

Editorial Announcement

Editor-in-Chief's farewell: Editing the *Journal of Bioeconomics*, 1999–2009

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‘All good things must come to an end,’ so the adage goes. The *Journal of Bioeconomics* Vol. 11 (3), 2009 is the last issue that I am editing. When Springer’s contract came up for renewal in November 2008, I decided not to renew my contract so that I could devote more time to complete my book manuscript. I am stepping down as the Founding Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Bioeconomics* on December 31, 2009. The inaugural issue of the *Journal* appeared in 1999, with me as Editor-in-Chief, and Dr. Michael Ghiselin as my Biologist Co-editor. The *Journal* is a peer-reviewed scholarly interdisciplinary journal, published initially by Kluwer and then by Springer when Kluwer and Springer subsequently merged together.

1 Contents of the *Journal of Bioeconomics*

The *Journal* publishes not only regular issues but also: (a) special issues; (b) invited editorials; (c) an occasional target article; (d) book reviews; and (d) letters-to-the-Editors.

1.1 Special issues

In the inaugural issue of the *Journal*, the editors Landa and Ghiselin (1999, pp. 5–12) in their article, ‘The emerging discipline of bioeconomics: Aims and scope of the *Journal of Bioeconomics*’, identified at least nine research areas where the integration of economics with biology are especially useful: (1) Analysis of non-human societies,

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using new institutional economics as the theoretical framework; (2) Biological and psychological foundations of human decision-making; (3) Culture and the ‘dual inheritance’ model of genes and culture (Boyd and Richerson 1985); (4) group-competition and group selection; (5) Time and risk preferences; (6) Evolution of rules/institutions; (7) Integration of community ecology with ecological economics and environmental economics; (8) Bioeconomics of the brain; and (9) Bioeconomic theory of the gene.

From 1999–2009, the *Journal* published nine special issues, with the following special issues—indicated by asterisks—covering five of the nine important bioeconomics research areas which we identified in 1999:

- (1) The state and the ethnic group: The bioeconomics of economic organizations. Vol. 1(3) 1999.
- * (2) Bioeconomics, law, and evolutionary psychology, Vol. 3 (2&3) 2001, guest-edited by Xiao-Tian (X. T.) Wang.
- (3) Bioeconomics of sex, marriage, and the family, Vol. 4 (3) 2002, guest-edited by Shoshana Grossbard-Shechtman.
- * (4) Comparisons of some animal societies with human societies, Vol. 5 (2&3), 2003.
- (5) The bioeconomics of social behavior, Vol. 6 (1) 2004, guest-edited by Jack Hirshleifer and Paul J. Zak.
- * (6) Cognition and rules, Vol. 6 (3) 2004, guest-edited by Adam Gifford, Jr.
- (7) The economics and bioeconomics of classification: Dedicated to the memory of Jack Hirshleifer, Vol. 7 (3) 2005.
- * (8) Ecological economics, Vol. 9 (3) 2007, guest-edited by Eric Miller and Peter Victor.
- * (9) Group selection: Theory and evidence, Vol. 10 (3) 2008, edited by Janet T. Landa with guest-editor David Sloan Wilson. The importance of culture and group competition are emphasized in this issue.

Although there are several articles on neuroeconomics, including a survey article by Neu (2008), so far there is not yet a special issue on the topic. Articles on the bioeconomics of fisheries and natural resources are a staple throughout the various issues of the *Journal*. A special issue on the bioeconomics of fisheries is currently under preparation, guest-edited by Ragnar Árnason and U. Rashid Sumaila.

Special issues are invaluable in promoting the field of bioeconomics, especially when several authors contribute papers about a specific topic from different disciplinary viewpoints so that knowledge about a specific topic becomes cumulative. An excellent example of this is the special issue on the ‘Economics and bioeconomics of classification’, with contributions by authors from the disciplines of economics, biology, anthropology and organization theory.

1.2 Invited editorials

Invited editorials are not commissioned invited papers but papers independently submitted to the *Journal* in which the editors exercise their Schumpeterian entrepreneurial judgment that the papers are innovative enough to be published as invited

editorials, even if external reviewers are not necessarily enthusiastic about the papers. So far, three invited editorials have been published in the *Journal*.

