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Article

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The Global Community of Economic Sociology and Political Economy

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The Economic Sociology and Political Economy community is a global online academic community whose goal is to disseminate the fruits and insights of socio-political research on the economy to the public and to academics, and to serve as a platform on which community members can share relevant information, exchange ideas and create collaborations. Recently, it has been regarded as a new form of learned association that reflects the transformations undergone by the academia in the interactive networked era. One might see the ES/PE community as a rally in the web of science where research and knowledge meet intellectual curiosity regarding the constitution and functioning of – what I call – the indissoluble trinity of State-Economy-Society.

From an epistemological perspective, the ES/PE community aims to bridge two historically separate disciplines: (New) Economic Sociology and Political Economy. Whereas their methodological lens, theoretical focus and empirical realms could differ, both essentially deal with the ontological axiom of mutual embeddedness of State-Economy-Society, illuminating its varying angles. Therefore, in my view, the endeavor to bring these two disciplines closer together and interlace them into one body of copious scholarship will not just enrich the investigation of socio-political processes and institutions of the economy, but also, in line with the Public Sociology imperative (Burawoy 2014; see also an excellent Discussion Forum in *Socio-Economic Review* "Economic Sociology as Public Sociology" (2007) by which I was inspired), it will also equip us with a powerful scientific arsenal to lead the intellectual fight against, in Karl Polanyi's terms, market fundamentalism and economic determinism (Block and Somers 2014).

The ES/PE community is active on the main social networks: [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), [Google+](#) and [Tumblr](#). The contents are identical on all the websites and they are posted simultaneously. Currently the community counts

more than 22,000 people from 90 countries, about half of them from Europe. Our members include researchers, students, state bureaucrats, journalists, activists, and others interested in broadening horizons through erudite discussions and enlightening readings on various topics related to Economic Sociology and Political Economy.

The essential role of the community is a hub of knowledge and information. Therefore once a day the community brings to the attention of our members two sorts of materials. First, substantive contents: insightful books, thought-provoking papers, interesting posts from the (academic) blogs, valuable documentaries and incisive quotes. The posts cover a wide range of topics in Economic Sociology, Political Economy, Fiscal Sociology, Social Studies of Finance, Labor and Welfare research, and Sociology of Economics. Given this treasure trove of scholarly knowledge, the community websites occasionally serve as a collateral teaching resource in order to keep students intellectually engaged and to arouse their interest in these issues.

Secondly, practical updates are also blogged: important calls for papers for conferences and workshops, graduate and post-doc fellowships, grants and job openings.

I would like to invite European economic sociologists to join the ES/PE community through our websites, to share posts, to comment and to recommend them to anyone who is interested in socio-political study of the economy.

Oleg Komlik is a founder and editor of the global community of Economic Sociology and Political Economy. Currently he is a PhD Candidate at Ben-Gurion University and a Lecturer at the College of Management Academic Studies in Israel. In his MA thesis he has investigated the legislative process through which the global Anti-Money laundering norms were institutionalized in Israel. This research was awarded the Best Thesis Prize by the Israeli Sociological Society, and the Outstanding Master's Thesis by the Israeli Political Science Association. His doctoral dissertation analyzes the institutional and political relationship between Israeli banks and the state, especially focusing on the institutional change of the Israeli banking and financial system in the Neoliberal age. As of July 2014, Oleg Komlik is a

Chairman of the Junior Sociologists Network at the International Sociological Association.

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