# MoneyLab Reader

# An Intervention in Digital Economy

**MoneyLab Reader: An Intervention in Digital Economy**

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INC Reader #10

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**March 21-22, 2014, Lab111 Amsterdam**

**FRIDAY, March 21, 2014**

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Moderators: Geert Lovink, Nathaniel Tkacz

Speakers: Saskia Sassen, Stefan and Ralph Heidenreich, Bill Maurer,

**Session 2: Dismantling Global Finance**

Moderator: Nathaniel Tkacz

Speakers: Franco Berardi, Brett Scott, Tiziana Terranova, Brian Holmes

[**Session 3: Critical Art Practices**](http://networkcultures.org/wpmu/moneylab/wp-admin/post.php?post=551&action=edit#s2bios)

Moderator: Patricia de Vries

Speakers: Ron Peperkamp, Dadara, Dette Glashouwer

[**Session 4: Mobile Money**](http://networkcultures.org/wpmu/moneylab/wp-admin/post.php?post=551&action=edit#s3bios)

Moderator: Bill Maurer

Speakers: Erin Taylor, Taylor Nelms, and Gawain Lynch

**SATURDAY, March 22, 2014**

[**Session 5: Bitcoin and Beyond**](http://networkcultures.org/wpmu/moneylab/wp-admin/post.php?post=551&action=edit#s4bios)

Moderators: Nathaniel Tkacz and Lana Swartz

Speakers: Eduard de Jong, Aaron Koenig, Beat Weber, Quinn DuPont

**Session 6: Alternatives Bazaar On Stage**

Speakers: Bitcoin ATM, Geheimagentur, Noppes, Peerby, Qoin, Kunst Reserve Bank, Share NL, The Next Nature Network, Timebank CC, Transition Towns Netherlands

[**Session 7: Critique of Crowdfunding**](http://networkcultures.org/wpmu/moneylab/wp-admin/post.php?post=551&action=edit#s6bios)

Moderator: Brett Scott

Speakers: Inge Ejbye Sørensen, Jamie King, Marijke Hoogenboom, Irina Enache and Robert van Boeschoten

[**Session 8: Designing Alternatives**](http://networkcultures.org/wpmu/moneylab/wp-admin/post.php?post=551&action=edit#s7bios)

Moderator: Rob Van Hilten

Speakers: Max Haiven, Matthew Slater and Eli Gothill, Lana Swartz

**Author Biographies**

**Irwan Abdalloh** is the head of Islamic Capital Market Development at the Indonesia Stock Exchange (IDX). He is a lecturer in Islamic Investment in the Postgraduate Program of the University of Indonesia and at the Tazkia University College of Islamic Economics. He is the founder of [icmspecialist.com](http://www.icmspecialist.com).

**Franco ‘Bifo’ Berardi** is a writer, media theorist, and media activist. He recently published *The Uprising* (2012). As a coordinator of the European School for Social Imagination (SCEPSI), he has taught at Ashkal Alwan in Beirut, PEI-Macba in Barcelona, Accademia di Brera in Milano, and has lectured in social centers and universities worldwide.

**Finn Brunton** is an assistant professor in the Department of Media, Culture, and Communication at NYU's Steinhardt School. He is the author of *Spam: A Shadow History of the Internet* (MIT, 2013), and the forthcoming *Obfuscation: A User's Guide* (MIT, 2015) with Helen Nissenbaum. He is working on a book aboutcryptocurrencies.

**Paolo Cirio's** art projects investigate issues such as privacy, transparency, copyright, finance, and democracy. He renders his conceptual works through performances, photos, drawings, videos, and installations. His work has unsettled Facebook, Amazon, Google, and NATO, among others. He currently lives in New York City.

**Jim Costanzo** is the founding director of the Aaron Burr Society. His conceptually based artwork is diverse and includes installation, performance, and collaboration. He has shown his work at the Berlin Biennale, the Whitney Biennial, and Arti et Amicitiae in Amsterdam. He lives in Brooklyn, New York and teaches at Pratt Institute.

**Primavera De Filippi** is a postdoctoral researcher at the CERSA / CNRS / Université Paris II (Panthéon-Assas). She is currently a research fellow at the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard Law School, where she is investigating the legal challenges of ‘governance-by-design’ in online distributed architectures, such as Bitcoin and Ethereum.

**Eduard de Jong** is an Amsterdam-based computer scientist, entrepreneur and inventor trying to improve security in software systems. He worked on software for smartcards, later marketed as Java Card. De Jong started his career working at DigiCash, where he developed a passion for electronic money.

