

Factoring “impact” in the history of economic (symposium title)

“Observing through 2-year impact Windows”

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- I. Introduction
- II. Clarivate’s impact factor suppression: four history and five general economics journals
- III. JIF variability, academic conversation and citation practices
- IV. The use and abusing of science citation indexing and 2-year impact factors
- V. This mini-symposium

Table 1. 2011-2018 JIFs: four history and five general economics journals

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<i>JHET</i>	0.420	0.047	0.326	0.133	0.609	0.490	1.347	0.761
<i>HOPE</i>	0.247	0.227	0.120	0.308	0.467	0.595	1.415	1.152
<i>EJHET</i>	0.197	0.227	0.172	0.237	0.312	0.325	1.147	0.440
<i>HEI</i>	0.185	0.118	0.067	0.088	0.147	0.186	0.289	0.289
<i>AER</i>	2.693	2.792	3.305	3.673	3.833	4.026	4.528	4.097
<i>QJE</i>	5.920	5.278	5.966	6.654	5.538	6.662	7.863	11.775
<i>JPE</i>	2.902	3.483	3.617	3.593	3.750	3.923	5.247	6.342
<i>REStat</i>	2.664	2.346	2.718	2.749	2.979	2.926	3.510	3.636
<i>REStud</i>	2.810	2.860	3.235	4.038	4.077	4.030	4.455	4.767

Fig 1a: Normalized JIFs for Historical Four, 2011-2018 (2011=100), excluding 2017 HEI survey cites

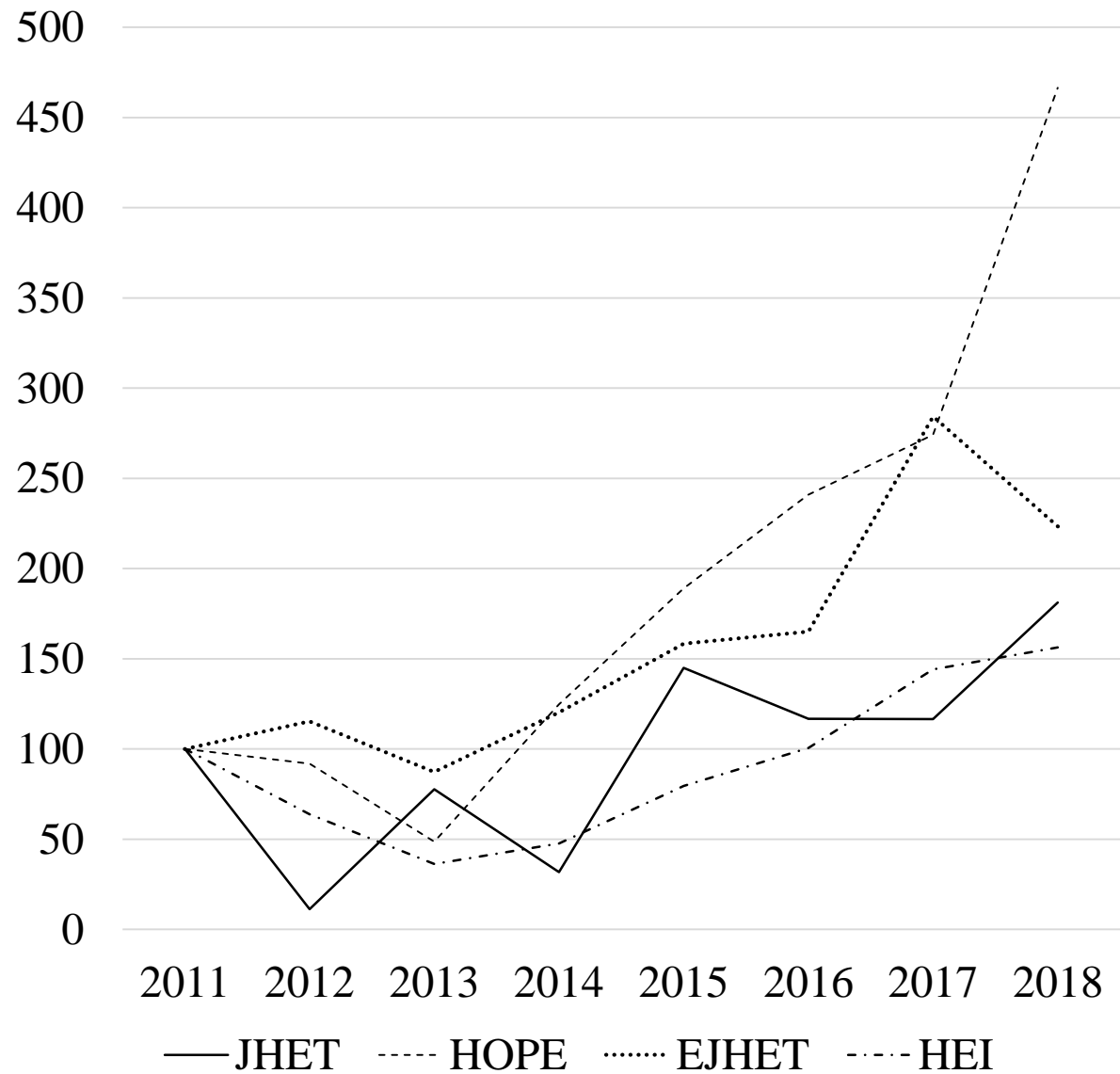


Fig. 1b: Normalized JIFs for General Five, 2011-2018 (2011=100)

