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Patrik Aspers and Lise Skov
Current Sociology 2006 54: 698
DOI: 10.1177/0011392106066810

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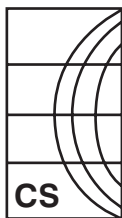
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Patrik Aspers

Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies

Lise Skov

Copenhagen Business School

We came up with the idea for this issue of the journal when we were chatting in a street cafe in Murcia after the European Association of Sociology conference in 2003. In April 2005, it was finally possible to bring together the authors at a small intensive conference, hosted by Imagine . . . Creative Industries Research at Copenhagen Business School. We would like to thank project assistant Heidi Lange for organizing the conference. Árni Sveinsson acted as a vigilant and critical reviewer and commentator on all papers in this first phase, and we are very grateful for that, as we are for the comments and discussion by the large and active audience. We wish to thank especially the industry speakers, operations manager Jan Hilger, Hugo Boss International and marketing consultant Jeremy Duffield-Harding, iKMS, as well as managing director, Jan Erik Carlson, Saga Furs, for inviting conference participants to the Saga Design Centre. Finally, we want to thank Dennis Smith the editor of *Current Sociology* for his support all the way, Richard Swedberg for his introduction and Sandra Niessen for her thorough and critical review in the second phase.