

INTRODUCTION

This issue continues our policy of offering readers a range of different approaches to economic issues.

The distinguished financial journalist **Martin Wolf** leads off with his Wincott Memorial Lecture on the recent financial crisis. In this lecture Wolf argues that the events of the last few years demand a major rethink of economic theory and policy comparable to that of the 1930s.

In an unusual and intriguing article, **Robert C. B. Miller** links linguistic theory to entrepreneurship. He argues persuasively that, like language, the propensity to trade is an inbuilt characteristic of human beings.

Apparent deregulation often fails to generate effective competition. **Patrick Massey** draws attention to the case of bus transport in Ireland, where the creation of a new regulator and an intention to develop competitive tendering has so far failed to remove the state bus companies' monopoly.

Should laws restrict the resale of tickets for sporting and entertainment events? **Vincent Geloso** offers a novel insight by analysing how a secondary market in tickets acts as a risk management tool for event organisers.

Credit intermediation outside the formal banking system is a widespread phenomenon. **Shalendra Sharma** discusses reasons for the proliferation of shadow banks in China.

The Chinese economy and society have been hugely affected by the country's notorious 'one-child' policy. **David Howden** and **Yang Zhou** explain the genesis of this policy and describe the problems it has created.

In a prize-winning essay, **Alexander Salter** develops an Austrian analysis of debt erosion by governments. He calls for a monetary constitution which would prevent the transfer of the costs of state activity to unwilling third parties.

Graham Dawson is an admirer of the late W. H. Hutt. A quarter of a century after Hutt's death, Dawson makes a case for reviving interest in this idiosyncratic economist. He notes affinities between Hutt's work and that of today's 'bleeding heart libertarians'.

The Discussion section includes a piece by **J. R. Sargent** attacking consensus thinking on economic austerity, and a brief comment by **S. Niggol Seo** (drawing upon his own extensive research on adaptation by farmers to climate change) on the most recent IPCC report. The article on childcare in the February 2014 issue of *Economic Affairs* attracts comments from **Eva Lloyd** and **Kristian Niemietz**, with a response from **Gillian Paull**.

In this issue's review article, **David Skarbek** looks at Vicky Pryce's *Prisonomics* in light of his work on prisons and prison gangs in the United States.

J. R. Shackleton, Editor