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Editorial REPE Vol. I 2020, Issue 3

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Dear Reader,

The present issue 3 of the *Review of Evolutionary Political Economy (REPE)* completes the first *REPE* year. We had two inaugural issues last May and September with invited papers, as you may know. The few “*altmetrics*” (about clicks, views, downloads, etc.) that are available so far have been encouraging. A good start indeed.

We continue with this issue, and with the next one (1-2021), with two excellent *special issues*, born out of, but not at all limited to EAEPE *research areas*. The substantial intros will be left here to the *guest-editor teams*. It will be the long-run policy of the editorial team to have one or two special issues per three issues per year. And for the first couple of years, *REPE* will in fact only have three issues per year, which however will be increased to four, when the journal will be more established.

Special issues have several pros, namely in the beginning of our new journal: Among them, first, they are generally more intensely recognized, read, and cited, as we know from the general metrics across a wide range of journals and publishers. Second, they mobilize the potential of entire *scholarly fields and networks*, and research areas, both within and beyond EAEPE. Third, they help bringing in mid-career scholars, and sometimes even young scholars, who would otherwise shy away from submitting their independent papers to a journal that still has no ranking nor officially documented impact factor. So, special issues will be a pillar and method of choice of our editorial policy. More special issues, all *guest-edited*, some of them launched even through members of the editorial team, are in our planning pipeline and will be invited further on.

But as always, “the dose makes the poison” as early toxicologist *Paracelsus* said, and we may not overtax with SIs. The readers and potential contributors, mainly outside EAEPE, and outside Europe, may not get the impression that “*REPE* is a closed shop, you can get into it only through an SI, so don’t even try to submit your independent paper.” The contrary will be the case: Independent papers are strongly invited (subject to our Aims&Scope, as always). And the next-but-one issue, 2-2021, appearing in June 2021, will be our first “*regular*” *issue compiled from independent submissions*. As said, we do expect young scholars to be reluctant to submit in the near

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future. So established and senior scholars, among them first-class names, will provide a critical mass of independent papers in the first two, three years. Younger scholars are nevertheless always strongly invited to submit!

Our policy with regular issues will be, however, to try to compile *thematically somewhat coherent issues*, which we hope will also have some advantage over an unsorted “hawker’s tray,” in terms of visibility and impact. (And an annual informal “mock impact factor” will be calculated and analyzed from 2023 onwards also for our new journal.) While the “wilderness” of an unsorted general issue (“first come, first served”) that you still can see in many journals may have some charm of its own, we do strive to build a backlog of independent papers so that we can compile (more or less) “*thematic issues*” from them. Should we get different feedback on this, we will try to learn and reconsider, of course.

In all, get tuned and stay tuned to *REPE*, visit its site, and download its papers. For the first two years, ALL papers will be freely downloadable, as an advertising courtesy of Springer. Please submit your papers and propose SIs as guest-editors or guest-editor teams. Broadly spread and forward the *REPE* information, advertise it in your email signatures, spread the word on the social media ... And cite *REPE* articles in your own papers considered for submission at other, namely established journals. Then we may have the hope to apply for, and see *REPE* listed and ranked in, the “Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI)” after its fourth or fifth year.

But for now, just enjoy reading and find some insight here.

As *REPE* is a broad scholarly “commons,” the team is always welcoming the users’ (your) feedback.

With best wishes for now,
Wolfram Elsner

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