

Velthuis, Olav

Article

Note from the editor

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear reader,

In this issue Daniel Miller replies to Michel Callon, in a discussion that was started in the British journal *Economy and Society* a couple of years ago, and continued in the previous issue of this newsletter. In his response, Miller emphasizes the similarities between his own notion of virtualism and Callon's notion of performativity. At the same time, however he argues that only some institutions (such as the IMF and the World Bank) have the power and ability to actualize their (neoclassical) economic models in the real world. In that respect, Miller distinguishes grand Kapitalism from numerous forms of small, everyday capitalisms; the latter can only be understood by sticking to 'the integrity of ethnographic observation.' In short, Miller's response is a must read, if only for its implicit motto for economic sociologists: 'economic life is rarely the way it purports to be.'

Also in this issue, Richard Swedberg tells in an interview how he got involved in economic sociology and how the Handbook of Economic Sociology (including the second edition, that recently came out) came about. Marieke de Goede sketches the contours of one of the most active fields within economic sociology: social studies of finance. De Goede shows how work on finance is done in a multitude of disciplines, including law, gender studies and geography. As to what the core themes should be, De Goede identifies three: performativity, resocialization and repoliticisation of financial practices. And then of course there are the usual book reviews, call for papers, and recent literature, which is this time recommended by Peter Levin.

The editorial committee and I would also like to inform you that we are going to update the website of the newsletter (<http://econsoc.mpifg.de>) even more frequently, so that it functions even better as the prime source of information for economic sociologists on the web. This means that call for papers, job openings and other announcements can always be sent to me, after which they will be put on the website right away. Please check the website regularly.

Also, we would like to put together a collection of course syllabi for everybody to consult on the website. To that purpose, if you have ever taught a course on economic sociology, we hope you will be willing to share the syllabus with us. Syllabi can be submitted by email to me or to Jens Beckert (beckert@mpifg.de). By the way: Beckert, member of the editorial committee and since long involved with the newsletter, has recently been appointed director of the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies. We would like to congratulate him with his appointment, and wish him all the best in Cologne.

The deadline for the next issue is September 15th. As always, articles, book reviews and conference reports are welcome.

Enjoy!

Olav Velthuis
velthuis@dds.nl