

International conference on complementary currencies

## **Complementary currencies and societal challenges: Crossing academic and practitioners knowledges/perspectives**

**Time: 21-22 November, 2019**

**Venue: Brussels, Belgium**

**Institutional organizers of the research seminar:** the Centre for European Research in Microfinance (CERMi) and the Research Association on Monetary Innovation and Community and Complementary Currency Systems (RAMICS)

The surge of growth of cryptocurrencies and digital money have recently caught the attention of both management scholars and practitioners (Brière et al., 2015; Dodgson et al., 2015; Iansiti & Lakhani, 2017; Lehr & Lamb, 2018; Michelman, 2017; Posnett, 2015; Vergne & Swain, 2017). However, cryptocurrencies are only one of the latest forms of complementary currencies (Blanc, 2016). Before the emergence of cryptocurrencies, complementary currencies were mainly conceived of and issued by citizens, nonprofits, businesses, and even local public administrations, and circulated within a defined geographical region or community (Cohen, 2017; Dissaux & Fare, 2017; Guéorguieva-Bringuier & Ottaviani, 2018; Lietaer, 2001). Also known as local, social, regional and alternative currencies, these complementary currency systems are often developed to respond to societal needs and aspirations that official currencies do not address (Meyer & Hudon, 2017; Fraňková et al., 2017; North, 2007). Specifically, they can be designed to promote sustainable behavior, build community social capital, and foster trade and local development (Blanc & Fare, 2013; Collom, 2007; Gomez & Helmsing, 2008; Marshall & O'Neill, 2018; Seyfang & Longhurst, 2013). For example, inter-enterprise currencies are mainly used in business-to-business networks in order to facilitate the exchange of goods and services between small and medium-sized enterprises (Meyer & Hudon, Forthcoming; Stodder, 2009).

Complementary currencies are socio-economic innovations aiming to address societal challenges of social cohesion, economic inclusion and environmental preservation (Stodder, 2009; Joachain & Klopfert, 2014; Michel & Hudon, 2015; Sanz, 2016). This conference aims to gather researchers and practitioners to explore and debate the potential of complementary currencies for sustainable development and socio-economic resilience (Ulanowicz et al., 2009; Gregory, 2014; Graugaard, 2012). We believe that the topic is one that is predestined for cross-disciplinary research and for thinking beyond established boundaries. We invite conceptual and empirical submissions drawing on a range of theoretical perspectives and diverse methodologies to explore complementary currencies, including researchers working on cryptocurrencies.

The *Complementary Currencies and Societal Challenges* conference will be held in Brussels, Belgium. The event is designed to include academic and practitioner knowledge and will be organized in two days:

- **November 21 (evening) – Closing event of (E)change Bruxelles project co-organized with Financité**

This social event closes the (E)change Bruxelles action-research project co-organized between the Université libre de Bruxelles and Financite. It celebrates the emergence of the new Brussels local currency 'La Zinne'. Researchers participating to the research seminar of the 22<sup>nd</sup> November are welcome to join this social event, although it is not compulsory.

- **November 22:** A research seminar (in English) on the following 5 themes:
  - CC and urban resilience
  - CC and civil society
  - Technology and CC
  - CC and entrepreneurship
  - Ethics and CC

Authors who wish to present their papers at the research seminar should submit electronically a three-page abstract by **01 September 2019** to the following mail address [cermi@ulb.ac.be](mailto:cermi@ulb.ac.be) (with [mhudon@ulb.ac.be](mailto:mhudon@ulb.ac.be) in Cc), specifying to which of the 5 themes they wish to bring their contribution. Abstracts will be selected and authors will be notified and invited by **15 September 2019**. A full paper will be due on **01 November 2019**.

For questions, please contact Marek Hudon ([mhudon@ulb.ac.be](mailto:mhudon@ulb.ac.be)); H el ene Joachain ([helene.joachain@ulb.ac.be](mailto:helene.joachain@ulb.ac.be)) and Camille Meyer ([cmeyer@uvic.ca](mailto:cmeyer@uvic.ca))

We are looking forward to welcoming you on this *Complementary Currencies and Societal Challenges* event!

Scientific committee:

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