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**How do robust abstract economic models explain?**

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*Abstract*

I shall try to answer the question how robust abstract economic models explain; my main illustrative example is the Sakoda-Schelling model of (racial) segregation. I shall presuppose that abstract economic models deliver for the real world how-possibly explanations at best. The crucial question is how can model results be transferred to real-world phenomena. I shall propose to reframe this transfer problem in the following way. Robust model results inductively support a conjectured, non-obvious logical truth that can be immediately applied both to the model world and to the real world, thereby delivering how-possibly explanations. I shall develop this thesis in 9 steps gradually dismantling its counter-intuitive character. The result will be that the function of robust abstract models is to tease out non-obvious explanatory consequences of theories (evolutionary theory, e.g.) or mechanisms (Schelling dynamics, e.g.) that cannot be directly inferred from them.