

The background of the cover is a dark, textured grey. Overlaid on this are several horizontal arms and hands of various skin tones, arranged in a chain-like fashion. Each hand is reaching out and grasping the hand of another person, creating a continuous line of human connection across the top and bottom of the frame. The lighting is soft, highlighting the contours of the arms and the texture of the skin.

# The Human Economy

Edited by Keith Hart, Jean-Louis Laville and Antonio David Cattani

The chapters by Anne Salmon, Alfonso Coterá Fretell and Humberto Ortiz Roca, Alain Caillé, Philip S. Golub and Jean-Paul Maréchal, François-Xavier Merrien and Angèle Flora Mendy, Jean-Michel Servet, Jean-Louis Laville, Jacques Defourny, Jérôme Blanc, and Adalbert Evers appeared originally in French in *Dictionnaire de l'autre économie* edited by Jean-Louis Laville and Antonio David Cattani © Desclée de Brouwer, 2006

All remaining individual chapters © their authors 2010; this collection © Polity Press 2010

First published in 2010 by Polity Press

Polity Press  
65 Bridge Street  
Cambridge CB2 1UR, UK

Polity Press  
350 Main Street  
Malden, MA 02148, USA

All rights reserved. Except for the quotation of short passages for the purpose of criticism and review, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publisher.

ISBN-13: 978-0-7456-4979-5 (hardback)  
ISBN-13: 978-0-7456-4980-1 (paperback)

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Typeset in 10.5 on 12 pt Garamond MT Pro  
by Servis Filmsetting Ltd, Stockport, Cheshire  
Printed and bound in Great Britain by MPG Books Group, UK

The publisher has used its best endeavours to ensure that the URLs for external websites referred to in this book are correct and active at the time of going to press.

However, the publisher has no responsibility for the websites and can make no guarantee that a site will remain live or that the content is or will remain appropriate.

Every effort has been made to trace all copyright holders, but if any have been inadvertently overlooked the publishers will be pleased to include any necessary credits in any subsequent reprint or edition.

For further information on Polity, visit our website: [www.politybooks.com](http://www.politybooks.com)

## NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

**Catherine Alexander** is a Reader in Anthropology at Goldsmiths, University of London. After voluntary work and then working for central government in Britain and Turkey, she was trained in anthropology. An economic and political anthropologist, her interests are in property relations, urban anthropology, waste and the third sector. She has worked in Turkey, Britain and Kazakhstan. Her books include *Personal States: Making Connections between People and Bureaucracy in Turkey* (2002).

**Jérôme Blanc** is Associate Professor of Economics at University Lumière Lyon 2 and a member of the LEFI research centre. His works deal with money, through its uses and the history of monetary ideas. He works on plural money forms, especially community and complementary currencies. His books include *Les Monnaies parallèles: Unité et diversité du fait monétaire* (2000) and (editor) *Monnaies sociales: Exclusion et liens financiers, rapport 2005–06* (2006).

**John M. Bryden** is a Research Professor with the Norwegian Agricultural Economics Research Institute (NILF) in Oslo and President of the International Rural Network. He is Emeritus Professor at the University of Aberdeen, where he co-directed the Arkleton Centre for Rural Development Research. He has published on tourism, agrarian change, land reform and community

development. Trained in political economy, he has been a development economist, human geographer and farmer.

**Alain Caillé** is Professor of Sociology at the University of Paris X, Nanterre, and co-director of SOPHIAPOL (Laboratoire de sociologie, philosophie, anthropologie, politiques). He is a leading member of MAUSS (The Anti-Utilitarian Movement in the Social Sciences) and editor of its journal, *La Revue du MAUSS*. His books include *Anthropologie du don. Le Tiers paradigme* (2000), *Théorie anti-utilitariste de l'action* (2009) and with Jacques Gobout *The World of the Gift* (2000).

**Antonio David Cattani** is Professor of Sociology and member of the Postgraduate Sociology Institute Board at the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (Porto Alegre, Brazil); also a 1A grade researcher for the Brazilian National Science and Technology Research Centre. His books include *Dicionário de trabalho e Tecnologia* (2009), *Dicionário Internacional da Outra Economia* (2009) and *Diccionario de la otra Economía* (2009). His current research is on the sociology of inequality and wealth, social class and power (<http://antoniodavidcattani.net>).

