

The *Forum for Social Economics* (FSE)

Its “Business Model”, USP, and Editorial Policy,
and Its Accessibility for Young Scholars’ First Publications



Wolfram Elsner, Managing Editor, 2012-

“Business Model” and Editorial Policy

1. Ownership, History, Publisher

- Owned by the Association for Social Economics (ASE), one of the major heterodox associations, founded 1941 as Association of Catholic Economists, renamed to social economics in the early 1970s; founding association of the *Allied Social Science Associations (ASSA)*, steering the annual economists’ meetings in the USA each early January.
- The *Forum* is in its 45th volume in 2016. It was launched in 1971 as a membership circular, changed into a regular journal at Springer Publ. in 2006, moved to *Taylor&Francis* (TandF) in 2012, based on a contract between the owner and T&F. Editors 2006-2011: John Marangos, Mark White. The current Editorial Team took over in 2012, partly changed in 2014.
- The contract provided for 3(!) issues p.a., with 96pp. each = 288pp. p.a. Since 2016: 4 issues p.a., but still only 96pp. per issue=384pp. p.a.≈20-24 articles p.a.
- Renewal of ASE—T&F contract in 2016 for 2017ff. ...



“Business Model” and Editorial Policy

3. Aims & Scope

(see text online or printed first page of each issue)

- Traditionally focused on intersections of economics, ethics and social values (now more exclusive in RoSE), with a focus on applications and policy implications (explicit consideration of social, cultural, institutional, and political-economic factors).
- In particular now: A broad array of pluralistic, heterodox socio-economic analyses, with a view toward contributing to the development of a modern understanding of social (socio) economics incl. evolution, institutions, cutting-edge methodologies, epistemologies, ontologies, formal approaches, complexity ...



The Forum for Social Economics

“Business Model” and Editorial Policy

4. Permanent CfPs

(see text online or printed in each issue)

- Permanent “structural” CfP
- Special CfPs for Special Issues and Symposia
- Annual CfPs for ASE/ASSA papers (to be published in issue 2 each year).



The Forum for Social Economics

“Business Model” and Editorial Policy

5. Editorial Team, Editorial Board, the “Network”

- Editorial Team since 2012/2014:

Wolfram Elsner, University of Bremen, D, Managing Editor

Since 2014:

Paolo Ramazzotti, University of Macerata, IT, Deputy Managing Editor (Assoc. Ed. since 2012)

Associate Editors:

Cecilia Winters, Manhattanville College, NY, since 2012

Phil O’Hara, Global Political Economy Research Unit (GPERU), Perth, AUS, since 2012

Since 2014:

Eugenia Correa, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City

Svetlana Kirdina, Russian Academy of Science, Moscow, RU

Brian Chi-ang Lin, National Chengchi University, Taiwan

Mary Wrenn, University of Cambridge, UK.



“Business Model” and Editorial Policy

5. Editorial Team, Editorial Board, the “Network”

- Editorial Board since 2012:– 60+ people; one of the big assets of the *Forum*; inter-continental distribution to be improved:
- Arestis, Phil; Berg, Janine; Berger, Sebastian; Bloch, Harry; Boegenhold, Dieter; Bresser Pereira, Luis Carlos; Burger, Philippe; Cangiani, Michele; Chang, Michael ; Chen, Ping; Chester, Lynne; Christoforou, Asimina; Clary, Betsy Jane; Cronin, Bruce; Cullenberg, Stephen; Davis, John Bryan; Dequech, David; Dolfsma, Wilfred; Dominguez De la Casa, Iciar; Dugger, Bill; Durso, Joan C.; Fine, Ben; Fontana, Giuseppe; Fontana, Magda; Galbraith, James; Gelb, Stephen; Grabel, Ilene; Hall, John; Hanappi, Hardy; Harvey, John T.; Harvey, Philip; Henry, Kapeller, Jakob; John; Jo, Tae-Hee; Keen, Steve; Kesting, Stefan; Klamer, Arjo; Kyläheiko, Kalevi; Lascaux, Alex; Lazonick, William; Lee, Frederic S. †; Lissowska, Maria; Lujan Leiva, Maria; Mäki, Uskali; Marangos, John; McCloskey, Deirdre; McPhail, Edward; Meek, Jack W.; Milberg, William; Mitra, Aparna; Natarajan, Tara; Nelson, Julie; O’Sullivan, Patrick; Obeng-Odoom, Franklin; Özveren, Eyüp; Peterson, Janice L.; Pelle, Anita; Petit, Pascal; Polanyi Levitt, Kari; Pressman, Steve; Roos, Michael; Ruccio, David; Schneider, Geoff; Schwardt, Henning; Song ,Yang; Spiegler, Peter; Spitz, Janet; Stanfield, James R.; Starr, Martha; Tsahuridu, Eva; van den Berg, Hendrik; Vera, Leonardo; Whalen, Charles J.; White, Marc D.; Agnieszka Ziomek.



