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Article

Note from the editor

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Note from the editor

Dear reader,

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to this issue of the European Economic Sociology Newsletter as its new editor. I follow in the footsteps of my able predecessor Olav Velthuis whom I thank for his great work over the past two years as well as his generous advice and support during the editorial transition. I am grateful to the Editorial Board for their vote of confidence.

I take on my editorial responsibilities with excitement and commitment to contribute to a project, which strives to be a forum for new ideas and stimulating discussions in economic sociology. With more than 1200 subscribers and many regular website visitors, the European Economic Sociology Newsletter (EESN) is a wide reaching outlet in Europe and beyond. I look forward to helping this project grow further in its theoretical, empirical and geographical scope. The issue in front of you is a step in this direction.

While providing a broad range of stimulating contributions, this issue pays special attention to comparative cross-national economic sociology. Comparison, as Durkheim claimed, is integral to sociology. Not surprisingly, an increasing number of economic sociologists employ comparisons to examine the varieties of economic outcomes across countries, regions, organizations, and other social groups. Comparison helps reveal the diversity and/or commonality in macro-economic organization, market outcomes, work patterns, economic practices within households, and other areas of economic life. This issue presents a sampling of this diverse research and extends an invitation to economic sociologists to think in broadly comparative terms.

Setting the comparative stage, Lars Mjøset reflects upon the study of Nordic varieties of capitalism to put forth, as he states, "a plea for contextual generalization through comparative specification." Moving from a cross-national comparison of capitalist organization to a cross-national comparison of organizational outcomes, Marta Kahancová employs an opportune research design by contrasting work practices and industrial relations of four firms in different European countries, all subsidiaries of one multinational corporation. Using data from countries as diverse as Sweden, the U.K., India and Turkey to highlight commonalities rather than differences, Patrik Aspers examines emergence and persistence of order in global garments markets. Erik Larson reports some of his research findings from an interesting study of the creation and operation of stock market exchanges in Fiji, Ghana and Iceland. Interested in households as settings of economic activity, Judith Treas and Sonja Drobnič provide a short overview of their cross-national research on the household division of labour in Germany, Finland and the U.S.

The contribution that follows attests to the spirit of EESN as a forum for cutting-edge ideas in economic sociology. Viviana Zelizer, one of the most prominent scholars in contemporary economic sociology contributes a piece in which she develops further her ideas on circuits of commerce. Zelizer extends an invitation to researchers to conceptualize and empirically analyze economic activities that cannot be captured well by more traditional foci on markets, organizations, networks or dyadic economic relations.

The issue also includes the »interview« and »read and recommended« sections that a regular reader will have expected and a newcomer will likely find of considerable interest. Laurent Thévenot, from the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, engagingly answers ten questions about economic sociology. Yuval Millo, from the University of Essex, recommends not only a book and an article but also a piece of software that might be of interest to many readers. We also include book reviews of some major new additions to the economic sociology scholarship, as well as an announcement of a new economic sociology Ph.D. program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, directed by Ezra Zuckerman and Roberto Fernandez.

If you find this collection stimulating and have not signed-up yet for a free subscription to EESN, you are encouraged to do so at <http://econsoc.mpifg.de>. You may also consider recommending EESN to your colleagues or students who might be interested. Last but not least, should you have a short research piece that you would like to contribute, a description of a dissertation in the field of economic sociology that you/your students have recently completed, or if you want to write-up a response to essays included in this issue, do not hesitate to pass them along. As always, we welcome book review suggestions and announcements of interest to economic sociologists, and are open to any economic sociology ideas that you would like to share. I look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes,

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