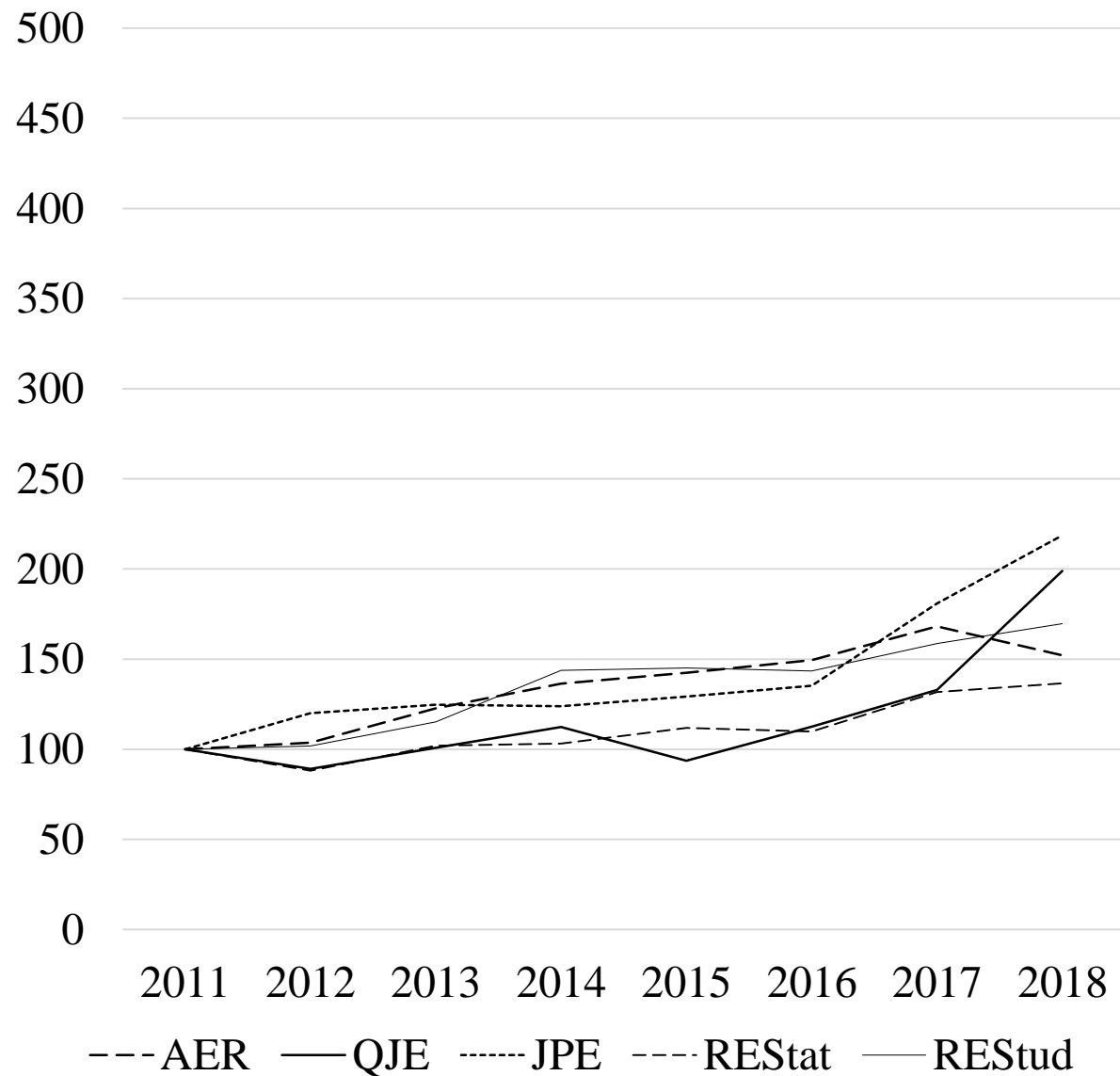
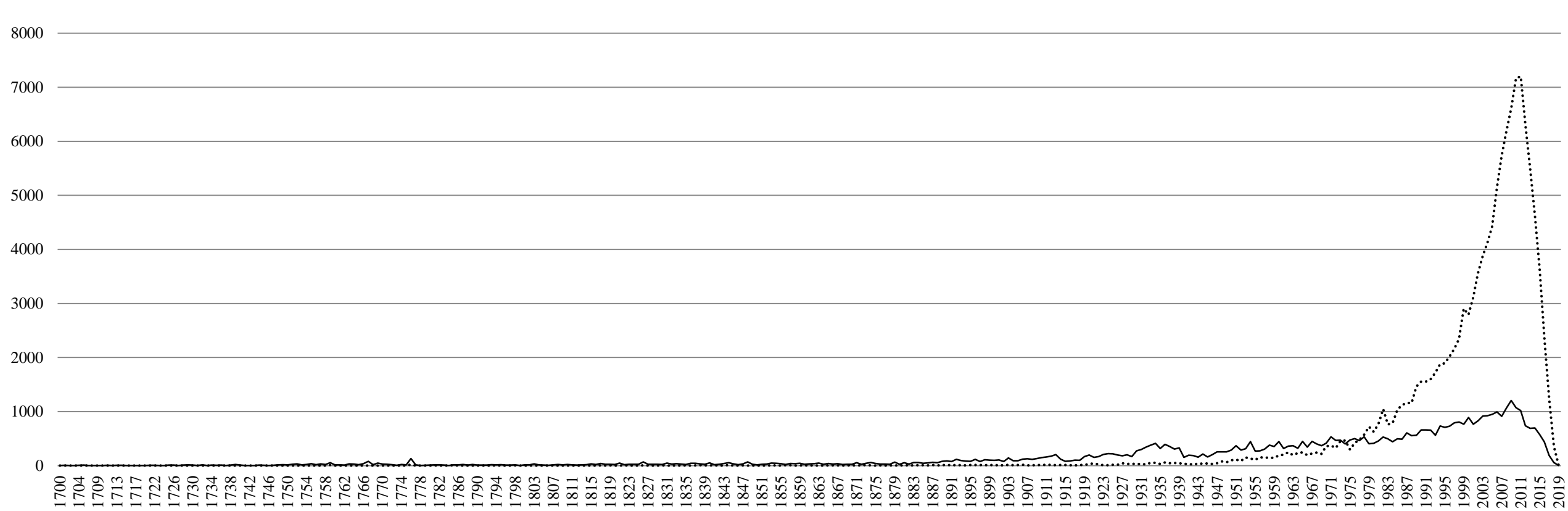


