



www.ijccr.org · ISSN: 1325-9547

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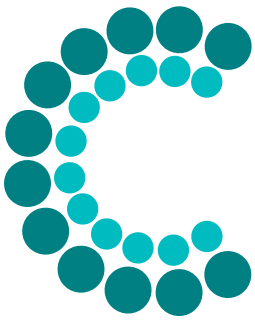
Longhurst, N. & Seyfang, G. (2011). Editorial 2011 (Volume 15 Special Issue): The State of the Art. *International Journal of Community Currency Research* 15(D), 1.

<https://doi.org/10.15133/j.ijccr.2011.011>

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IJCCR

# Note from the Editors: The State of the Art

Noel Longhurst and Gill Seyfang

This special edition has been prepared with the support of the **Grassroots Innovations: Complementary Currencies** (GICC) research project. This two-year project is funded by the Leverhulme Trust and aims to investigate community-based innovation for sustainability, with a specific focus on complementary currencies.

This is a neglected area of research and policy, and the subject of a newly emerging research agenda around the concept of 'grassroots innovations': sustainability innovations that emerge from civil society. The project is gathering empirical data on complementary currencies to test the applicability of existing innovation theories in this particular field of activity, and develop new theory where necessary. Please see <[www.grassrootsinnovations.org](http://www.grassrootsinnovations.org)> for further information.

One of the objectives of GICC is to examine the diversity and characteristics of currency projects in contemporary practice. This is no easy task, and this special edition reflects one way in which we have attempted to capture some of the wealth of contemporary experimentation. It serves to illustrate the variety of projects that are currently being developed within the field.

The fact that this is the first time that something in English has been published about many of these schemes also indicates the extent to which language barriers are an issue in sharing information. We hope therefore that this special edition serves as a timely indicator of innovation within the currency field, and that it inspires further communication and scholarly endeavour.

We wish to express our thanks to all the contributors to this special issue, for sharing their ideas and expertise; to the participants of a related workshop on innovation in complementary currencies, which has also fed into GICC, and to the Leverhulme Trust for their financial support.

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Norwich, UK  
February 2011

International  
Journal of  
Community  
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