Record Nr. UNINA9910377436503321

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Titolo Deciphering Markets and Money: A Sociological Analysis of Economic

Institutions

Pubbl/distr/stampa Helsinki, : Helsinki University Press, 2020

ISBN 952-369-001-9

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (203)

Soggetti Sociology

Economic theory & philosophy

Political economy

Economic systems & structures

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Sommario/riassunto "During the last two decades, economic sociology has experienced a

remarkable revival and has become one of the most innovative fields of sociological research. Shifts in economic policy worldwide have led to the increasing interest in the sociological analysis of economic phenomena and institutions by challenging traditional research questions and demonstrating the limits and problems inherent in

standard economic thinking and reasoning.

Jukka Gronow's book Deciphering Markets and Money solves the problem of the specific social conditions of an economic order based on money and the equal exchange of commodities. Gronow scrutinizes the relation of sociology to neoclassical economics and reflects on how sociology can contribute to the analyses of the major economic

institutions. The question of the comparability and commensuration of

economic objects runs through the chapters of the book.

The author shows that due to the multidimensionality and principal quality uncertainty of products, markets would collapse without market devices that are either procedural, consisting of technical standards and measuring instruments, or aesthetic, relying on the judgements of taste, or both. In his book, Gronow demonstrates that in this respect,

financial markets share the same problem as the markets of, wines, movies, or PCs and mobile phones, and hence offer a highly actual case to study their social constitution in the process of coming into being. Jukka Gronow is professor emeritus of sociology at Uppsala University, Sweden, and docent at the University of Helsinki, Finland. He has published on sociology of consumption, history of sociology and social theory."