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Note from the editor

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Note from the editor

Dear reader,

Here is the Summer 2007 edition of the European Economic Sociology Newsletter. Most of the contributions in this issue focus on finance, a topic that has garnered a lot of attention by economic sociologists and scholars from other fields alike. Besides recommending all of the pieces in this issue for their stimulating content, I want to also say how pleased I am that the issue includes contributions by many women scholars. This was not an explicit intention on my part but I do consider it a significant reflection of how the field has progressed over the years.

I invited one of the key figures in sociology of financial markets, Karin Knorr Cetina (University of Konstanz and University of Chicago), to provide a lead editorial on the issue's focus. Professor Knorr Cetina generously responded to the invitation and wrote a stimulating piece on whether economic sociology and sociology of finance are significantly distinct as fields of inquiry, arguing that indeed they are different, along four lines, with diverse goals and different histories.

In the core of the issue, you will find empirical contributions from some very recent research in the economic sociology of finance, highlighting the role of social embeddedness, institutionalization and technological foundations.

Alya Guseva (Boston University) reports some findings from her forthcoming book on the creation of mass consumer finance markets in Russia, pointing to the critical role of networks that span two levels of analysis connecting organizations and individual actors.

Brooke Harrington (Brown University and MPIfG) provides a brief summary of research reported in her book *Pop Finance: Investment Clubs and Stock Market Populism* (forthcoming from Princeton University Press), on the "American investment craze of the 1990s," documenting the socially embedded activities of investor clubs, where retail investors pool their money to invest in the stock market.

Sabine Montagne (Université Paris-Dauphine) shares insights from her research on the American Pension Funds, uncovering the origins of the contemporary beliefs in the virtues of pension funds, and the legal transformation of the trust that contributed to the legitimization of finance.

Alex Preda (University of Edinburgh) turns our attention to the technological underpinnings of financial markets, examining the role price-recording technologies played in the constitution of a national securities market in the U.S., and how they came to affect transaction rules and roles.

I am also extremely pleased that Viviana Zelizer, one of the foremost experts in economic sociology, has agreed to share some of her thoughts on the field by responding to ten interview questions. I am sure that readers will find much food for thought and research ideas from her insightful responses.

As in previous issues we also assembled reviews of several new publications of interest to economic sociologists, which appear in the "Read and Recommended" section contributed by Olivier Godechot (Ecole Normale Supérieure), as well as in four book reviews on the topics of trust, transnational governance, economic sociology of Pierre Bourdieu, and organizational transformations of American manufacturing.

We also continue the section on doctoral dissertations, and report projects on themes as diverse as interlocking directorates, transformation of state-owned economy, socially responsible investments, and hi-tech marketing. If you are nearing the completion of your doctorate or have recently defended your dissertation, please consider sending in your summary!

The academic year 2006-07 is behind us and this is the final issue of EESN Volume 8. It is also my final issue as Editor. I am delighted that Patrik Aspers (University of Stockholm and MPIfG) has agreed to serve in this capacity for Volume 9. In line with the interdisciplinary spirit that we have tried to foster, Patrik's goals include devoting attention to fields like economic anthropology, business studies, economic geography and the like, in order to make the research in these related fields more familiar to economic sociologists. This is an excellent agenda and I wish Patrik a lot of success as Editor.

Finally, allow me to express my gratitude to almost fifty people who contributed to Volume 8, to the Editorial Board for their support, and to Christina Glasmacher at MPIfG who has assured the smooth production. Last but certainly not least, thanks go to all of you, readers/ subscribers, who now number more than 1300, and come from places well beyond Europe and North America, including Africa, Middle East, Oceania, and Latin America.

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With best wishes for a wonderful Summer, and beyond,

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