



1. Editorial

Dear members,

As you may know, RAMICS was created on the 30th of October 2015 in Salvador da Bahia by the collective will of 32 persons gathered for the 3rd International conference on Social and complementary currencies. We have slowly achieved some of the goals set back then.

We are very pleased to launch our first newsletter since the creation of RAMICS. This is the opportunity to remind readers of the origins of the association, to report on what has been done since, and to outline some prospects. Please enjoy!

What's in a name?

RAMICS stands for "Research Association on Monetary Innovation and community and complementary systems".

As stated in the Preamble of RAMICS constitution:

"The mission of the Association is to promote academic research on diverse monetary and social exchange systems". It focuses especially "on innovative schemes that contribute to economic diversity, social cohesion, democratic participation and environmental sustainability, like complementary and community currencies." And: "Its main aim is to bring together the ideas of a number of theorists and theoretical traditions in various scientific disciplines to understand in a relevant way the proliferation of currencies since the turn of the millennium. The present plurality of means of payment and units of account follows multiple historical precedents and the association fosters research that would recognize the role of history and evolutionary processes in the formation of monetary systems within capitalist and non-capitalist economies. It is then focussed on the varieties of money and currency systems, that it aims at analysing in theory as well as in policy, notably through connexions with practitioners, policymakers and various observers of these systems."

As a volunteer association, which aims at promoting academic-oriented research

developed by its members, RAMICS does not intend to develop its own research programmes. Rather it aims to work like any other international academic research association, whatever the academic field (see for example [ESHET](#) or [EAEPE](#)).

To take this forward, the constituent general assembly named a management committee composed of Georgina Gómez as Secretary, Rolf Schröder as Treasurer, Ariadne Scalfoni Rigo and Makoto Nishibe as other members, and myself as President.

We were proud to start this adventure and we were aware of the responsibility we had. We had to build everything in this new house, starting with... the house itself!

RAMICS' family

Well, actually, not everything was to be built from the ground up. RAMICS in seeking to achieve its aim as an association that promotes research, does so through three basic pillars, taking stock of already existing dynamics. These are:

1. A biennial conference. Conferences have been the first steps before the creation of RAMICS: in Lyon first (2011), then in The Hague (2013). The creation of RAMICS in Salvador da Bahia (2015) led to formally establish this principle of a biennial conference. Such a regular gathering is of uttermost importance: in the realm of CCs, with a few thousands of local and specific cases, with a scattered community of academic and non-academic researchers, with often problems of academic acknowledgement of the works of scholars, there is a need to constitute and maintain international networks. Conferences make people meet, discuss research and build networks.

The **next conference will be in Barcelona (May, 10-14th)**, organized by August Corrons at the Open university of Catalunya (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya). A great event happening soon (see the presentation of this forthcoming conference in this newsletter).

2. The **International Journal of Community currency research**,



founded in 1997 by Colin Williams, then directed by Gill Seyfang, and, since 2015, by Georgina Gómez. (see some news from the IJCCR in this newsletter). The IJCCR is the only journal that focuses on complementary and community currencies. It does so by promoting academic research (from any discipline) as well as practitioners reflexivity, through an open access journal. This media is central in the field.

3. The **CC-Literature Databank**, created and curated by Rolf Schröder. Once again, this is a unique resource in the field, that should be the first stop for any person who is starting research. This is an exciting resource and will be a continuous project and regularly updated. It reflects the patient collection of references, their comments and links to the resources themselves, in English as well as in many other languages. This peculiarity should remind us that neither CC schemes nor CC literature is confined to English, and, by the way, every biennial conferences has promoted, up to Barcelona's, presentations and papers both in English, as today's *lingua franca*, and in one or more languages (French, Spanish, Portuguese). (see a list of references published in 2016, and a focus on one of them, Marie Fare's recently published book).

RAMICS, to date

The biennial conferences, the IJCCR and the CC-Literature databank make the foundations of RAMICS family. You can breathe in the family atmosphere through the new common visual identity we gave to RAMICS, IJCCR and CC-Literature websites.

A **website** has thus been created. Information on its activity will be put online on a regular basis. Since its creation, **it has partnered with a few conferences**, in order to contribute to spreading CC research. A twitter account has been opened (@ramics_asso). We solicited Teodoro Criscione for a volunteer mission to improve RAMICS communication skills. Separate from RAMICS but connected to its logics, August Corrons goes on preparing Barcelona's conference. Many things still need to be developed and

improved. A reason to follow and support us!

