

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF COMMUNITY CURRENCY RESEARCH

VOLUME 10 EDITORIAL

Welcome to volume 10 of the *International Journal of Community Currency Research*. As in previous years, this editorial engages in some critical reflection on the journal and its associated forums in order to consider whether the functions are still being fulfilled that were originally intended.

Originally, the journal was intended to be a forum for those practitioners and academics interested in community currencies to come together to share their experiences and learn from each other. As the journal approaches its first decade of operation, it appears that the journal is continuing to serve this need. Certainly, the IJCCR discussion forum still appears to be one of the major 'meeting places' for the exchange of opinion on community currencies.

Although at the outset, the intention was that the discussion forum would be a place where people could discuss the content of articles published on IJCCR, the forum quickly took on a life of its own and became the preferred mode of exchange, rather than the 'journal article', which is after all a rather 'academic' way of disseminating ideas. For my part, I see absolutely nothing wrong with this at all. IJCCR is here to provide an academic/practitioner interface, as has been the case since its beginnings, and if this is people's preferred model of engagement, then so be it.

Nevertheless, and as in previous years, I would urge all those who wish to write a more considered and reflective piece on their experiences with community currencies to consider writing an article for the journal section. Reading through some articles in 'heavyweight' academic journals on community currencies that have been published over the past year, it has been good to see that articles published in IJCCR have been very heavily cited and that IJCCR obviously represents one of the primary sources of material for those seeking information on community currencies. Please, therefore, continue to submit your articles so that we can maintain our position. Indeed, it appears that if you want your ideas to be read by those interested in community currencies, there is no better place to publish your papers.

As a final reflective comment, I wish to very briefly glance beyond the journal itself to the community currencies movement 'out there' and make a few comments. Over time, it appears that although the individual forms of community currency that are being used rise and wane in popularity in different places, and although at different times, varying places become the 'hot spots' for community currency growth and development, the overarching trend on a global level is that a steady dissemination of the idea of community currencies is taking place and an upward curve in the level of interest globally. There are of course many indicators in lived practice that this is indeed the case.

Here, however, and to conclude, let me take just one barometer of the 'globalisation' and growing permeation of the idea of community currencies. Glancing at the membership of the IJCCR discussion forum, not only is it continuing to steadily grow, with 440 members at the time of writing, but over the past decade, there has been a growing diffusion geographically of the membership profile. No longer can it be claimed that the community currency movement is entirely a 'euro-centric' or 'westernised' movement and certainly many of the current 'hot-spots' for community currency innovation lie well beyond the western world. Even if many IJCCR members might therefore view 'globalisation' (in the form of de-regulated open world economies) as a largely negative trend to be contested, let us celebrate our own form of globalisation where we as one of the movements in the 'movement of movements', provide a solid example of how it is wholly possible to co-ordinate our actions on a global level so as to make another world wholly possible and that by learning from each other, we can work together towards enacting that end.

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