

# Talking of Economics...

## Documenting Associative Economics

Over many years, research has been going on into the nature of and prospects for an associative approach to modern economic life. This work has resulted in the publication of over 30 books and more than 250 journals, not to mention articles, papers and theses. These are now being formally archived. This catalogue provides a brief introduction to this project and an overview of those books currently available through the Associative Economics Bookstore (*associative-economics.com*). Information on other material (published, forthcoming and planned) can be found at the following sites:

<https://economics.goetheanum.org/publications/publications>

<http://www.christopherhoughtonbudd.com/publications/books/>

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## Archivist's Introduction

This archive represents over fifty years of research into the thinking and practical implications of associative economics<sup>1</sup> by a collection of authors, who have written in their own right or as contributors to collaborative research. It has been part of my life path and also an honor to have witnessed and participated in much of this work since I began the journey in Sebastopol, California in October of 1997. Through all this time, it has remained a mystery to me why, given their import for our times, these endeavors to date have had so little recognition, even among those interested in the work of Rudolf Steiner, to whose legacy as regards economics, at least, they surely belong.

Is this due to the technical complexity of the ideas and the imagination required to take them on board? Or the authors' at times challenging views confronting economic materialism? Or is it some defect in the authors' ways of being or writing that prevents the objective truths within the writings from being seen? Is it that human egotism in modern economic life refuses to give way? Or is it simply that the time has not been ripe?

Yet, in an uncertain age of ever-worsening financial and social conditions that affect economic structures worldwide, there seems to be no more ripe moment than now. To borrow a statement I recently heard quoted on public radio from Milton Friedman: "Only a crisis, actual or perceived, produces real change. When that crisis occurs, the actions that are taken depend on the ideas that are lying around."<sup>2</sup> My hope is that this archive will help to impart the ideas of associative economics so they will be part of what is 'lying around' in the consciousness of growing numbers of people.

These ideas and the story they tell have the power to mitigate today's paralysis in the face of symptoms that result from what *not* to do, by indicating what we *would* be able to do if we could only find the will to 'be the change we want to see.' Whether in the field of agriculture (and its concomitant, climate change), education and the arts, or the financial markets, associative economics is like a 'refresh button', a second chance for the world (as, indeed, one of the publications is entitled).

It is my view that this archive contains much that is needed to understand and to step on the pathways that Rudolf Steiner has drawn attention to in his course on economics.<sup>3</sup> The works brought together here imply an as yet unnoticed school of thought – namely, associative economics – that deserves to come more into the light of day. Analyses and solutions are there to be discovered, which, at the very least, should be part of current and future economic and financial debates, where they could contribute to overcoming today's worn out polemics by leading us beyond the dualities on which those polemics are based.

I am aware that these are large and perhaps presumptuous statements, but in my role as archivist I feel justified in making them because I think the archive's content will speak for itself and uphold these claims. The mystery (of this school of thought being so little known) will, I believe, be resolved at some future time. And when it is, I hope this archive will serve as a useful resource and legacy for those who see it as their task to further the metamorphosis of capitalism.

– Kim Chotzen, Viroqua, Wisconsin, USA / March 2020

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<sup>1</sup> The school of thought grounded in Rudolf Steiner's contribution to economics.

<sup>2</sup> *DemocracyNow* program, 19 March 2020. Quoted by Naomi Klein in the video *Coronavirus Capitalism* from its original mention in Milton Friedman's *Capital and Freedom*.

<sup>3</sup> *Economics – The world as one economy*. Rudolf Steiner, New Economy Publications, Canterbury, England 2014 [1996/1922]. (GA 340)

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Modern economic life operates under the sign of the market and competition. Human beings are asked to stand to one side so that their subjective natures do not disturb the objective working of economic processes, on the assumption that we can only work out of self-interest. And yet, enlarged egoism, of which we are also capable, would have us include the whole of humanity in our thoughts and deeds. For this, however, we need to work with others in order to recognise the 'right' thing to do. Each of us has the potential to do good, but this calls on us to conduct economic life *together*, by giving thought to others, by being aware of the effects of our actions, and by generally giving expression to the nobler aspects of ourselves. Conscious cooperation of this kind, working with an interest higher than one's own, is the mark of a more sophisticated understanding of modern economic life.

We do this with charities, so why not in economic life as a whole? Why do we only see unpaid work and giving of money as humanitarian, philanthropic and serving of others? Are not making shoes, farming the land, teaching, nursing, and managing money also deeds of service? The whole point of division of labour and comparative (but not competitive!) advantage is that thereby we develop what is unique and best in us by serving one another. In short, economic life is about using one's capacities to meet other people's needs. Cooperation without collusion. This, at least, is the meaning of associative economics as interpreted and advocated in these publications.