“Business Model” and Editorial Policy

6. Thematic and Special-Issues Policy, Backlog, Processing

- All issues are “thematic” issues, as far as possible, i.e., a sorted *cluster of papers* under a general theme.
- Actively acquiring special issues (5-6 papers) and symposia (3-4 papers plus max. 3 regular papers); a backlog of 2-3 years of special issues.
- Paper backlog for individual papers: About six issues, i.e., 18 months from final acceptance to print; but early and fast online publication with DOIs after final acceptance.
- Paper submission processing: automatic with T&F’s ManuscriptCentral, transparent, controlled, and fast.



The *Forum for Social Economics*

“Business Model” and Editorial Policy

6. Thematic and Special-Issues Policy, Backlog, and Processing

List of Symposia and SIs both finalized/appearing in print soon and committed/in progress (working titles, SI editor, estimated appearance in print):

Out-of-School Children, Wodon, 2017, extra issue, financed by World Bank

Capability Approach and Well-Being, Burchi/de Muro, 2/3-2016

Critique of Microfinance, Bateman/Correa, 2017

Integrated Socio-Economic Analysis, Natarajan, 2017

European Perspectives on Social Economics, Hedtke, 1-2017

Bourdieu’s Methodology, Christoforou, 2018

The Minimum Wage, Winter, 2018

Meritorics and Paternalism, Mann, 2018

Global Financial Governance, Correa, 2019

Economics of Religion, Mixon, 2019

The Complexity of Institutions: Theory and Computational Methods, Heinrich/Gräbner, 2019

Socio-Economic Perspectives on China, Lin, 2020

Identity, Institutions, and Power, Davis, 2020

Principles of Social Economics Applied to Current World Problems, O’Hara, 2020 ...



“Business Model” and Editorial Policy

8. “Featured-Paper” Policy, Best-Paper Awards

- Particular papers (one of each issue) will be declared “featured papers” (a committee decides), comments will be invited and printed with the paper, and paper plus comments will be published also on the social economics blog <http://www.socialeconomicsblog.org>.
- Example: (Vernon) Smith on (Adam) Smith (in issue # 4/13) on A. Smith’s TMS and experimental economics, critical towards the mainstream.
- Annual Best-Paper Award (Best Paper Award Committee), sponsored by T&F, \$500.– (\$1,000), awarded at annual ASSA/ASE meetings, Presidential Breakfast ceremony.
- Also Young-Scholar Award suggested to ASE.



12. Accessibility for Young Scholars

“Getting Your Research Published in the *Forum for Social Economics*”

- *Extra advice/coaching* at the *Forum* for young scholars through one of the co-editors: steering a young-scholar paper to publication.
- A fully acknowledged double-blind publication in the end.
- A young-scholar best-paper award annually (under consideration).



The Forum for Social Economics

Thank you for your patience!



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“Business Model” and Editorial Policy

2. *The Forum* in the Internet

- ASE:
<http://www.socialeconomics.org> → Journals → *Forum*
- T&F / Routledge:
<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/journal.asp?issn=0736-0932&linktype=1>
- Online submissions @: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/rfse>
(create account first).



