



Editorial

Dear members,

Full of hope, Ramics wishes you a joyful New Year. While 2020 was the year of trials, tragedies and tears, in words of UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres.

I would say it was also the year of resilience, when the population in the world that is used to enjoying socioeconomic security and freedom had to give in. We experienced restrictions to our mobility and a general disruption of the many things we take for granted, such as human contact and good health. We learnt about resilience, hanging on, adaptation.

A colleague in the academics sad that he saw his dream come true, the legitimate obligation to stay at home, read, write papers and not be bothered with meetings in committees and teaching first graders. He also told me how he cursed the realization of his dream, and how he never missed so much all the things that normally bothered him.

The millions that can never stay at home had to invent new forms of survival. In Colombia, a new practice became to hang a red cloth outside the house when there has no more food left. A red flag, sometimes an old red t-shirt became the recognized sign of despair, a

call for your neighbours to help. And people helped, whenever they could. Was it also the year of solidarity and neighbouring?

Further explorations into the meaning of 2020 are still pouring in academic journals. The CCS research community has stayed too quiet, and we have had to cancel our biennial congress planned in Bulgaria in October 2021, until we can travel safely again. In contrast, Ramics is now planning a series of online events in March and October, please read below. We will soon send further news about these events.

We would also like to share that the *International Journal of Community Currency Research* has a new Chief Editor: Irene Sotiropoulou at the University of Hull in Great Britain. Dr Sotiropoulou is well published in the IJCCR and we are happy to welcome her on board !

From the news we get from around the world, the CCS research community is quiet because many are “doing” things. Please don’t forget to record the experience and share it. We want to read about it. Hopefully 2021 will be the year of learning from the tough lessons of 2020.

I wish you all a healthy year in body and mind!

Georgina Gómez, RAMICS president





NEXT RAMICS EVENTS

ONLINE ROUND-TABLE ON MARCH 5, 2020

17.00-19.00 Japan time or 09.00-11.00 Central European Time

At a time of uncertainty about the future and increased precarity in the present, we at RAMICS believe that complementary and community currencies have become and even more relevant tool to build community resilience and hopefully help us transition towards a more sustainable future. So, while the pandemic has forced the bi-annual RAMICS conference to be postponed, we see the need to keep the conversation alive. For this reason, we are organizing an online Round-table on March 5.

The round-table will focus on the question: **What ideas, technologies and practices are conducive to the development and institutionalization of complementary currencies?**

Confirmed presenters are Chikako Nakayama, Manabu Kuwata, Fabienne Pinos, Rolf Schroeder and Marcus Petz. They will help us advance the conversation on ideas, technologies and practices advancing efforts to implement complementary currencies.

Mark the date in your calendar, stay turned, and join the conversation on March 5, 17.00-19.00 Japan time or 09.00-11.00 Central European! Click on the link to join the round-table: <https://luse.zoom.us/j/63626993784>

6TH BIENNIAL RAMICS INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS IN BULGARIA “COMPLEMENTARY CURRENCY SYSTEMS BRIDGING COMMUNITIES”

Originally planned on 21st-23th October 2021 in Sofia, it has been postponed to 2022 due to the Coronavirus-19 crisis. More information soon.





9TH NATIONAL MEETING OF LOCAL, SOCIAL AND COMPLEMENTARY CURRENCIES, SPAIN

9TH ENCUENTRO ESTATAL DE MONEDAS LOCALES, SOCIALES Y COMPLEMENTARIA ESPAÑA

On 27 and 28 November, the 9th National Meeting of Local, Social and Complementary Currencies was held online in the city of Viladecans (Spain), province of Barcelona, Autonomous Community of Catalonia. The Meeting was co-organized by the City Council of Viladecans (viladecans.cat), the Observatori de la Moneda Complementària (observatoriomc.com), the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (uoc.edu) and Ubiquat Technologies (ubiquat.com).

During the morning of the 27th, after official welcome messages of the co-organizers of the Meeting, some of the local or municipal currencies in the Spanish territory were presented, such as the Vilawatt de Viladecans, the Grama of Santa Coloma de Gramanet, the REC of Barcelona and the Varamedí of Zafra. In addition, there was a presentation of the Observatory of the Complementary Currency, a cooperative created to give visibility to the ecosystem of complementary currencies currently existing in Catalonia and, shortly, in the rest of Spain.

