwart a realist (anti-instrumentalist) perspective on scientific models and theories.
3. Contrary to folk wisdom, emotions are not sand in the machinery for rational decision-making.
4. Emotions serve three evolutionary functions – biological preparedness, cognitive guidance and interpersonal communication (signaling) – that enable boundedly rational agents to make quick and often adaptive judgments and decisions.
5. Emotions have inner capacities that enable them to play non-negligible causal roles in economically relevant patterns of intertemporal choice, decision under risk and prosocial choice.
6. Our thinking brain (mind) contains specialized circuits designed by natural selection to resolve adaptive problems recurrently posed to our hunter gatherer ancestors that sometimes differ radically from the problems we are currently confronted with.
7. History does offer a rich source of information to test models/theories, to unveil processes by which (sub) optimal behavior patterns come about, and even to recommend effective policy measures.
8. Just like many poets and novelists, economists come up with models and metaphors that aim to persuade others about their capacity to represent, communicate and nurture highly valued standards – efficiency and rationality.
9. There is not much gained by agreeing that institutions matter for economic performance given that it is not clear yet how exactly they participate in the complex causal chain of events that give rise to the wealth and poverty of nations.
10. An important challenge posed to political bodies among other organizations is how to design and implement organizations and institutions that better allocate our scarce attention to the contemporary world characterized by an abundance of information.
11. There's no metaphysics on earth like chocolates (after Fernando Pessoa).