Next general assembly

The Barcelona Conference will be the occasion to organize the 2016-17 general assembly of the association. It should be organized on Friday, 12th of May, 11:30-13:30. We look forward to gathering RAMICS membership!

Jérôme Blanc, President for RAMICS

2. Get Ready! Barcelona Conference to come

Forthcoming: the **IVth International Conference on Social and Complementary Currencies** (Barcelona, UOC, 10-14 May 2017)

Call for papers on

“Money, Consciousness and Values for Social Change”

This conference is focussed on 3 field topics, in order to accommodate different and multidisciplinary approaches:

Field 1: Money, consciousness and values. A field that accommodates works related to the reflections in terms of money and the capitalist model, proposals of monetary and financial system reform, values and motivations related to the money and CCs, awareness-building and social psychology in terms of money and CCs...

Field 2: Real experiences. A field that accommodates works related to the presentations of CC experiences and practices, economic, social and environmental evaluation and impact of SSC, innovation and technologies related to CCs...

Field 3: Institutions and public policies. A field that accommodates works related to the reflections and realities on SCC for the transition towards other socio-economic models from the very institutions and public policies.

Results of the call



Proposal submissions are now closed.
140 abstracts have been validated:
- 60,7% in English, 32,1% in Spanish, 5,0%
in Portuguese and 2,2% in French
- 67,9% from Europe, 18,3% from Latin
America, 6,9% from North America, 5,3%
from Asia and 1,6% from Africa

Schedule

The presentations linked with this Call for Papers will take place from Wed, 10th to Friday, 12th May 2017. There will be at least three parallel session lines, one of which will be held in the event hall and the others in neighbouring rooms. Access to this academic part of the conference will require registration and payment. From 13th May to 14th May, access will be free.

Next steps

Complete articles or communications should be sent by 15th April 2017. Papers can be in English, Spanish, French or Portuguese.

Registration

https://symposium.uoc.edu/event_detail/3642/tickets.html

Publication

Three special issues should be published in the IJCCR, linked to the three fields that have been presented. Such issues will include a selection of the most interesting articles to be presented in each one of the fields.

Correspondent: **prof. August Corrons**

3. News from the IJCCR

The **International Journal of Community Currency Research** is the main academic publication of RAMICS, the **Research Association on Monetary Innovation and Complementary and Community Currencies**. IJCCR aims to provide a platform for researchers to disseminate their work among academic circles. It welcomes articles of scientific quality that present a well-argued proposition, reliable data, and an explicit dialogue with theories and the work of other scholars in the field. The journal is

committed to achieving the widest possible coverage of topics and disciplines pertinent to monetary innovation, local community exchange mechanisms (with or without means of payment), and complementary currencies. IJCCR guarantees a double blind peer review process to help authors improve their papers to standards that would constitute an addition to our present state of knowledge.

Professionalization

In its 21 years of life, IJCCR has become the backbone of academic research on community currencies, with over 150 articles openly accessible to other researchers, policy-makers and the general public. For students and government officials, it is one of the first places to start a literature search that is sufficiently reliable, independent and can reasonably sustain the criticism of others. We proudly invite researchers to contribute to the common pool of knowledge offered in www.ijccr.net. Please read our **guidelines for authors** on how to submit your papers and become part of our collective learning. We also welcome colleagues who would like to support the journal by formatting, proof-reading, peer reviewing and other tasks of the publishing process.

IJCCR is constantly striving to improve its position as a research outlet where everyone would like to publish. In collaboration with the libraries of the Universities of Delft and Rotterdam in the Netherlands, August Corrons, member of the IJCCR Editorial group and lecturer at the Open University of Catalonia, worked throughout 2016 to add Digital Object Identifiers (DOI) to every article. With a DOI, the metadata of each article will be stored in association with a location, in this case the URL at IJCCR.net, where it can be found. A DOI facilitates the dissemination of research in academic hubs such as ResearchGate, Academia.edu and Google Scholar. The DOI for a document is permanent, even if its location and other metadata may change. The DOI codes were a necessary condition to be recognizable as academic research by search engines such as Google Scholar. Published articles are now easier for readers to find and for authors to track their own citation statistics. At the time of writing this



Editorial (30 January 2017), Google Scholar citation indices showed that IJCCR has a record of 1524 citations in its history, of which 960 have taken place since 2012. The next step will be to propose the inclusion of IJCCR in indexed academic databases, such as Web of Science and Scopus. The Editorial Board of IJCCR regards this new coding as a step forward in making the journal more visible and professional. Please continue submitting your research for publication in the IJCCR, as the number of articles and their regularity are two criteria that will be considered to achieve that goal.