**Irina Enache** is a communication and new media enthusiast. She has collaborated with the Institute of Network Cultures as a researcher for the MoneyLab project in 2013-2014. She gained her BA in Communication and Public Relations in Bucharest, Romania (2011) and the MA in New Media and Digital Culture in Amsterdam, Netherlands (2013).

**Andrea Fumagalli** is Associate Professor of Economics in the Department of Economics and Management at University of Pavia. His research activity deals with the hypothesis of cognitive bio-capitalism, basic income, and precarity issues. He is co-editor of *The Global Economic Crisis*,

(Semiotext(e), 2011).

**David Golumbia** teaches at Virginia Commonwealth University. He is the author of

*The Cultural Logic of Computation* (Harvard, 2009), and of many articles on digital culture, language, linguistics, and literary studies. He maintains the blog <http://uncomputing.org>. Golumbia is completing a book titled *Cyberlibertarianism: The False Promise of Digital Freedom*.

**Max Haiven** is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Art History and Critical Studies at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Canada. He is author of *Crises of Imagination, Crises of Power* (2014), *The Radical Imagination* (2014) with Alex Khasnabish, and *Cultures of Financialization* (2014).

**Keith Hart** is Centennial Professor of Economic Anthropology at the London School of Economics and International Director, the Human Economy Program, University of Pretoria. His writings on money include ‘Heads or tails? Two Sides of the Coin’ (1986), and *The Memory Bank: Money in an Unequal World* (2000), available at [http://thememoryba nk.co.uk/book/](http://thememorybank.co.uk/book/).

**Samer Hassan** is an activist and Assistant Professor at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. With an interdisciplinary background, he's been researching on social networks, distributed systems, and social simulation from positions in Spain, UK, and Lebanon. Engaged in free/open source software, he co-founded Comunes.org and Move Commons. Presently he's Principal Investigator in the FP7 P2Pvalue.eu project.

**Ralph Heidenreich** lives in Biberach/Riss and works as a programmer (<http://www.ralph-heidenreich.de>).

**Stefan Heidenreich** lives in Berlin and holds a research position at the Center for Digital Culture, Lüneburg University (<http://www.stefanheidenreich.de>). Together with Ralph Heidenreich he wrote the books *Mehr Geld* (1998), and *Der Preis der Welt* (2014).

**Geert Lovink** is a media theorist, internet critic and author of *Zero Comments* (2007) and *Networks Without a Cause* (2012). From 2004-2013 he taught in the new media masters program at Media Studies, University of Amsterdam. He is the founding director of the Institute of Network Cultures.

**Bill Maurer** is Dean of Social Sciences and Professor of Anthropology and Law, University of California, Irvine. He is also the Director of the Institute for Money, Technology and Financial Inclusion. A cultural anthropologist, he conducts research on money and finance, focusing on the technological infrastructures and social relations of exchange and payment.

**Pekka Piironen** a Finnish economic and strategy theorist, well known for his theory of the collective pledge and biopolitics of firms. He is a founding member of Robin Hood Asset Management Cooperative and the author of *Economy of Insecurity*.

**Lena Rethel** is Associate Professor of International Political Economy at the University of Warwick, working on financial development and Islamic finance. Her publications include *The Problem with Banks* (Zed Books, 2012; with Timothy J. Sinclair) and *The Everyday Political Economy of Southeast Asia* (Cambridge University Press, 2015; with Juanita Elias).

**Renée Ridgway** is an artist, curator, writer, and educator. Ridgway is currently a PhD fellow at Copenhagen Business School in the Department of Management, Philosophy and Politics in cooperation with Leuphana University’s Digital Cultures Research Lab. Her current research merges artistic and curatorial practice within the digital economies.

**Andrew Ross** is a social activist and Professor of Social and Cultural Analysis at NYU. A contributor to the Guardian, the New York Times, the Nation, and Al Jazeera, he is the author of many books, including *Creditocracy and the Case for Debt Refusal*, *Nice Work if You Can Get It*, *Fast Boat to China*, *No-Collar*, and *The Celebration Chronicles*.

**Stephanie Rothenberg**’s artworks mix physical and virtual spaces to investigate new models of crowdsourced labor and the power dynamics between contemporary visions of utopian urbanization and real world economic, political and environmental factors. She is Associate Professor at SUNY Buffalo.