**José Luis Coraggio** is Research Professor and Academic Director of a Master's in Social Economy at the National University of General Sarmiento, Argentina. He co-ordinates the Network of Latin American Researchers on Social and Solidarity Economy (RILESS [www.riless.org](http://www.riless.org)). His research is on popular economy, the economics of work, local development and social policy. He has written and edited twenty-five books including *Política social y economía del trabajo* (1999), *La Economía Social desde la Periferia* (2007) and *¿Qué es lo económico?* (2009). He is a co-editor of *Diccionario de la otra Economía* (2009).

**Alfonso Cotera Fretel** is a social activist and consultant for local development, solidarity economy, fair trade, social finance, social tourism and alternative communications. He has a number of publications in all these areas. He currently serves as Executive Director of the Solidarity Economy Network of Peru (GRESPE), the Peruvian Network of Fair Trade and Ethical Consumption (RPCJyCE) and the Latin American Office of Co-ordination for Fair Trade.

**Jacques Defourny** is Professor of Economics and a director of the Centre for Social Economy ([www.ces-ulg.be](http://www.ces-ulg.be)) at the University of Liège, Belgium. He was a founding co-ordinator and president of the EMES European Research Network (2002–10) which co-ordinates eleven university research centres specialized in social enterprise and third-sector studies ([www.emes.net](http://www.emes.net)). He is the author or editor of twelve books including, as co-editor, *The Emergence of Social Enterprise* (2001). His current work focuses on emerging forms of social enterprise in third-sector development across the world.

**Thomas Hylland Eriksen** is a social anthropologist at the University of Oslo, where he was research manager of the interdisciplinary project ‘Cultural Complexity in the New Norway’ and is now directing a project on place and identity in a multi-ethnic Oslo suburb. He has written extensively on globalization and identity politics. His books include *Engaging Anthropology* (2005), *Globalization: The Key Issues* (2007) and (co-editor) *A World of Insecurity* (2010). Eriksen’s website, since 1996, is <http://folk.uio.no/geirthe>.

**Adalbert Evers** is Professor of Politics at the Justus-Liebig University of Giessen in Germany. He is co-editor of the series ‘Sociology and Social Policy’ published by Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften and has written a number of works including as co-author *Balancing Pluralism* (1993), *Developing Quality in Personal Social Services: Concepts, Cases and Comments* (1997) and *The Third Sector in Europe* (with Jean-Louis Laville, 2004).

**Philip S. Golub**, an American author living in Paris, teaches International Relations and International Political Economy at the Institute of European Studies, University of Paris 8 and at the American University of Paris. He is a contributing editor of *Le monde diplomatique*. His research is mainly on the historical sociology of international relations, especially the construction of hierarchy and inequality in the late modern world system. He is the author of *Power, Profit and Prestige: A History of American Imperial Expansion* (2010).

**David Graeber** is Reader in Social Anthropology at Goldsmiths, University of London. He has written on value, debt, direct action, magic, violence, Malagasy mortuary ritual, and many other topics.

Over the years he has worked with a number of groups dedicated to developing direct democracy and getting rid of capitalism. These range from People's Global Action to Industrial Workers of the World.

**Chris Hann** is a Director of the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle, Eastern Germany. He is an economic anthropologist with a special interest in property relations. He has carried out fieldwork in Hungary and Poland during both socialist and post-socialist periods, in rural Turkey and in China. His books include *'Not the Horse We Wanted': Postsocialism, Neoliberalism and Eurasia* (2006).

**Keith Hart** lives in Paris, where he collaborates with several French intellectuals, and is currently Honorary Research Professor at the University of Kwazulu-Natal, Durban. He is an economic anthropologist who contributed the concept of the informal economy to development studies. His books include *The Memory Bank: Money in an Unequal World* (2000). He recently founded an online association, the Open Anthropology Co-operative, and has an active blog at <http://thememorybank.co.uk>.

