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Abstract: Over the past four decades, top economics journals have virtually eliminated critical commentary (comments, replies, rejoinders, and the like). This article shows the data and discusses these steep declines in critical commentary. To the extent that critical commentary is beneficial to scientific inquiry, editorial opposition to critical commentary is detrimental to the advancement of economic knowledge.

Key words: Critical commentary, scientific inquiry, debate, editorial policy, prejudice, error, reliability, animosity, vanity

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