Chapter 1
Theoretical Starting Points

ABSTRACT

Every research topic needs to be put in the context of existing theoretical background knowledge. To provide a full understanding of this book, this chapter provides brief insight into selected elementary background theories. Special attention is devoted to the concept of money, which is closely related to the critique of economic development in the 20th and the beginning of the 21st century. Rather than repeating basic economic theory, rhetoric used in the area of complementary economies from which the TB sprouts is introduced. After description of selected complementary economic systems and their relationship to TB, core values and concept of co-production, which are the rationale of any TB definitions, are uncovered. The context description should be comprehensive. Therefore, the additional insight into the issue of law and taxation, TB's societal function, and the role of information technologies is provided.

INTRODUCTION

In order to present a CES version of TB in systemic way, extensive research was necessary. The following pages will introduce connections to most important branches of the social sciences for this book in order to "root" it in the frame of its origins. This would take us from the economic basis of the idea of TB through connections to other social sciences, finishing with a systems approach. With its reach across various sciences the information in the next pages might seem complex, but this analytic approach is necessary

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in order to provide a background for the analysis and following sections within theoretical specializations. Key relationships are thus unveiled in to provide a wider understanding of the context of the TB concept. Therefore, we will start with theories about money, progressing towards ideas concerning complementary economics supporting this idea using anthropological constructs, ultimately uncovering the values and ideas behind TB.

The environments of complementary economic systems is currently a primary focus of researchers from around the world, with time currency along with Time Banks emerging as key concepts (CCRC, 2016). Despite of the wide spread of the ideas of CES along with the extensive research background, those who decide to implement the idea are generally motivated by its immediate application benefits (Valek, 2016b). This leads to a situation in which new CES are located in research outside wider frameworks, and are then studied on ex-post basis. This could and does in fact lead to quite erratic approaches in terms of implementation, i.e. applications often occur without taking into consideration larger contexts and more extensive systemic ramifications. Certain researches have tried to follow up on these meager bases, but they have mostly remained limited to foundations and local economic contexts along with general possible positive or negative impacts on the broader society. To my knowledge, no comprehensive research exists which employs system sciences. This deficiency has hindered any attempts to grasp the issue of TB from a systemic point of view in terms of its roots, an investigation which would allow broader areas of application.

BACKGROUND

To keep this book logical and consistent it was necessary to start from basics. This leads us from fundamental discourses about money and non-mainstream economic approaches, to complementary economies, and, proceeding from these premises, finally to Time Banks. This progression from basics of money and argumentation related ton complementary economic systems is basic root for understanding role and place of the TB in socio-economic context. Only after that the TB can be described more in detail. The socio-economic context will follow outlining and framing the TB. Some elemental economic theories directly related to contemporary market economy such as Adam Smiths definition of valuation are not mentioned. This is on purpose, because our aim is not to summarize theoretical economic background and defend and argue place of the TB on the face of Earth, rather we bring new points of

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