**Lars Hulgård** is a Professor at Roskilde University, Denmark who founded the Centre for Social Entrepreneurship in 2007 <http://www.ruc.dk/paes/cse/>. He also founded the CINEFOGO-Network of Excellence, an international cross-disciplinary network on civil society and new forms of governance. He was co-founder of the European EMES Network and is now president <http://www.emes.net>). He has been a member of the executive committee of the National Association on Social Policy and president of the Danish Sociological Association. Research interests include social enterprise, social economy and solidarity economy.

**Jean-Louis Laville** is a Professor of Sociology and Economics at the Conservatoire national des arts et métiers, Paris (<http://relations-service.cnam.fr>), researcher in Lise (CNRS.Cnam) and European co-ordinator of the Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy (<http://polanyi.concordia.ca/>). He was a founding member of the EMES European Research Network and is a member of the board (<http://www.emes.net>). He is also a founding member of the Riless

([www.riless.org](http://www.riless.org)). His numerous books include *L'économie solidaire* (2007), *Politique de l'association* (2010), *The Third Sector in Europe* (2004, co-author), *Tackling Social Exclusion in Europe* (2001, co-editor). He is co-editor of *Dicionário da Outra Economia* (2009) and of *Diccionario de la otra Economía* (2009).

**David Lewis** is an anthropologist working on international development policy and practice with organizations such as Oxfam GB, BRAC Bangladesh and Concern Worldwide. He is Professor of Social Policy and Development at the London School of Economics and Political Science, where his research includes the ethnography of policy processes, the non-governmental sector and the political economy of Bangladesh. He is co-author of *Anthropology, Development and the Postmodern Challenge* (1996) and *Nongovernmental Organizations and Development* (2008). See [www.personal.lse.ac.uk/lewisd/](http://www.personal.lse.ac.uk/lewisd/).

**Desmond McNeill** is a Professor at SUM (Centre for Development and the Environment), University of Oslo. He was a lecturer at University College London, where he wrote his PhD, 'Fetishism and the Value-Form: Towards a General Theory of Value'. He is co-author of *Global Institutions and Development: Framing the World?* (2004), *Development Issues in Global Governance: Public-Private Partnerships and Market Multilateralism* (2007) and *Global Poverty, Ethics and Human Rights: The Role of Multilateral Organizations* (2009). See <http://www.sum.uio.no/staff/mcneill-desmond.html>.

**Jean-Paul Maréchal** is Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Rennes 2. He is a researcher at the Institute for Applied Mathematics and Economics and a member of Political and Ethical Knowledge on Economic activities. His research is on economic ethics, environmental economics, sustainable development and epistemology. He has published over one hundred articles and five books including *Humaniser l'économie* (prize of the French Academy of Moral and Political Sciences in 2001).

**Paulo Henrique Martins** lives in Recife, Brazil. He is Professor of Sociology at the Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE) and a 1C grade researcher for the Brazilian National Science and Technology Research Centre (CNPq). He is an associate member

of the Mouvement Anti-Utilitariste en Sciences Sociales (MAUSS). He is currently vice-president of the Latin American Sociological Association (ALAS) and chair of the committee that is organizing the ALAS meeting to be held in Recife in September 2011.

**Angèle Flora Mendy** is a PhD student at the University of Lausanne and Research Assistant at IHEID, Geneva, Switzerland. She holds a master's degree in sociology (University of Saint-Louis, Senegal) and a master's degree in globalization studies (University of Lausanne). Her current research interests include international migration of health workers and gender and development. ([angeleflora.mendy@unil.ch](mailto:angeleflora.mendy@unil.ch)).

**François-Xavier Merrien** is Professor at the Faculty of Social and Political Science at Lausanne University, Switzerland and an international expert. His current research interests include social protection, poverty reduction strategies, developing countries, donors and the New World Order. ([francoisxavier.merrien@unil.ch](mailto:francoisxavier.merrien@unil.ch)).

**Julie A. Nelson** is a feminist economist, a founding member of the International Association for Feminist Economics ([www.iaffe.org](http://www.iaffe.org)) and a Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Boston. She is also a Senior Research Fellow at the Global Development and Environment Institute ([www.gdae.org](http://www.gdae.org)) and participates in groups working on climate change and economics education. One of her books is *Economics for Humans* (2006).