**Douglas Rushkoff** is the author of *Present Shock: When Everything Happens Now*, as well as a dozen other bestselling books on media, technology, and culture, including *Program or Be Programmed*,

*Media Virus and Life Inc*. He lives in New York, and lectures about media, society, and economics around the world.

**Saskia Sassen** is a Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology and Co-Chair at Committee on Global Thought at Columbia University. Her research and writing is focused on globalization (including its social, economic and political dimensions), immigration, new-networked technologies, and changes within the liberal state that result from current transnational conditions ([www.saskiasassen.com](http://www.saskiasassen.com/)).

**Inge Ejbye Sørensen** is Lord Kelvin Adam Smith Research Fellow in Digital Economy and Culture at Centre for Cultural Policy Research, University of Glasgow. She is an award-winning film producer and academic, who writes about crowdfunding, creative industries, documentary film production, and digital distribution and delivery of audiovisual content.

**Erin B. Taylor** is an economic anthropologist who researches money, poverty and material culture. She is the author of *Materializing Poverty: How the Poor Transform Their Lives*. Taylor has researched squatting in the Dominican Republic and mobile money in Haiti. Her current project investigates global research in consumer finance.

**Tiziana Terranova** is Associate Professor of Cultural Theory and New Media in the Department of Human and Social Sciences at the University of Naples 'L'Orientale'. Terranova is the author of *Network Culture: Politics for the Information Age* and is currently writing a new book on digital social networks to be published by University of Minnesota Press.

**Nathaniel Tkacz** is an Assistant Professor in the Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies at The University of Warwick. He writes and researches at the intersection of digital media and politics. His most recent book is *Wikipedia and The Politics of Openness* (The University of Chicago Press, 2014). Further information is available at: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/cim/people/academic/nathaniel-tkacz>.

**Robert van Boeschoten** is a philosopher interested in the cultural impact of media on society at large, and organizations in particular. His work is divided over The Polytechnic of Amsterdam (HvA) at the Communication and Multimedia Department where he teaches future scenarios and The University for Humanistics (UvH) in Utrecht where he is a lecturer in organization studies.

**Pablo Velasco** is a PhD student at the University of Warwick Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies. He holds an MA in Philosophy from the National Autonomous University of Mexico. His doctoral research focuses on the topologies and socio-political aspects of digital currencies.

**Akseli Virtanen** is a theorist of new political finance, born in Finland and currently based in Santa Cruz, California. He is the author of *Arbitrary Power, Critique of Biopolitical Economy* and the editor of *n-1 Edições*. He is a founding member of Robin Hood Asset Management Cooperative.

**Beat Weber** studied economics at the Vienna University of Economics and Business. He is an expert at the Division for European Affairs and International Financial Organizations of Oesterreichische Nationalbank, the central bank of Austria.

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INC Reader #10

MoneyLab is part of a global movement that demands the democratization of the design of our financial futures. Audacity is essential in times of crisis. And so we must engage constructively with hackers, entrepreneurs and other creators who take up the call for economic alternatives. One first step is a map of the present: What works, what doesn’t, what is worth pursuing and what must be left aside? Which histories are bearing on the present? And what are the limits of our economic imagination?

The MoneyLab Reader brings developments in crowdfunding, currency design, technologies of payment, and other economic experiments into dialogue. The authors of this volume discuss the implications of the current architecture of global finance, its impact on ever-growing income disparity, and question money and finance as such. It is not always clear, for instance, whether genuine alternatives are unfolding or if we are simply witnessing the creative extension of neoliberalism. At stake, however, is the full spectrum of technologies of economic (re)distribution.

www.networkcultures.org/publications

**Contributors:**

Irwan Abdalloh, Franco Berardi, Finn Brunton, Paolo Cirio, Jim Costanzo, Primavera De Filippi , Eduard de Jong, Irina Enache, Andrea Fumagalli, David Golumbia, Max Haiven, Keith Hart, Samer Hassan, Ralph Heidenreich, Stefan Heidenreich, Geert Lovink, Bill Maurer, Rachel O’Dwyer, Pekka Piironen, Lena Rethel, Renée Ridgway, Andrew Ross, Stephanie Rothenberg, Douglas Rushkoff , Saskia Sassen, Inge Ejbye Sørensen, Erin B. Taylor, Tiziana Terranova, Nathaniel Tkacz, Robert van Boeschoten, Pablo Velasco, Akseli Virtanen, Beat Weber.

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