Published by the *Centre for Associative Economics* on behalf of their authors, this archive is grouped under two headings or imprints. Firstly, **Associative Economics Worldwide**. The main feature of these works is that for the most part they have arisen collaboratively, often in the context of the work of the *Economics Conference of the Goetheanum*, part of the Section for Social Sciences of the School of Spiritual Science, based at the Goetheanum near Basel, Switzerland. Most of them have been edited by Christopher Houghton Budd. (Full details at <https://economics.goetheanum.org/publications/publications>)

Although not always explicated, every editor has a perspective, in terms of which the material being edited is selected, organised and commented on. In this case, the perspective is sometimes explicit, but mostly implicit. That is to say, it is iterated by being woven throughout the texts, such that it works as 'wallpaper'. Of course, one cannot read anything without first deferring to the editor's or author's version of events, the terms of reference according to which he or she has framed matters. Thereafter, whether one adopts this point of view and whether it has 'explanatory power' are interesting questions, which every reader has to settle for him- or herself.

For this reason, the archive includes **Christopher Houghton Budd's Collected Works**, assembled with the aim of bringing together the entirety of his socio-economic writings from the early 1970s onwards, and so serving to illustrate both his associative 'take' on modern economic life and history, and the comprehensive scope this approach entails.

The idea of bringing all these texts into one catalogue is to provide the base for an on-going archival resource to which fresh material can be added, at the same time as making the works to date available for research purposes.

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In due course, the archive will also include the **Journal for Associative Economics** begun in May 1980 and published under various titles until December 2015. It was edited and produced by Christopher Houghton Budd for much of that time, being joined in the later years by two colleagues, Arthur Edwards and Stephen Torr. It began with an occasional frequency (18 issues until 1989), then became bi-monthly (52 issues from 1990 to 1998), and then monthly for all 192 subsequent editions – 262 in all. (See <https://cfae.biz/publications/associative-economics-journals/>)

Complete index here: <https://cfae.biz/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Journal-Index-1980-2015.pdf>

## Associative Economics Worldwide

Full currently available list. Larger selection in preparation.

- 12 Key Thoughts** Rudolf Steiner
- 21 Policies** Rudolf Steiner
- A–Z Glossary** Arthur Edwards / Christopher Houghton Budd
- Accountants' Corner** D'Arcy Mackenzie
- A Human Response to Globalisation** Marc Desaules
- A Second Chance for the World** Various
- Beyond the Market** Gaudenz Assenza
- Economics – The World as One Economy** Rudolf Steiner
- From Gold to Golden Rule** Arthur Edwards
- 'Money as Accounting'** Fionn Meier
- Perspectives in Finance** Fionn Meier / Christopher Houghton Budd
- Rudolf Steiner, Economist** Rudolf Steiner / Christopher Houghton Budd / Emil Leihás
- Rudolf Steiner's Social Intentions** Rudolf Steiner
- Step into Another World** Various
- The Metamorphosis of Capitalism** Christopher Houghton Budd
- Threefold the Social Order** Rudolf Steiner
- Towards True Pricing and True Income** Various

## Christopher Houghton Budd / Collected Works

Full currently available list. Larger selection in preparation.

An introductory essay to this collection can be found at:

[\*My Journey to the Centre of the Economy\*](#)\*

- Auditorial Central Banking** Monetary Themes for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- Beyond Capital and Labour** A study of Keynes, Marx and Steiner
- Freeing the Circling Stars** Pre-funded Education
- La Economia Moderna** El Yo y La Economia
- Of Wheat and Gold** Thoughts on the Nature and Future of Money
- Prelude in Economics** A New Approach to Economics
- Prelude in Wirtschaft** Ein Neuer Zugang zur Erkenntnis der Wirtschaft
- Preludio a Economia** Uma Nova Abordagem da Economia
- The Deed of Rudolf Steiner** Sociological Masterpiece / Economic Testament
- The Metamorphosis of Capitalism** Realising Associative Economics
- The Optional Euro** While Sterling holds the Ring
- The Right-On Corporation** Transforming the Corporation
- Rare Albion – The Further Adventures of the Wizard from Oz**
- Rare Albion, Too – The Story of Folkstown**
- Seed Corn** The Economics of Farming

\* [http://www.christopherhoughtonbudd.com/fileadmin/chb/CHB\\_1102\\_Journey\\_to\\_the\\_Centre\\_of\\_the\\_Economy.pdf](http://www.christopherhoughtonbudd.com/fileadmin/chb/CHB_1102_Journey_to_the_Centre_of_the_Economy.pdf)