**Marthe Nyssens** is a Professor at the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, where, as a social economist, she co-ordinates a research team in the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Work-State-Society (CIRTES). She works on conceptual approaches to the third sector, in developed and developing countries, and on links between third-sector organizations and public policy. Among her books is *Social Enterprise at the Crossroads of Market, Public Policies and Civil Society* (2006). She teaches on non-profit organizations, social policy and development theory and is a founding member of the EMES European Research Network ([www.emes.net](http://www.emes.net)).



**Sabine U. O'Hara** is President of the US Society for Ecological Economics. She serves in Washington DC as executive director of the Council for International Exchange of Scholars and vice president of the Institute of International Education. She is a past president of Roanoke College and is well known for her expertise in sustainable economic development and global education.

**Humberto Ortiz Roca** is a Peruvian economist who organizes a course on development projects for the German Foundation for International Development (DSE) and several programmes promoting popular economy. He is responsible for several projects concerned with solidarity economy, is a member of several international networks, was on the organizing committee of the Third International Meeting for Solidarity Economy (held in Dakar, 2005) and is President of the Solidarity Economy Network of Peru.

**Vishnu Padayachee** is Senior Professor and Head of the School of Development Studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban. He is an Associate of Cambridge University's African Studies Centre, has served as non-executive director of the South African Reserve Bank and co-owns Ike's Books and Collectables. A political economist, his research interests include macroeconomic policy; finance, banking and monetary policy; and the politics of race and sport. He is editor of *The Political Economy of Africa* (2010).

**Geoffrey Pleyers** teaches global studies and the sociology of social movements at the University of Louvain and the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales. He is a research fellow of the Belgian Foundation for Scientific Research at Louvain and a visiting fellow at LSE's Global Governance. His fieldwork includes seven World Social Forums and alter-globalization networks in Western Europe and Latin America. His latest book is *Alter-Globalization: Becoming Actor in the Global Age* (2010). He is now researching grassroots movements for sustainable and convivial food.

**Leandro Raizer** is a researcher in the sociology of development and environment, science and technology and alternative energy sources. He currently works on renewable and alternative energies at the international level, with an emphasis on energy production of renewable in Brazil and Canada. This research is conducted with the

support of the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil and the University of Montreal, Canada.

**Arnaud Sales** is Emeritus Professor of Sociology at the Université de Montréal (Canada). He is an economic sociologist, focusing on private–public relations. Among his books are *The International Handbook of Sociology* (with Stella Quah, 2000) and *Knowledge, Communication and Creativity* (with Marcel Fournier, 2007). He is currently working on a book for Sage Publications entitled *Social Transformations in a Globalizing World*.

**Anne Salmon** is a Professor of Sociology at the Paul Verlaine University, Metz. Her current research interests are in ethics and economics. Her publications include: *Ethique et ordre économique. Une entreprise de séduction* (2002), (co-editor) *Responsabilité sociale et environnementale de l'entreprise* (2005), (co-author) 'Ethique, économie et société – Une affaire de politique?', *European Journal of Economic and Social Systems* (2006) and *Moraliser le capitalisme?* (2009).

**Jean-Michel Servet** is a Professor in the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, for whom he teaches in Geneva and Peru. He collaborates in interdisciplinary research, especially with the Institute for Development Research in Paris. He has published widely on the history of economic thought and on the social economics of money and finance. His books include *Banquiers aux pieds nus: La Microfinance* (2006), *Le Grand Renversement: De la crise au renouveau solidaire* (2010).

**Felix Stalder** lives in Vienna and is a lecturer in theories of media and society at the Zurich University of the Arts. He is a researcher and activist focusing on new forms of cultural production, surveillance, control and subjectivity, and new patterns of spatial organization. He has been a moderator of the nettime mailing list since 1998 and has organized numerous international conferences in Europe and beyond. See [felix.openflows.com](http://felix.openflows.com) for publications.