The 2017 Winter issue

The Winter Issue of Volume 21, which has been published in February 2017, includes three articles that address the issue of upgrading and upscaling of CCS. The first paper recounts the evolution of Sardex, a complementary currency in the Island of Sardinia, Italy, and its expansion throughout the island over the past 6 years. Giuseppe Littera, Laura Sartori, Paolo Dini and Panayotis Antoniadis emphasise that Sardex growth motivated an in-depth look at its starting assumptions, design and operational principles, and socio-economic context. The paper concludes that creating and maintaining trust has been a critical element for the creation and operation of Sardex as a mutual credit system. The analysis relies on semi-structured in-depth interviews of circuit members and benefits from the reflexive point of view of one of its founders.

The second paper reports on the Dutch experience of Do it Together! (DiT), which is a social complementary currency (CC) project in two municipalities in the Netherlands as it integrated more actors into the process. Lydwien A. Batterink, Edgar A.D. Kampers, and Judith C.V. van der Veer describe how the member organisations and businesses participate in an initiative that binds the efforts of their different policies and strategies into a unified framework. Through this co-creative design process, the partners support one another in achieving their own objectives through rewarding desired behaviours of citizens and customers. During the life of the project, various challenges have led to the configuration of creative solutions.

The third article refers to time banking and looks at the normative principles of co-production, the moral commitment that time banking stands for and the challenges to sustain these principles when more members come in. Neville Clement, Allyson Holbrook, Daniella Forster, Johanna Macneil, Max Smith, Kevin Lyons and Elizabeth McDonald discuss the nature of co-production in timebanking, the practice of reciprocity and time exchange balances. The authors identify a gap in community currency research on the ways in which participant enact these normative values in the daily life of the scheme.

All the articles published since 1997 can be found on the IJCCR website, **just there**, including the 2016 issue.

Georgina Gómez (International Institute of Social Studies, The Hague)

4. A brief retrospective on the International Conference on Social and Complementary Currencies of Salvador da Bahia (October, 2015)

In Lyon and in The Hague many groups, communities and small towns around the world presented and discussed their use and conceptions of social currency initiatives. In addition, researchers presented The first International Conference on Social and Complementary Currencies was organized in Lyon, France, in February 2011, by the Université Lumière - Lyon 2. More than 250 persons from five continents participated in the activities under the theme "thirty years of community and complementary currencies: what next? ". In June 2013, the Erasmus University of Rotterdam organized the second Conference in The Hague, in the Netherlands. Their analyzes on the processes of the creation and use of social currencies.

Brazil's conference

Researchers and practitioners came from 15 In both conferences, Brazil was represented by the initiative of the Instituto Banco Palmas (the Palmas being the social



currency of the neighborhood Conjunto Palmeira, in Fortaleza) and by scholars of the Federal University of Bahia - UFBA. During the Conference of The Hague, these researchers were invited to organize the third edition of this conference in Brazil because of its representativeness and the need to increase the participation of practitioners and researchers from Latin America. Typologies, models and innovation (12 papers).

The Conference theme in Brazil assumed a strong relationship between social currencies and practices of a solidarity-based economy. The theme was "Social Currency in Social and Solidarity Economies: innovation and development.". During the Brazilian Conference, 41 papers were presented in four themes.

- Theme 1: Social and complementary currencies for development purposes (12 papers)
- Theme 2: Impact and results of social and complementary currencies (8 papers)
- Theme 3: Contextual differences and lessons from experiences (9 papers)
- Theme 4: countries such as: Hungary, Bulgaria, Japan, Colombia, Mexico, Argentina, Ecuador, France, Portugal, UK, Italie, Australia and others.

A special issue of the IJCCR

Ariadne Scalfoni Rigo (Federal University of Bahia, Brazil) is currently organizing a Special Issue of the International Journal of Community Currency Research (IJCCR), edited by Georgina M. Gómez, with papers from the 3rd International Conference. All authors are invited to submit their papers following **the rules and format of the IJCCR**. The papers must to be submitted by April 15, 2017 and send to ariadnescaltoni@gmail.com. Papers have to be submitted in English. The editors suggest the authors make improvements in their papers before submitting to the journal. If accepted, authors will do the proof-reading of their papers. Papers will follow the normal process of the IJCCR and the accepted papers will compose the special issue.

