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Milicet, Nicolas; Naulin, Sidonie; Steiner, Philippe

Article

Note from the editor

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Note from the editor

Dear reader,

In the opening paper, Florence Jany-Catrice analyses the idea of performance. Taking stock of studies on the socioeconomy of services she explains some of the flaws conveyed by this word and suggests some new and challenging views in order to have a better understanding of this crucial dimension of our present economic activity. A socio-economic approach or *Économie sociale* is also at the basis of Jean-Louis Laville's paper in which he argues that democratic solidarity is a possible solution to the diffusion of the market society.

Further, we have in this issue a set of papers dealing with several facets of the job market using a comparative approach. Nadya Guimarães, Didier Demazière, Helena Hirata and Kurumi Sujita examine the situation and the related social representations of unemployed people in three major cities (São Paulo, Paris and Tokyo). Ana Braga Martes and Dimitri Fazito compare the nature of social networks of Brazilian emigrants in the United States and Bolivia; their study illustrates how important the social contexts of emigration are, whether in Brazil or in the country of emigration.

Finally, this issue offers a bird's eye view of the sociology of economic life in Asia. Louis Augustin-Jean's study is a wonderful example of what we would call the sociopolitical construction of the market in the case of the sugar industry in Southern China. Laurence Roulleau-Berger offers a general overview of socio-economic research in contemporary Chinese sociology.

In the interview section, Marion Fourcade goes back over her formative years and considers some of the results and outcomes of her important book (*Economists and Societies. Discipline and Profession in the United States, Britain and France*) recently published by Princeton University Press. In a period of time in which major economists – see for example chapter 9 of Joseph Stiglitz's *Freefall. America, Free Markets, and the Sinking of the World Economy* – claim that after the recent period of market fundamentalism, reforming economics is one of the steps toward reforming the economy, it is worth considering the issue of how economic theory was made what it is in these three major countries when the development of economics is at stake.

This is our last issue as editors. We would like to thank all the contributors to Volume 11 of *Economic Sociology. The European Newsletter* and the staff in Cologne, with a special mention to Christina Glasmacher. The next editor of the Newsletter is Nigel Dodd to whom should be sent any material for the November issue (N.B.Dodd@lse.ac.uk). In the present monetary and financial turmoil, his deep knowledge of the sociology of money will be most relevant.

With best wishes for a fruitful and pleasant summer,

Nicolas Milicet milicet@phare.normalesup.org

Sidonie Naulin
Sidonie.naulin@gmail.com

Philippe Steiner
Philippe.Steiner@paris-sorbonne.fr