On the afternoon of the 27th, the sessions were structured into three distinct blocks to accommodate various profiles and interests around complementary currencies: institutional, academic and technological issues. In the institutional group there were discussions about the roles of complementary currencies as a tool for commercial and urban dynamization and about the administrative procedures necessary for the launch of a local currency. In the academic track, the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya introduced its new online course on the topic, followed by a presentation of the Research Association RAMICS.org and the International Journal of Complementary Currency Research IJCCR.net. Scholars later

Los días 27 y 28 de noviembre se celebró, online, el IX Encuentro Estatal de Monedas Locales, Sociales y Complementarias en la ciudad de Viladecans (España), situada en la provincia de Barcelona y en la Comunidad Autónoma de Catalunya. El Encuentro fue coorganizado por el Ayuntamiento de Viladecans (viladecans.cat), el Observatori de la Moneda Complementària (observatoriomc.com), la Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (uoc.edu) y Ubiquat Technologies (ubiquat.com).

Durante la mañana del día 27, y más allá de los mensajes de bienvenida oficiales de los coorganizadores del Encuentro, se presentaron algunas de las monedas locales o municipales existentes en el territorio español, como es el caso del Vilawatt de Viladecans, la Grama de Santa Coloma de Gramanet, el REC de Barcelona y el Varamedí de Zafra. Así mismo, tuvo lugar la presentación del Observatori de la Moneda Complementària, entidad cooperativa creada para dar visibilidad al ecosistema de monedas complementarias actualmente existentes en Catalunya y, en breve, en el resto de España.

Por la tarde del día 27, y con el fin de dar cabida a todos los perfiles y a todos los intereses, las sesiones se estructuraron en tres bloques distintos: el institucional, el académico y el tecnológico. A nivel institucional se debatió acerca del papel de las monedas complementarias como herramienta de dinamización comercial y urbana, y de los procedimientos administrativos que son necesarios para el impulso municipal de una moneda. En cuanto al ámbito académico, se hizo una demostración del curso de monedas complementarias de la Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, y una presentación de las funciones y los objetivos perseguidos desde la Research Association RAMICS y el International Journal

shared their recent research on the motivations underlying complementary currencies, various visions and perceptions on their present and future, and their glocalizing effects. Finally, the panel on technologies focused on centralized currency platforms (Cyclos, Clickoin, IntegralCES and Tarann), while there were debates around blockchain currencies, securities tokenization, collateralization and currency swapping.

Saturday 28th was exclusively allocated to experiences and activism. Different initiatives were presented, both in Spain and internationally, from different approaches: social currency and gender perspectives; development cooperation and local currencies; territorial regeneration, circular economy and complementary currencies; currencies for agricultural empowerment; currencies and social innovation; new currencies, new realities; local currencies in and from the Canary Islands; Portuguese coins; REAS (Alternative and Solidarity Economics Network) currencies of the Spanish state; and cases of North America. At the same time there was a workshop of co-design of mobile credit coins and a practical workshop on the design of local currencies. There was also the International Conversation of Time Banks, organized by Economía R-Evolucionaria and its network of time banks in Chile, in collaboration with the Ibero-American Association of Time Banks, and the II Meeting of Catalan CCs, organized by the Observatory of Complementary Currency.

With a total of 71 speakers and more than 150 registered participants, the Meeting was a success and allowed further progress in the dissemination, visibility and research in the field of complementary currencies, both from an experience and activist point of view, as well as from an institutional, academic and technological perspective.

The 2021 Meeting will be held by the Ekhilur of Bilbao. We'll see you there...!!!

Full program / Programa completo
<http://www.vilawatt.cat/es/programa-ix-encuentro-estatal-de-monedas-locales>

IJCCR. Se compartieron también unas muy interesantes investigaciones acerca del papel de la investigación y la motivación en el ámbito de las monedas complementarias, las respuestas y las evidencias sobre el presente y el futuro de éstas, así como su efecto glocalizador. Y finalmente, a nivel tecnológico, se presentaron plataformas de monedas centralizadas (Cyclos, Clickoin, IntegralCES y Tarannà), al mismo tiempo que se hizo una introducción a las monedas blockchain, la tokenización de valores, la colateralización y el swapping de monedas.

