

Aspers, Patrik

Article

Note from the editor

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear reader, the current issue opens with an overview of the French Convention School, and it is followed by an interview with one of its central figures, Laurent Thévenot. Søren Jagd has written the text, as well as conducted the interview with Thévenot. Together the overview and the interview provide the readers with good insights into this school of thought, as well as its relation to other schools. This issue also includes two articles dealing with the borders between and intersections of the economic and other social spheres. The first article is by Olav Velthuis, who has studied art markets in Amsterdam and New York. This article could be seen in relation to a previous article, by Martin Gustavsson (Vol. 5, nr 1 of the Newsletter), which also analyzes art markets. The second article is by Glenn Sjöstrand, who has studied a Swedish industrial district in the Gnosjö area of Småland, in which also IKEA once started. The two articles of this issue both analyze the complexity of social relations of the real world, between the poles of gift exchange and market exchange.

As you have already noticed, the Newsletter has changed hosts. After five years with excellent service by SISWO, the Max Planck institute in Cologne will be the new host. The new website will effectively become the hub of economic sociology, since it will not only be where the Newsletter is published, but it will also contain links and other useful materials for everyone interested in economic sociology. I encourage you to spend some time to familiarize yourself with the new site, and to store it among the “favorites” of your web browser.

The web site will of course expand, and so far we have included links to sites of interest to economic sociologists, and to some journals that regularly publish articles of interest to economic sociologists. Many articles in the field of economic sociology are published in major journals, but there are also more specialized journals. Additional journals will most likely surface in the future, for example in the field of institutional economics. Naturally, the Newsletter is a site for publication of interesting material in the field of economic sociology, especially since its readers focus on economic sociology. The new site also includes a list of journals that are of interest to economic sociologist.

This is my last issue as editor. Together with Mattias Smångs, who has also worked on these three issues of the Newsletter, we would like to thank all contributors to Volume 5. The next editor is Olav Velthuis, and you can contact him at velthuis@dds.nl. We wish Olav good luck, and we are all looking forward to read the next issue!

Patrik Aspers