1.3 Target articles

Target articles often deal with controversial topics. So far, there has been only one target article published in the *Journal*: ‘The bioeconomics of homogeneous middleman groups as adaptive units: Theory and empirical evidence viewed from a group selection framework’ by Janet Landa (Vol.10, no. 3, 2008, pp. 259–278). Target papers, published together with comments by a number of scholars, serve an important function not unlike the popular online discussion forums or blogs in which scholars from different disciplines contribute commentaries on a specific topic.

1.4 Book reviews

The *Journal*, being an interdisciplinary journal, publishes reviews of books in both economics and in biology. These book reviews are invaluable in promoting the field of bioeconomics because readers are able to learn of new ideas when reading a review of a book outside their own discipline. After all, who can keep up with the vast amount of literature, not only in their own field but outside their field?

1.5 Letters-to-the-Editors

The *Journal* publishes short commentaries submitted by our readers as ‘Letters-to-the-Editors’.

2 Acknowledgements

The following are the many people whom I wish to acknowledge and thank for their invaluable services to the *Journal*:

- (a) *International advisory editors*: They include scholars in different fields—economics, law, biology, medicine, philosophy—who lend their distinguished names and reputation to the *Journal* and provide valuable advice and support to the Editors.
- (b) *Referees*: To thank the many referees—the heart and soul of the editorial process—who have so generously given their time in providing constructive and often detailed referee reports, I have included an ‘Acknowledgements for refereeing, *Journal of Bioeconomics*, 1999–2009’ in this issue.
- (c) Guest editors who put together excellent special issues.
- (d) *Book Review Editor*: Economist Robert Yarbrough was the *Journal*’s first book review editor who was responsible for getting many scholars to contribute book reviews for the *Journal*. Upon stepping down as the *Journal*’s book review editor in 2004, due to personal reasons, I appointed economist Adam Gifford, Jr. as the next book review editor. Adam is stepping down as the *Journal*’s book review editor at the end of 2009,

to take over as the next Editor-in-Chief to succeed me, effective January 1, 2010; see (f) below.

(e) *Biologist Co-Editor*: I am privileged to be working with Dr. Michael Ghiselin, my biologist Co-editor, whose name and fame provided credibility to the *Journal* from the very beginning of the *Journal's* existence, when we were able to attract founders of bioeconomics such as Gordon Tullock and Jack Hirshleifer to publish in the *Journal's* inaugural issue, Vol. 1(1), 1999. In addition, Dr. Ghiselin has written many constructive and detailed referee reports for our authors, often serving as the biologist referee—in our two-referees review system—when no external biologist can be found to review a paper. I am also grateful that Dr. Ghiselin agreed to stay on as Biologist Co-editor, to work with the new Editor-in-Chief. This will provide consistency and continuity to the *Journal*.

(f) *New Editor-in-Chief*: Dr. Adam Gifford, Jr. is my choice to succeed me because he has been involved in various aspects of bioeconomics and with the *Journal* from the very beginning: he participated in presenting papers at bioeconomics panels which I organized at different economic conferences; he published several bioeconomics papers and book reviews in the *Journal*, guest-edited a special issue, as well as being the *Journal's* book review editor. I am sure that Adam will also leave his own imprint on the *Journal*, especially when the *Journal* moves its manuscript processing system online in 2010, using Springer's electronic manuscript submission and tracking system.

(g) *Springer's production team*: They include the various Springer personnel who work quietly and efficiently behind the scenes: my U.S.-based Springer Economics Editor, Jon Gurstelle, production Editor P. J. Aravindhan—previously Malgosia Slowinska—and his team of typesetters, technical personnel who upload corrected proofs on to the *Journal's* website, and the printer who produce the print copies of the *Journal*.

One final comment. Although I am sad to bid farewell to my role as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal*, I am very happy and proud to leave the *Journal* in the good hands of Adam Gifford and Michael Ghiselin, who will continue the important mission of expanding the domain of bioeconomics as a field by publishing not only regular issues, but also special issues, invited editorials, target articles, book reviews, and letters-to-the-editors, and to collaborate fruitfully with our advisory editors, authors, reviewers, Springer production team, and our readers.

References

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