**Marilyn Taylor** lives in Bristol, UK and has long researched and written about community participation. She is Emeritus Professor at the University of the West of England and Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute for Voluntary Action Research. She is a Trustee of

the British Association of Settlements and Social Action Centres, a member of the Advisory Council for the National Council for Voluntary Organizations in England and on the editorial boards of *Voluntas* and *Community Development Journal*. She is writing a second edition of *Public Policy in the Community*.

**John Urry** is Distinguished Professor of Sociology, Lancaster University. He was educated in economics and sociology at Cambridge; is Founding Academician, Academy of Social Sciences and Editor, International Library of Sociology. He has published around forty books including *Mobilities* (2007), *After the Car* (2009), *Aeromobilities* (2009), *Mobile Lives* (2010), *Mobile Methods* (2010), *Climate Change and Society* (in preparation). His current research is on the implications of climate change and peak oil for social life.

# CONTENTS

<i>Notes on Contributors</i>	viii
1 Building the Human Economy Together <i>Keith Hart, Jean-Louis Laville and Antonio David Cattani</i>	1
Part I World Society	
2 Globalization <i>Thomas Hylland Eriksen</i>	21
3 Global Public Goods <i>Philip S. Golub and Jean-Paul Maréchal</i>	32
4 International Organizations <i>François-Xavier Merrien and Angèle Flora Mendy</i>	39
5 Development <i>Keith Hart and Vishnu Padayachee</i>	51
6 Alter-Globalization <i>Geoffrey Pleyers</i>	63
Part II Economics with a Human Face	75
7 Plural Economy <i>Jean-Louis Laville</i>	77

8	Ecological Economics <i>Sabine U. O'Hara</i>	84
9	Feminist Economics <i>Julie A. Nelson</i>	96
10	Fair Trade <i>Alfonso Coterá Fretel and Humberto Ortiz Roca</i>	107
11	Labour Economy <i>José Luis Coraggio</i>	119
12	Microcredit <i>Jean-Michel Servet</i>	130
13	Informal Economy <i>Keith Hart</i>	142
Part III Moral Politics		155
14	Citizenship <i>Paulo Henrique Martins</i>	157
15	Corporate Social Responsibility <i>Anne Salmon</i>	166
16	Welfare <i>Adalbert Evers</i>	175
17	Gift <i>Alain Caillé</i>	180
18	Moral Economy <i>Chris Hann</i>	187
19	Communism <i>David Graeber</i>	199
Part IV Beyond Market and State		211
20	The Third Sector <i>Catherine Alexander</i>	213
21	Solidarity Economy ( <i>Économie solidaire</i> ) <i>Jean-Louis Laville</i>	225
22	Community Participation <i>Marilyn Taylor</i>	236
23	Local Development <i>John M. Bryden</i>	248
24	Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) <i>David Lewis</i>	261

25	Social Capital <i>Desmond McNeill</i>	273
26	Social Enterprise <i>Jacques Defourny and Marthe Nyssens</i>	284
27	Social Entrepreneurship <i>Lars Hulgård</i>	293
Part V New Directions		301
28	Community and Complementary Currencies <i>Jérôme Blanc</i>	303
29	Digital Commons <i>Felix Stalder</i>	313
30	Mobility <i>John Urry</i>	325
31	Alternative Energy <i>Arnaud Sales and Leandro Raizer</i>	336
32	Worlds of Emancipation <i>Antonio David Cattani</i>	348
<i>Index</i>		361

# Building the Human Economy Together

*Keith Hart, Jean-Louis Laville and Antonio Cattani*

We have just been through a prolonged social experiment in which markets and money were left to find their own way around the world without much political interference. This experiment has been called ‘neoliberalism’, at one time ‘the Washington consensus’. The freedom of these markets was mainly for those with lots of money. The rest of us had to adjust; and society became much more unequal as a result. One victim of neoliberalism was certainly democracy in any meaningful sense. Then came the financial crisis of 2008, which provoked massive intervention by the most vulnerable governments, using taxpayers’ money to save the banking system from collapse. No one knows whether capitalism, the winning side in the Cold War, will recover without fundamental change or if a major shift is taking place in its prime location, to China and other ‘emerging markets’ like India and Brazil. Neoliberalism has been wounded, but it is not yet defeated. In the meantime, what can we, the people, do about it? Surely the time is ripe to consider other possible ways forward?