El sábado día 28 fue exclusivamente dedicado al ámbito experiencial y activista. Se presentaron distintas de las iniciativas existentes, tanto en España como a nivel internacional, desde distintos enfoques: moneda social y perspectiva de género; cooperación para el desarrollo y monedas locales; regeneración territorial, economía circular y monedas complementarias; monedas para el empoderamiento agrario; monedas e innovación social; nuevas monedas, nuevas realidades; monedas locales en y desde las Islas Canarias; monedas portuguesas; monedas de la REAS (Red de Economía Alternativa y Solidaria) en el estado español; y experiencias en América del Norte. En paralelo a todo ello, se sucedieron un taller de codiseño de monedas de crédito mútuo y un taller práctico para el diseño de monedas locales. Así mismo tuvo lugar el Conversatorio Internacional de Bancos del Tiempo, organizado por Economía R-Evolucionaria y su red de bancos de tiempo en Chile, en colaboración con la Asociación Iberoamericana de bancos del tiempo, y el II Encuentro de Monedas Complementarias Catalanas, organizado por el Observatori de la Moneda Complementària.

Con un total de 71 ponentes y más de 150 participantes inscritos, el Encuentro fue todo un éxito y permitió seguir avanzando en la divulgación, la visibilidad y la investigación asociadas al ámbito de las monedas complementarias, tanto desde el punto de vista experiencial y activista, como desde el punto de vista institucional, académico y tecnológico.

El próximo encuentro del 2021 será el Ekhilur de Bilbao. Allí nos veremos...!!!

Prof. August Corrons, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF COMMUNITY CURRENCY RESEARCH (IJCCR)

The International Journal of Community Currency Research was founded 23 years ago, when researchers on this topic found a hard time in getting published in other peer reviewed journals. In these two decades the academic publishing industry has exploded and most papers can be published internationally with a minimal peer-review scrutiny, for a fee. Moreover, complementary currency research is not perceived as extravagant as it used to be, so it has now become possible to get published in journals with excellent reputation. In that context, the IJCCR is still the first point of contact of practitioners and new researchers on this topic. It offers open access, free publication, and it is run on a voluntary basis by established scholars in the field. In any of the last five years, it has received about 25000 views. IJCCR now counts over 190 articles with research on all continents

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SUMMER 2020
VOLUME 24 – ISSUE 2



LAST ISSUE

Volume 24 (Summer 2020, Issue 2)

[Editorial](#) by Masayuki Yoshida

[How could blockchain be a key resource in the value creation process of a local currency? A case study centered on Eusko](#) by Fabienne Pinos

[The Eusko's trajectory. Understanding the success of the complementary local currency of the Northern Basque Country](#) by Dante Edme-Sanjurjo, Mathilde Fois-Duclerc, Yannick Lung, Julien Milanesi, and Fabienne Pinos

[When is money not a currency? Developments from Finland of proto-community currencies](#) by Marcus Petz

[Characteristics of Community Currency that Contribute to Endogenous Regional Activation: Based on case studies of three community currencies -Ma~yu, Tengu, and Awa Money](#) by Han Meng and Akira Ueda

[Complementary currency localization in closed contours of economic exchange: theoretical background and experimental verification](#) by Dmitry Berg and Olga Zvereva

[Mumbuca E-dinheiro and the challenges of community governance: requirements, codes, and data digital community currency governance](#) by Luiz Arthur S. Faria, Fernando G. Severo, Henrique L. Cukierman, and Eduardo H. Diniz

[An investigation of social and credit theory of money focusing on regional and crypto currencies](#) by Chikako Nakayama and Manabu Kuwata

["Monetary Plurality" and "Currencies for an Alternative Economy": Two paradigms of complementary currency research](#) by Rolf F.H. Schroeder

Introduction to the summer issue *Going Digital? New possibilities of digital-community currency systems*

In Japan, by 2016, about 800 community currencies were issued (Kobayashi, Miyazaki, and Yoshida, 2020), the majority being analog, and the minority digital¹. Since 2017, new types of digital community currencies have emerged in Japan, such as Aqua Coin in Kisarazu, Chiba Prefecture, Shimokita Coin in Shimokitazawa, Tokyo, Kintetsu Shimakaze Coin in the Ise-Shima region of Mie Prefecture, NISEKO Pay in Niseko, Hokkaido, and Dacha Coin in Sado, Niigata Prefecture. Like analog community currencies, these too have been issued to revitalize local economies, but their issuing organizations, such as banks and corporations, are different from those of conventional community currencies. Which aspects of analog community currencies will be retained and which ones will be revamped by the digitization of community currencies? We need to rethink everything that will and will not be possible with digitization.

