... Exact science must always tolerate a different explanation of things as its equal, one shaped by an image of the whole and premised on the value of the past that seeks to understand and interpret individual phenomena in their context and organize the material through reflective judgements according to a general point of view.

Gustav Schmoller,
“On the Purpose and Aims of the Journal” (1881)

Economics is social science. This central idea guiding Journal of Contextual Economics: Schmollers Jahrbuch since its founding in 1871 has lost none of its relevance. Ever more scholars have discovered that an “isolating” economics that removes economic processes from their social, historical, ethical, and ecological contexts in the interest of applying certain formal methods runs the danger of missing important aspects of economic reality. In philosophy, the humanities, and the social sciences, contextualism has grown in importance over the last several years, a core postulate of which is that a fuller understanding of human thought and action requires a grasp of the context in which they are embedded. In line with its original intention, the main objective of Journal of Contextual Economics is to offer such newer research a forum in which economic life is set in relation to its social and physical environment. Institutional approaches appear to be particularly relevant to this purpose, nevertheless quantitative and qualitative methods are equally welcome. We also wish to solicit contributions that devote themselves to questions of long-term human development and societal change, including from the perspective of economic history and the history of economic thought. Considering social and normative questions is an important thematic focus in the long tradition of this journal.

1. Guidelines for Authors

Journal of Contextual Economics is a forum for scholarly research that focusses on economic thought, behavior or processes set in social or physical context. Context is understood broadly as anything shaping or constraining economic thought, behavior or processes and includes such things as the ethical norms, culture, intellectual/scientific heritage or any other anthropological or sociological features of social groups or historical subjects, the legal order and institutions that have shaped and sustained economies and societies, and the physical environment, resources, and ecology upon which everything depends. In keeping with the journal’s original intention, the editors are especially interested in stimulating a discussion between different social science disciplines to shed light on real economic and social problems. Contributions may work in any methodology so long as they embed their analyses in context. All contributions must be submitted as Microsoft Word documents. Please contact the editorial office if this presents a problem.

Central themes the journal seeks to explore include:

- Institutions and institutional change
- The interaction between economic and social/physical systems
- Economic ethics and social policy
- Economic growth, quality of life, and sustainability
- Long-term human development
- Methodology/history of economics
2. Style Guide

The style for all contributions to Schmollers Jahrbuch must conform to the author-date (parenthetical) reference system outlined in the Chicago Manual of Style, 16th edition, Chapter 15. This is also outlined in Kate Turabian, A Manual for Writers, 7th edition, Chapters 18-19 and on the Chicago Style website: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.htm.

English: If you are not a native English speaker, please have your manuscript proofread carefully by one. This is crucial for the quality of both your work and our journal. Even seemingly simple cases of incorrect usage (for example, wrong prepositions) can lead to serious misunderstandings and a general lack of clarity of your manuscript’s main points. Either US or UK English spelling and usage may be employed, but please be consistent.

a) First page:

Please include the title of your manuscript on the first page (without the author’s name).

Please also include an abstract (150 words or less), the JEL Classification Codes, and keywords.

b) Headings, Subheadings, and Titles of Tables, and Figures:

All words should be capitalized except “a,” “an,” and “the,” and prepositions. Capitalize the word following a colon in a title. All headings and subheadings should be aligned flush left. Headings should be set in bold and numbered; subheadings should be set in italics (and preferably numbered as well, e.g., 3.2 The Ethos of the Age, 1870-1914).

c) Punctuation: Commas must follow Latin abbreviations (i.e., e.g., ibid.) and the word “and” in lists (serial comma/Oxford comma). Quotations should be given with double inverted commas (e.g., ...he said that “in the long run...”). Quotations within quotations should be identified with single inverted commas (e.g., He wrote that “ceteris paribus is the ‘Ricardian vice’,” using a term Schumpeter had once used.) Please place commas and periods within quotation marks.

d) Tables and Figures: Please indicate where they should appear in the text (e.g., “Table 1 about here”).

e) Spacing: All text in the manuscript must be double-spaced.

f) Typeface (font type): Please set all text and formulas in Times Roman 12 point font.

g) Indented quotations (block quotations): Please provide block quotations for any quoted extract running 6 lines or longer. Set such quoted material in a block with a three-space left indentation and in Times Roman 11 point font. Please leave the right margin ragged (do not justify).
h) References:

i. Please follow the Chicago author-date reference system.

ii. Please refrain from using footnotes except to explain or elaborate a specific point in the text. Use such footnotes sparingly and set them in 10 point Times Roman Font. Align all footnote text left leaving the right margins ragged (do not justify). Example:

1. For a fuller elaboration of this point, see Sen and Nussbaum (1993).

iii. References in the text:

- Please cite the last name of the author, the date of the publication, and the page number(s) in parentheses. Place a comma after the date of publication only: For example: (Kohlberg and Mertens 1986, 1027).

- Use semicolons to separate citations in a single parenthetical reference; please list sources chronologically: “...is driven by pervasive and growing income inequality (Stiglitz 2012; Piketty 2014).”

- If the cited work has up to three authors, list all of them. If there are more than three authors, please provide the first author “et al.”: (North et al. 2013, 50).

- To emphasize within the text, please use italics. Please write names in the standard font, not with any special format: “Pomeranz revealed that the primary constraint was ecological, not cultural or institutional.”

- All titles of books or journals should also be italicized: “Gustav Schmoller argued in his Grundriss (1900-1904) that...”. Likewise any non-English word or phrases should be italicized: “Sébastien de Vauban first used the phrase l’organisation du travail in...”.

- For reprint editions and modern editions use square brackets in the in-text citation: “Popper rejects Marx’s perceived historicist, anti-rational, and totalitarian outlook (Popper [1945] 1974).”

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ii. Format: Last name, initials of first and middle name, publication date, title and, in addition for

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Journal articles or working papers accessed from websites: as above, but including the accession date and URL. Example:


3. Guidelines for Reviewers

The editors request that reviews be completed within 45 days. A rapid turn-around time is respectful to our authors and will be appreciated by the editors. The editors expect peer reviewers to 1) make a publication recommendation on whether the manuscript should be accepted, rejected, or returned to the author for revision and resubmission; and 2) provide an informed and unbiased written critique justifying that recommendation. The written critique will be submitted to the editors to accompany the reviewer decision and will be shared with the author.

In assessing whether a manuscript should or should not be published, offer an informed opinion about whether the submission merits becoming part of the permanent body of scholarly literature that will influence the Journal of Contextual Economics readers and the social sciences more broadly, both now and into the future. Your written assessment should be detailed and thoughtful but also respectful and balanced. In conducting your review, keep in mind that the manuscript you are reviewing is a privileged communication. According to the laws of many countries, an unpublished manuscript is entitled to copyright protection; therefore, please refrain from circulating, discussing, referring or quoting a manuscript under review. The Journal of Contextual Economics employs an anonymous review process, but if you suspect that the manuscript's author is a person whom you may know and so could pose a conflict of interest (e.g., a colleague, collaborator, or a student), the editors request that you contact the editorial office immediately so that the manuscript may be reassigned.

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