Neoliberalism was and is at its core an Anglophone phenomenon. The Italian finance minister was only half joking when he said that his country’s banks were in reasonable shape because their managers didn’t speak English! (They are not, by the way.) The United States and Britain gained most from the credit boom and lost most when it went bust. The rest of the world had been told to join the neoliberal revolution or get used to life in the dustbin of history. The ‘French

social model' epitomized the lingering failure of post-war social democracy when strong states built up their economies by investing heavily in public services and enterprises. The relative attractiveness of the two models looks rather different now. But we are not here just to celebrate another swing of the pendulum from state to market and back again. It is time for the people to have their say in economic matters.

We want to bring to the attention of English readers some currents of economic theory and practice that have flourished in non-Anglophone countries over the last two decades, particularly in France, Brazil, Hispanic America and Scandinavia. To these we have added significant work by English-speaking authors that was sidelined during neoliberalism's heyday and deserves to find a wider audience now. We have brought these strands of new thinking together under the umbrella concept of 'the human economy' which refers to an emphasis both on what people do for themselves and on the need to find ways forward that must involve all of humanity somehow.

In the second half of the twentieth century, we formed a world society – a single interactive social network – for the first time. It was symbolized by several moments, such as when the 1960s space race allowed us to see the earth from the outside, or when the internet went public in the 1990s. This world is massively unequal and voices for human unity are often drowned. But now at last we have means of communication adequate to expressing universal ideas. Anthropologists and sociologists have shown that *Homo economicus* – the idea of an economy based on narrow self-interest, typified as the practice of buying cheap and selling dear – is absent from many societies and does not even reflect what is best about ourselves. We ought to be able to do better than that by now. But ideas alone are insufficient. Emergent world society *is* the new human universal – not an idea, but the fact of our shared occupation of the planet crying out for new principles of association. The essays assembled in this volume are intended as a contribution to that urgent project for our species.

### **Economics after the crash**

The failure in September 2008 of the New York investment bank Lehman Brothers triggered a financial collapse whose ramifications



are still with us. Predictions of the outcome of the ensuing global economic crisis vary widely. Following a sustained equities rally in 2009, some commentators argued that the recession that followed Lehman's demise is already over and the free market ready to assume its inexorable rise, while others talk of a double-dip recession, a sovereign debt crisis and a recovery that could take twenty-five years. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, it was claimed that the world had entered a new stage of economic evolution to which all countries would eventually have to conform, where money flowed without political restriction and the market penetrated everywhere. There were a few doubters, of course, who identified the shaky foundations of the boom long before it crashed. But it took courage then to go against the prevailing orthodoxy that all was best in the best of all worlds. What happened next did change a lot, if not everything.

Economic growth can now be seen to have been sustained by a regime of cheap consumer credit, especially in the United States; many banks and other financial houses, notably the insurance giant AIG, exposed themselves to unacceptable levels of risk, particularly in the new market for credit derivatives; these became 'toxic assets' which were bought by taxpayers at huge cost in order to preserve the banking system as a whole; access to loans dried up overnight, despite these government subsidies; the leading exporters of manufactures, such as China, Germany and Japan, suffered massive reductions in demand for their products; the newly 'liberated' Eastern Europeans went into free fall, as did countries like Ireland (hitherto a 'Celtic tiger') and Spain, not to mention little Iceland; despite governments printing money like there was no tomorrow, the threat of deflation was real; business bankruptcies and rising unemployment contributed to the economic malaise in rich and poor countries alike.

The economy, which had been represented as an eternally benevolent machine for growth, was suddenly pitch-forked into the turmoil of history. The chattering classes rediscovered the 1930s. The market was now seen to require massive state intervention if it were to have any chance of surviving. The financial 'masters of the universe' quickly brought out the begging bowl and in some cases had to suffer nationalization. Anglophone governments who once claimed to be leading the world to a free-market future desperately embraced remedies they called 'Keynesian', incurring the risk of hyperinflation if the bond market collapsed. The global shift of economic power from