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[Colin C Williams](#)

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EDITORIAL - Volume 6

With this volume, IJCCR marks its sixth year of existence. During this time, many people across the world have rediscovered community currencies as a means of fulfilling wider objectives and sought to explore and develop such currencies as a means of achieving these intentions. For some, this has involved developing community currency schemes in their localities, regions and nations as a practical experiment. For others, their discovery has resulted in some form of commentary on their development in order to investigate the way forward. It is to be hoped that IJCCR has so far enabled both those interested in developing such currencies as well as those reflecting on their existence with a forum through which lessons can be learned about the development of community currency schemes.

There is little doubt that as we enter our sixth year of existence, many changes have taken place in this field. Compared with six years ago, community currencies are today far more widespread across the globe, take many different forms and a wider range of analyses of their form have started to be reported. Indeed, comparing the situation today with 1997, there is little doubt that the people developing them have changed significantly, the types of community currency favoured have altered, the places in which they are developing have shifted and the principal reasons for their development have evolved.

Hopefully, volume 6 will reflect some of these changes. In the first paper in this volume, Jeff Powell reflects not only on the development of community currencies in Thailand but also their relationship to alternative development seen through the lenses of feminism and associationalism. This paper signifies not only the shifting sites of development for community currencies in the contemporary period away from their Minority World locus but also some of the contemporary issues being discussed concerning their role and possibilities.

In the second paper in this volume, Rolf Schroder explores through the lens of an activist some of the issues confronted in Hannover in Germany in developing community currencies and how these inter-relate to the theoretical issues in the literature. This paper is interesting for an English-speaking audience for it portrays the developments and issues in a non-English speaking country. Although there are many issues raised in this paper with which some readers will doubtless wish to disagree, or feel that more evidence is required, the Editors feel that this paper should nonetheless be published. The reason for setting up the discussion list, after all, was to provide a forum for some of the contentious issues raised by papers to be further discussed.

As these and later papers to be published as the year unfolds display, if there is one thing for certain as we enter our sixth year of publication, it is that the field of community currencies continues to remain a dynamic and continuously

evolving field.

We hope that IJCCR maintains its position as the principal outlet for those wishing to learn more about community currencies. As always, we remain dependent upon your contributions in order to fulfil this role. We thus welcome the submission of papers from anybody working in the field of community currencies so that readers can be kept abreast of the emerging developments taking place across the world. Indeed, it is only by reporting such developments that lessons can be learned and it is to be hoped that you will help continue to maintain the vitality and viability of this journal.

[Colin C Williams](#)

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