Table 2. Cited references (2011-2018): historical four (H4) vs. top five (T5) journals

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<u>H4 average cited references</u>	46.0	50.4	58.1	50.4	57.2	58.8	64.8	55.7
In 2-year windows (%)	4.1	2.9	2.6	2.6	3.5	3.7	6.4	3.9
In 5-year windows (%)	10.4	8.7	9.6	9.8	9.9	9.9	13.1	10.4
In 15-year windows (%)	27.2	25.8	26.8	27.6	28.2	28.1	30.4	27.0
<u>T5 average cited references</u>	30.1	33.1	34.9	36.8	38.3	37.0	37.8	52.3
In 2-year windows (%)	13.7	13.8	12.8	13.7	12.5	12.9	11.5	10.4
In 5-year windows (%)	32.8	33.7	31.7	33.4	31.3	32.5	29.2	28.4
In 15-year windows (%)	67.9	67.2	66.7	68.1	66.2	68.4	64.5	65.7



	T5	H4
Articles & reviews (#)	3,305	973
Cited references (#)	123,005	53,680
Cited references by document	37,2	55,2
Average year	2001	1964
90% cited references	1983	1902
75% cited references	1996	1943
50% cited references	2006	1980
25% cited references	2011	2001
10% cited references	2013	2010

FROM CITATION INDEXING TO BIBLIOGRAPHIC COUPLING TO
CO-CITATION ANALYSIS 1955-74

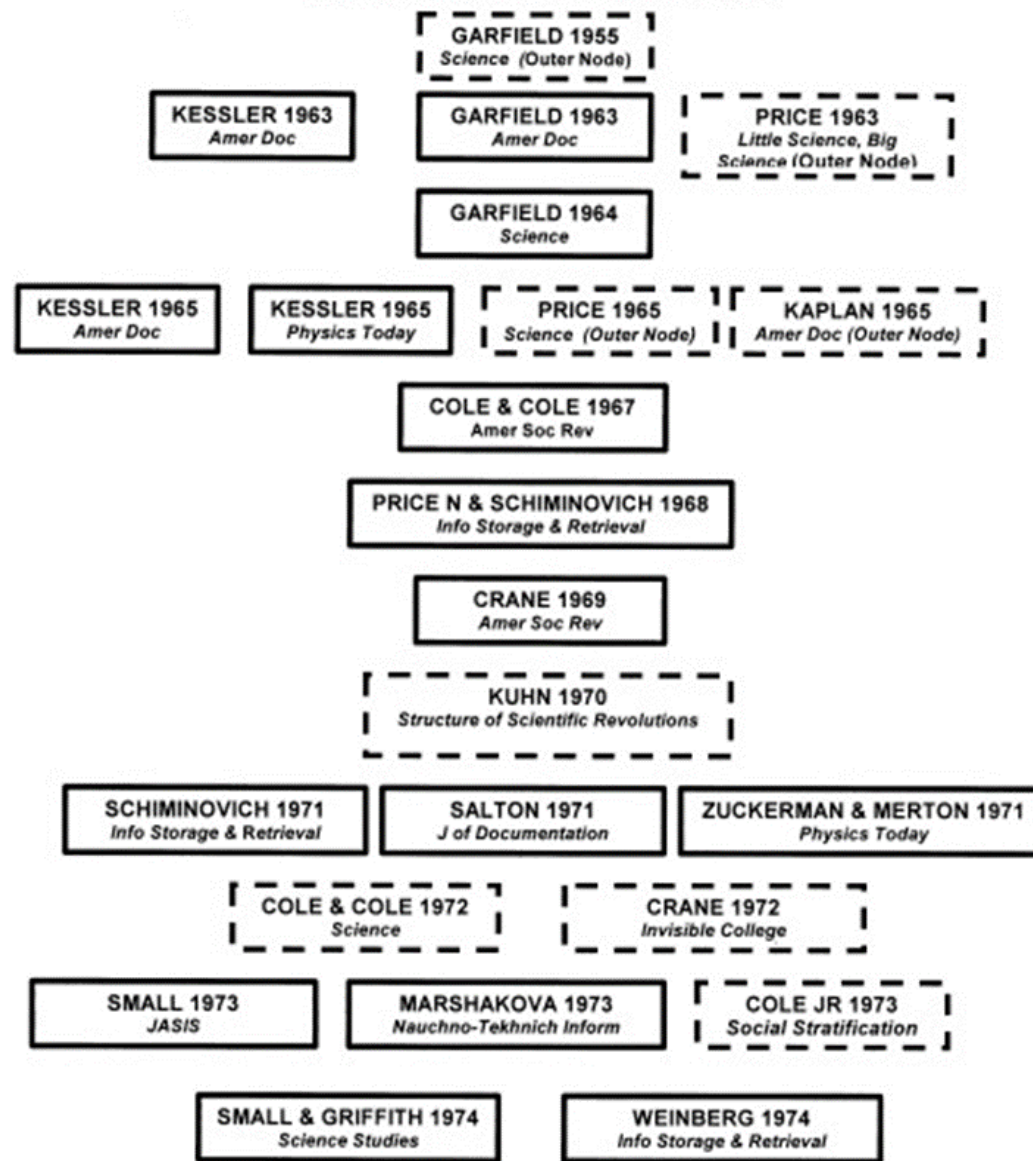


FIGURE 2. Historiograph. Dotted lines indicate outer references (Garfield et al. 2003).

Unlike historiographs, using the SCl for evaluative purposes blossomed following Garfield's (1972) first JIF descriptions [...]. Displayed in a lengthy "Special Discussion Issue on Journal Impact Factor" (*Scientometrics*, 2012, Vol. 92, No. 2), controversy around JIFs reveals multiple misuses (and misunderstandings):