Ariadne Scalfoni Rigo (UFBA, Brazil)

5. Literature 2016/2017 – from the “Bibliography of Community Currency Research”

*Please find below a list of contributions, almost all from 2016, one from 2017. Usually, these are publications; a few unpublished papers are also included. These sources will be integrated into the databank of cc-literature.de; this will take a bit of time, because annotations have to be prepared. Not included in the list are publications in the **International Journal of Community Currency Research**; I refer to the IJCCR section in this newsletter. This time we included only sources in English language. Publications in other languages will be presented in the next newsletters. In some cases I added short explanatory notes.*

Rolf Schroeder

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Dash, Anup (2016) An Epistemological Reflection on Social and Solidarity Economy, *Forum for Social Economics*, 45,1, pp. 61-87, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/07360932.2014.995194>.

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Dietrich, M., Znotka, M., Guthor, H. et al. (2016) Instrumental and Non-instrumental Factors of Social Innovation Adoption, *Voluntas: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations* (2016) 27,4: pp. 1950-1978. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11266-015-9639-2> (Time Banks in senior cooperatives, RFHS).

Dini, Paolo, Motta, Wallis and Sartori, Laura (2016) Self-funded social impact

investment: an interdisciplinary analysis of the Sardex mutual credit system. In: *ISIRC: 8th International Social Innovation Research Conference*, 05-07 Sep 2016, Glasgow, UK, <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/67622/>.

Fare Marie (2016), *Repenser la monnaie. Transformer les territoires, faire société*, Paris, Editions Charles Léopold Mayer - Institut Veblen pour les réformes économiques. <http://www.eclm.fr/ouvrage-380.html>

Fuders, Felix (2016) Smarter Money for Smarter Cities: How Regional Currencies Can Help to Promote a Decentralised and Sustainable Regional Development, In: *Decentralisation and Regional Development*, Springer Geography pp 155-185, http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007%2F978-3-319-29367-7_9.

Gómez, Georgina M., Dini, Paolo (2016) Making sense of a crank case: monetary diversity in Argentina (1999-2003), *Cambridge Journal of Economics*, 40 (5): 1421-1437, <https://doi.org/10.1093/cje/bew034>.

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In: *BT - Global Magic: Technologies of Appropriation from Ancient Rome to Wall Street*, pp. 129 – 149, Palgrave Macmillan US, New

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Isaacs, Gilad (2016) Alternative forms of finance, *FESSUD Working Paper Series No. 170*, http://fessud.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Fessud_WP_170_-Alternative-Forms-of-Finance-Literature-Review.pdf.

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**6. A focus on Marie Fare's book
: *Repenser la monnaie,
Transformer les territoires,
Faire société*, Paris, ECLM, 2016
(*Rethinking Money,
Transforming Territories,
Making Society*)**

We focus here on this recently published book of one of the founding RAMICS members, Marie Fare (Université Lumière Lyon 2, France)

A brief presentation

LETS, time banks, Accorderies, Argentinean-like trueque systems, Ithaca-like Hour currencies, German-like regio systems, Brazilian-like community development banks and currencies, 'Transition Towns' local currencies – these schemes are all described as complementary and community currencies. Marie Fare explores in this book the possibilities offered by these currencies in terms of generating a new wealth in their territories. They also symbolize the reappropriation of a right kidnapped by economic authorities. In this sense, CCs are a vehicle for mobilising and creating networks for territorial stakeholders through the symbolic values they carry (territorial and community identity, emancipation, institutionalisation and empowerment, base for co-involvement of stakeholders, marketing for alternative values and local development paradigm...). Money is and must remain a common, at the service of a sustainable territorial development.

Who's she?

Marie Fare is associate professor in economics at the University of Lyon and a member of the UMR 5206 Triangle (CNRS). Her research focuses on monetary plurality and more particularly on Community and Complementary Currencies (CCs) mainly analyzed through socioeconomic

and institutionalist viewpoint. Her works deal with CCs analysed in relation with sustainable territorial development (potentialities, impacts and prospects). She authored a thesis on "Monetary conditions for sustainable local development: complementary exchange schemes for subsidiary currencies", defended in 2011. She co-organized the first International Conference on Community and Complementary Currencies in Lyon, in February 2011.

7. Miscellaneous

This newsletter was prepared by Jérôme Blanc with the contributions of August Corrons, Georgina Gómez, Ariádne Scalfoni Rigo, Rolf Schröder and Marie Fare. Teodoro Criscione provided us with his helpful skills so as to use MailChimp. Any suggestion is welcome for the next issues.

With regards to data protection, we checked the [privacy policy of MailChimp](#) and consider the use of this tool as being in line with our data protection standards.