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Article

Note from the editor

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Note from the editor

Dear reader,

In this issue you will find a coda to the previous special issue on historical perspectives. Bruce Carruthers gives a plethora of reasons why economic sociology should take history seriously. The simple answer? 'Because it matters.'

Edward Nik-Khah provides a critique of Michel Callon's performativity thesis (see volume 6, no. 2 of this newsletter). Callon's and Donald MacKenzie's classical example of performativity are the spectrum auctions of the American Federal Communications Commission, where game theory allegedly was constitutive, not merely descriptive, of the auctions' design. On the basis of a detailed empirical account, however, Nik-Khah disputes the performativity thesis.

Niall Bond explains how Joseph Schumpeter was key in classifying Max Weber as a sociologist rather than an economist. In particular, while Weber redefined the limits

of the discipline of economics through the merging of the "social" and the "economic" in his notion of *Sozialökonomik* (social economics), Schumpeter rejected Weber's project in hostile terms.

In the interview series Frank Trentmann, director of the Cultures of Consumption research programme of the British Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), answers ten questions about consumption. Fabian Muniesa of Ecole des Mines (Paris) recommends readers recent literature in economic sociology. As usual, you will find job announcements and calls for papers in the back of this issue.

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