



**Torkel Aschehoug and
Norwegian Historical Economic Thought**
Reconsidering a Forgotten Norwegian Economist Pioneer
Mathilde C. Fasting

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Description

Explores the economic thought of prominent Norwegian legal theorist and politician Torkel Halvorsen Aschehoug (1822–1909) during the last decades of the nineteenth century, focusing on his historical-empirical approach to economics.

'Mathilde C. Fasting's book is a fascinating and highly readable account of the most influential economist in Norwegian intellectual life in the late nineteenth century. Fasting carefully traces and analyses the intellectual impulses behind Aschehoug's thinking, making this book a valuable contribution.' —*Professor Einar Lie, University of Oslo*

The historical schools of economics have been neglected within the arena of economic theory since the Second World War in favour of the now-dominant classical and neoclassical schools of economic thought. **Torkel Aschehoug and Norwegian Economic Thought** offers a reevaluation of the historical-empirical approach to economics that the Norwegian legal theorist and politician Aschehoug became renowned for during the last decades of the nineteenth century up to his death in 1909.

Fasting approaches Aschehoug's economic thought in relation to his Norwegian colleagues, as well as the dominant international economists of the time. This comparison shows a theoretical affiliation with Gustav von Schmoller, in particular, through Aschehoug's major work *Socialøkonomik*, as well as British economist Alfred Marshall's marginal theory. Fasting blends a historical account of the dominant economic models of the late 1800s with a review of contemporary theory through recent economic crises. This work argues that Aschehoug's *Socialøkonomik* is strikingly relevant to a present-day readership, revealing itself as a work which offers real insight into the reasons for economic collapse.

Readership: This book will be useful to students of global nineteenth-century economics at undergraduate, postgraduate and advanced research levels.

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About the Author

Mathilde C. Fasting has just finished her doctorate in political science at the University of Erfurt, Germany.

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