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EDITORIAL: INTEGRATION OF NEW NARRATIVES AND WORLDS IN CC RESEARCH

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1. INTRODUCTION

This special issue is, for many reasons, an extra special issue. Not only it is the first ever publication of the International Journal on Complementary Currencies Research (IJCCR) in a language other than English. It also emerged through collaboration across many cultures, countries and languages - Portuguese, Spanish, Catalan and English -, and is filled with great research done in Spain, Central and South America. For those reasons we are very proud of this winter issue, which started taking shape as an invitation and challenge to the Scientific Committee of the *IV International Conference on Complementary and Social Currencies* headed by Dr. August Corrons from our hosts, the Universidad Oberta de Catalunya (UOC), given the many and great contributions of Spanish-speaking-and-writing authors to the conference and to the scientific field. With this effort, we aim to honour those contributions and authors, and share some of the research presented and discussed in Barcelona in May 2017. Our hope is also to facilitate the spread of knowledge to a wider audience of activists, researchers, entrepreneurs and practitioners across the Spanish speaking world. As the second biggest native language in the worldⁱ, with an estimated 512.9 million users, having this Special Issue in Spanish is also a symbolic departure from the hegemony of a single use language in the IJCCR, and an entrance into the rich and vibrant world of multiple, complementary languages.

As the famous heterodox economist Jean François Noubélⁱⁱ claims, language is the invisible matrix in which our common narratives and visions of the world are built, very often unconsciously. Therefore, having the possibility to extend and enrich the IJCCR with new narratives and worlds regarding the practice and research of complementary currencies is an important step towards greater diversity, plurality and also inclusion. It is a step we take consciously, and a purposeful invitation for more international collaborations that transcend borders, cultures and even languages.

This issue is our second and last special edition of works presented and discussed in the *IV International Conference on Complementary and Social Currencies*, and gathers a total of eight articles from nine authors. Together with our summer edition of 2018, also with eight articles, the IJCCR concludes this two-tier special edition from Barcelona, ahead of this year 5th Bienal RAMICS international Congress “Going Digital? New Possibilities of Digital-Community Currency Systems” that will take place in Hida-Tokoyama, Japan.

2. INTEGRATING NEW NARRATIVES

Our special issue starts with an historical in-depth overview and analysis of Spanish social and complementary currencies by Dr. Wilko Von Prittwitz. This is followed and complemented by Andreu Honzawa using Organizational Theory to propose a systematization of four models of strategic management for complementary currencies, from a public policy perspective. Closely tied to Andreu's debate, is the next article from Lluís Muns Terrats, Marta Segura Bonet and Lluís Torrens Mèlich, which aims at crystalizing the main insights and key aspects regarding the planning and design of a complementary currency in the hands of public administration, in this case at the municipal scale. Although recognizing that each municipality, each territory and each socio-political context offers unique conditions, limitations and characteristics, the thirteen conclusions offered to public officials aiming at implementing a complementary currency is an interesting and valuable effort with plenty of food for thought.

In our fourth article, Miguel Hirota dives into a SWOT analysisⁱⁱⁱ of complementary currencies, and explores potential marketing strategies for CC's based on a discussion on the concept of "value", inviting CC promoters to focus on the creation and sharing of added value and communicating it clearly to their users. Marta Bonet and Lluís Muns Terrats, then, build upon and go beyond some of the previous articles, arguing for the importance of traceability when promoting, implementing or monitoring a public-driven complementary currency. They make a case for the importance of 'knowing the traceability' of your CC, whether from an impact assessment perspective, a better decision-making process perspective or a more transparent, accountable and efficient way to measure, monitor and evaluate the circulation, acceptance and use.

Departing from Spanish case studies and Spanish authors, Dr. Georgina Gómez and Dr. Ricardo Orzi (6th and 8th article respectively) both reflect on Argentinian experiences. The former debates the timely and complex topic of monetary plurality, having Jérôme Blanc^{iv} and Akinobo Kuroda^v scientific developments with monetary circuits as background and the Argentinian experiences of the early XXth Century as the test field. The latter analyses the case of a time bank from a sustainability point-of-view, using the Earth Charter (2000) as a guide. Finally, our 7th article from Paula Sánchez de la Blanca Díaz-Meco looks into the contradictions and developments of a local currency experiment (UDIS) within an existing network of alternative trade and commerce (Rede COMAL) in Honduras, between 2003 and 2007.

The wide variety of topics and fields of research explored in these works give a glimpse of the rich debates that took place in Barcelona, and an small touch of the aliveness of the field in Spain and Latin America in the past years. Nevertheless, it is my belief that this first special issue in Spanish is not the last, and that it will stand as an important contribution from the IJCCR to all Spanish-speaking researchers, activists, practioners and public officials whom will find in these pages not only historical records and processes, but also insights into a future which is already here, emerging, gaining momentum and reclaiming its space and power.

Saludos sostenibles,

ENDNOTES

ⁱ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_languages_by_number_of_native_speakers

ⁱⁱ <https://noubel.fr/en/>

ⁱⁱⁱ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SWOT_analysis

^{iv} Blanc J. (2016) Unpacking monetary complementarity and competition: a conceptual framework. *Cambridge Journal of Economics* 41: 239--257

^v Kuroda A. (2008b) What is the complementarity among monies? An introductory note. *Financial History Review* 15: 7-15