The *International Journal of Complementary Currency Research* has published the first issue of the papers presented at the 5th biennial RAMICS International Congress held in Takayama, Gifu Prefecture, Japan from September 11th to 15th, 2019.

The first two papers are on Eusko, a local currency in the Basque Country of France, with the former focusing on the contribution of blockchain to local currencies, and the latter on the factors that contribute to the development of Eusko; the first paper won the BPA at RAMICS 2019. The third paper is a case study of several digitally based schemes recently operating in Finland where some functions and properties of money are evident. The fourth is a survey of 49 community currencies in Japan and focuses on the “community endogenous collaboration type” of community currency. The fifth examines the conditions under which complementary currencies function by using mathematical models and agent-based simulations. The sixth explores the governance process of digital complementary currencies for Mumbuca DCC, and the seventh the rela-

tionship between the state and market in monetary theory, using sociality as a keyword. Finally, the eighth, through a literature review, asks whether there is sufficient linguistic commonality between cryptocurrency and traditional complementary currency researchers.

In this way, using an analysis of digital community / complementary currency precedents, a literature review, and simulation analysis, this issue includes discussions on the technologies that lead to digitization of community / complementary currency, governance of issuing organizations, nature of digital money, and common debate based on previous community/complementary currency research and cryptocurrency research. Through these studies, we can consider the potential for digitization of community / complementary currencies

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REFERENCES

Kobayashi, S., Miyazaki, Y., and Yoshida, M. (2020), “Historical transition of community currencies in Japan” *International Journal of Community Currency Research* Volume 24 (Winter 2020) 1–10; www.ijccr.net; ISSN 1325-9547; DOI <http://dx.doi.org/10.15133/j.ijccr.2020.001>.

NOTES

¹ In our research, we found 56 digital community currencies—32 IC-card type and 24 online-payment type—by 2016 in Japan.

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www.ijccr.net

COMMUNITY CURRENCIES LITERATURE ([CC-Literature](http://www.cc-literature.org))

The “Bibliography of Community Currency Research” strives to reflect the variety of research in this field. The core element is a databank that assembles empirical and theoretical contributions about community currencies in different languages. A list of papers and articles published in 2019-20 is available at

<https://www.cc-literature.org/new-publications-2019/>



Examples of open source publications in 2020

A selection of papers published this year.

Balaguer Rasillo, X. (2020) Alternative economies, digital innovation and commoning in grassroots organisations: Analysing degrowth currencies in the Spanish region of Catalonia. *Environmental Policy and Governance* 2020; e1910. <https://doi.org/10.1002/eet.1910>.

Barinaga Ester (2020) A Route to Commons-Based Democratic Monies? Embedding the Governance of Money in Traditional Communal Institutions, *Blockchain*, 27 November 2020 <https://doi.org/10.3389/fbloc.2020.575851>

Eskelinen, Teppo and Venäläinen, Juhanna (2020) Economic moralities in self-organised alternative economies: the Finnish cases of ridesharing and timebanking, *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, Vol. ahead-of-print No. ahead-of-print. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJSSP-11-2019-0241>.

Lee, Yu-Tse, Lin, Jhan-Jia, Hsu, Jane Yung-Jen and Wu, Ja-Ling (2020) A Time Bank System Design on the Basis of Hyperledger Fabric *Blockchain*, *Future Internet* 2020, 12(5), 84 <https://doi.org/10.3390/fi12050084>

Naughton-Doe R, Cameron A, Carpenter J. (2020) Timebanking and the co-production of preventive social care with adults; what can we learn from the challenges of implementing person-to-person timebanks in England? *Health and Social Care Community*. 2020; 00:1–11 <https://doi.org/10.1111/hsc.13166>.

Sartori, Laura: The Social Life of Sardex and Liberex (2020) Kin or Acquaintances? A Comparison Between Two Mutual Credit Circuits in Italy, *Partecipazione e Conflitto*, 13,1, 487-513, <https://doi.org/10.1285/i20356609v13i1p487>.

September, Jeremy (2020) The Influence of Circulation Efficiency on the Longevity of a Community Currency Organization: A Dual Case Study, *Journal of Policy Science* 13, 49-68. <https://doi.org/10.34382/00004681>.

