

**Article by an MPIfG researcher**

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## Editorial

As has now become custom, our first issue of the year is a Special Issue. This time the subject is the *Commonalities of Capitalism*, as distinguished from its ‘varieties’. (Last year the Special Issue was on transnational economic governance, with Sigrid Quack as Guest Editor.) The Special Issue was edited by Wolfgang Streeck, on the basis of papers presented in November 2009 at a workshop at Ringberg Castle in Bavaria, overlooking the Tegernsee.

As a subject of work published in *SER*, capitalism has become increasingly prominent in recent years and now in fact leads the hit list of *SER* keywords by a large margin. The growing interest in capitalism and the rising number of submissions related to it have begun, with a time lag, to reflect the frightening experience of the crisis of 2008, or the ‘Great Recession’ as it has come to be called. That crisis and its consequences will be around for a while, and so will be the research on it by socio-economists—many of whom are wondering today why they should have overlooked the writing on the wall in the past two decades that seems all too legible with hindsight.

In 2010, *SER* again published a total of four issues, with altogether 21 articles, 4 Discussion Forums, 3 Review Symposiums, 1 Review Essay and Kathleen Thelen’s Presidential Address. The number of submissions has continued to rise. Over the years it has steadily grown and in fact more than doubled between 2006 and 2010. Total circulation of the print version of *SER* also doubled between 2003 and 2009 and is projected to have risen once again in 2010. Simultaneously, *SER*’s homepage is becoming ever more important for our readers. For 2010, it is projected that about 100 000 visitors will have downloaded abstracts, and about 73 000 will have supplied themselves with full texts. All of this suggests that our journal has finally grown out of its childhood and youth, and has taken its rightful place among the world’s leading social science journals. It will be our job to keep it there.

In 2009 the editorial team managed to provide authors with a first decision within 61 days after manuscript submission on average. Around four in five of the submissions we receive are processed for a first decision within 3 months. Our overall acceptance rate remains at roughly 20%, not counting submitted material that we ask authors to submit elsewhere as it would have little prospect getting published in *SER*. Papers that receive a ‘Revise and Resubmit’ as a first decision have a three in five chance of making it into print.

At SASE's 2010 meeting in Philadelphia, SASE president Jonathan Zeitlin awarded the annual prize of 1,000 dollars for the best submitted article in 2009 to Fred Block and Mathew R. Keller. At the U.S. meeting the editors were impressed with the large number of potential authors who participated in a 'Breakfast with the Editors' session to learn about SER's publication policy and submission and review procedure.

To our great regret, Jens Beckert left the editorial team after four years, due to too many other commitments. With his sound judgment, Jens has made an enormous contribution to our journal for which we thank him. The remaining editors are pleased to welcome Nina Bandelj from the University of California-Irvine as new team member.

SER has now a firmly established reputation for giving authors a fast turnaround and extensive and constructive reviews. This we owe above all to the excellent work of our reviewers whose invaluable contribution to SER's double-blind review procedure we gratefully acknowledge. Their names are listed at the end of this issue. We also acknowledge the support of our Advisory Committee and our Editorial Board. According to our policy statement, Editorial Board members 'are expected to help maintain and improve the intellectual excellence of the journal. They should consider submitting their best work to SER... They should also actively solicit papers'. Our thanks go to both bodies whom we ask to continue to work with us, accompanying our journal and helping it remain as successful as in past years.

Wolfgang Streeck and Jürgen Feick