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GUEST EDITORIAL

Welcome to the 14th edition of the International Journal of Community Currency Research (IJCCR).

In the 2009 editorial Colin Williams observed that we could be on the cusp of a new wave of complementary currency development, stimulated by the wider ecological and economic crises. Certainly, within the UK, last year saw the growth of new ‘Transition’ currencies in Brixton and Stroud, as well as the scaling up of the Lewes scheme. Several similar schemes are also in development, and although these currencies are to some degree experimental, they reflect an embryonic ‘model’, and one that has, like the emergence of LETS in the early 1990s, stimulated a much wider discussion about the merits of complementary currency systems. At the very least, they start conversations about money and monetary systems that would otherwise not occur.

We believe that this journal also plays an important role in creating an ongoing academic conversation about complementary currencies. Perhaps most importantly, it creates a space where sympathetic but rigorous analysis can be accessed by not only the academic world, but also by practitioners. By acting as a ‘critical friend’ it can prevent the reinventing of wheels and contribute to a deeper understanding of many different aspects of the complementary currency ‘movement’.

The growth of the ‘transition’ currencies appears to be mirrored by developments elsewhere in the world. The worldwide complementary currency database ¹ continues to grow in size, whilst a new online *Community Currency Magazine* launched in 2009 provides a useful resource of information on new, existing and historic schemes. ² It therefore seems to be an opportune moment to be launching a new research project on currencies, which is what we are fortunate to be doing at the University of East Anglia. ‘Grassroots Innovations: Complementary Currencies’ (GICC) is a two-year project funded by the Leverhulme Trust, and led by IJCCR co-editor Gill Seyfang, which will be looking specifically at currencies as forms of ‘grassroots innovations’. In doing so it will investigate the role of currencies in wider ‘sustainability transitions’ and the different conditions under which they are able to proliferate or diffuse.

One strand of the project that is of particular relevance to this journal is a desire to create an up-to-date snapshot of the movement and the latest innovations that are occurring around the world. To this end we are planning a ‘special’ edition later in the year consisting of short

¹ http://www.complementarycurrency.org/ccDatabase/les_public.html

² <http://www.ccmag.net/dp/>

papers on recent developments in the currency world. Anyone interested in contributing to this edition is welcome to contact us with their initial proposal.

In the mean time we continue to welcome submissions on a range of topic pertinent to complementary currencies, such as the first paper of this new edition, Lucie Ozanne's study of Time Banking. Book reviews are also encouraged. May the conversation continue, and in ever widening ways.

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