- (i) Citation frequencies depend on many variables besides scientific merit, and JIFs do not serve as measures of quality (despite widespread opinion they do). They were created to help managing library journal collections.
- (ii) JIFs are not comparable across disciplines. They are field specific, as local citation practices will show differently in 2-year (or any other time) windows.
- (iii) Citation frequencies are skewed and capture many different sorts of anecdotal citing behavior. JIFs, however, are calculated as averages to "citable items" by journal, and may be also affected by coding mistakes in the JCR system.
- (iv) The use of JIFs to evaluate individuals is controversial. Evaluators should read the articles to make their personal judgments about the authors, instead of using JIFs for such evaluative purposes.

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1. “Observing through 2-year impact Windows” (J. Edwards, S. Meardon)
2. “Impact factor pressures, scientific practices, and the place of review articles in the history of economics” (E. Pinzón-Fuchs, C. Chassonnery-Zaïgouche, Catherine Herfeld)
 3. “Down with high citation counts” (J. Forder)
4. “The Journal Impact Factor might be useful, but not to measure” (M. Vergara Fernández)
5. “Understanding the effects of Journal Impact Factors on the publishing behavior of historians of economics” (J. Hurtado, E. Pinzón-Fuchs)
 6. “The reduced impact of impact factors in the history of economics community” (J-L. Cardoso)