The *Forum for Social Economics*

“Business Model” and Editorial Policy

3. Aims & Scope

(see text online or printed first page of each issue)

Actual text:

- The *Forum for Social Economics*, founded in 1971, is a high-quality peer-reviewed (double-blind), international academic journal sponsored by the Association for Social Economics (ASE). It is committed to the development of social economics as a values-based, complex and policy-oriented science in the service of the common good.
- The *Forum* Editors invite the submission of stimulating, original and clearly-written academic research papers (7,500 words maximum) on:
 - a) The central socioeconomic problems of our age, such as the state of communities, economic and financial crises, institutional and technological change, poverty/inequality, terrorism, conflict and climate change as well as gender, class and ethnic issues;



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- b) Alternative measures and perspectives of socioeconomic performance, social network analysis, agent-based modelling and complexity economics; including approaches that endogenize social facts, well-being, quality of life, standard of living, provisioning, ecological sustainability, trust, institutional functioning, happiness and/or human development;
- c) Policy issues, with the emphasis on how governance and institutional innovations can enhance coordination, cooperation, performance, justice, equity and trust for the common good.
- The Forum is especially interested in papers that are realistic in their outlook, pluralistic in their approach, concerned with interdependent agents and take account of the institutional and evolutionary nature of the economy.



The Forum for Social Economics

“Business Model” and Editorial Policy

5. Editorial Team, Editorial Board, the “Network”

- The “Network” – More than 200 economists, provided by Board members, with affiliation, contact addresses, and JELs, the larger potential of reviewers.
- Annual meetings of the Ed. Team with Ed. Board, T&F, and ASE at ASSA meetings.



“Business Model” and Editorial Policy

6. Thematic and Special-Issues Policy, Backlog, and Processing

- Development of the editorial processing time (without SIs):

2012: 93 days.

2013: 85 days.

2014: 65 days.

2015: 49 days.

- Rejection rates include first decision after submission and second decision after revision/resubmission:

2012 – 2015

Accepted: 46

Rejected: 70

Σ: 116

Rejection rate: $70/117 \approx 60\%$.

2015 (Nov. 1, 2014 -1 Oct. 31, 2015)

Accepted: 15

Rejected: 9

Σ: 24

Rejection rate: $9/24 \approx 38\%$ (2014: 68%).



“Business Model” and Editorial Policy
7. Geographic Distribution of Authors

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
World Region					
North America	37	20	20	21	98
Europe	18	8	18	31	75
Asia	9	2	11	13	35
Africa	3	1	1	2	7
Latin America and Caribbean	3	0	1	0	4
Australia	1	0	1	1	3
Total	71	31	52	68	222



“Business Model” and Editorial Policy

9. Fairness-, Conflict-of-Interest-, and Data-Transparency Policy

- Developed a policy statement after and according to the AEA ethical standards, released January 2012.
- Published online, printed in issue #1-2014. Cutting-edge position!
- Data storing in collaboration with T&F, on their website, together with the related paper, access to subscribers only with proven interest, according to general F&F policy.
- Flexible application in accordance, if possible, with the authors, in order not to deter authors.



“Business Model” and Editorial Policy

10. “Impact”-, Listing/Indexing-, and “Ranking”-Policies

- Maximizing the impact, quantitatively (citations) and qualitatively ...
- In the longer run, in the second five-year Ed. Team period (after 2017-2021) application for ISI Thomson Reuters listing considered.
- In parallel: Referring to the *variety of existing lists in use* and rankings calculated after different *competing calculation approaches* with different listings; A. Wil-Harzing listings synopsis; also, F. Lee’s networks and rankings of heterodox journals.
- Across all lists, the *Forum* ranks among 130 and 200 out of >300 economics journals; e.g., WEA 11/2011: 194 out of 307.
- Listed/Indexed/Abstracted in EconLit, RePEc, Scopus.



The *Forum for Social Economics*
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11. Open Access

- Dependent on T&F’s policy toward openness.
- Basically diverse forms of *hybrid access options*; DOI-download policy, “Gold Open Access” option, “Green Open Access”, etc.; payments of authors, very expensive for authors.

