

THE POLITICS AND
ETHICS OF THE JUST PRICE

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RESEARCH IN ECONOMIC ANTHROPOLOGY VOLUME 39

**THE POLITICS AND ETHICS
OF THE JUST PRICE:
ETHNOGRAPHIES OF
MARKET EXCHANGE**

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FOREWORD

This volume of *Research in Economic Anthropology* (REA) is fruit of a panel the co-editors convened at the 2016 biennial meeting of the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), held in Milan, Italy. The title of that panel, *Just Prices: Moral Economic Legacies and New Struggles over Value*, attracted interest, and the event itself initiated the debates you now see in print. It was at the conference that we first discussed the possibility of turning the collection of papers into an edited volume, or special issue. We would therefore, in the first instance, like to thank the participants in our panel, some of whom have provided contributions to this publication.

Following the EASA meeting, the editors continued to mull over the themes and ideas sparked by the panel in a series of encounters, meetings and through email conversations. We also contacted Emerald, who had produced an earlier volume edited by de Neve, Luetchford, Pratt, and Wood, entitled *Hidden Hands in the Market: Ethnographies of Fair Trade, Ethical Consumption, and Corporate Social Responsibility* (REA vol. 28). This previous publication is based around the work of a cluster of anthropologists working at the University of Sussex. While this is not a companion work, the content of this volume can be seen as a contribution to debates and research agendas pursued by scholars working at Sussex on the social anthropology of global economies, with a special focus on global capitalisms and their alternatives. These scholars include Geert de Neve, Peter Luetchford, Jeff Pratt, Becky Prentice and Dinah Rajak amongst others.

Many people have facilitated the production of this volume. We would like to thank the series editor, Donald Wood, for responding so positively to the initial proposal and for his timely interventions, as well as Philippa Grand, Rachel Ward, Victoria Bunce and Emma Stevenson at Emerald. The volume would never have seen the light of day without their enthusiasm, support and efficiency. We especially acknowledge their patience with what became a more extended timetable than any one of us would have liked. Our thanks also go to the 16 reviewers who gave their time under what seems to be an ever more pressing academic environment. Although they must perforce remain anonymous, we gratefully acknowledge their acute insights and critical commentaries on the substantive chapters. They were hugely helpful to the contributors in the revision process. Jeff Pratt played a key advisory role in developing the volume, and James Carrier prompted us to think more carefully and deeply about the issues and content.

From this, the reader may surmise that this volume has long and multi-stranded antecedents, though not nearly so protracted as the issue of just prices upon which it focuses. We are consequently grateful and indebted to friends and colleagues, and above all to those many scholars down the ages who have tussled with the intractable problem of the just price. If this volume makes some small contribution to those debates, we will be more than satisfied.

Peter Luetchford and Giovanni Orlando
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