

## Call for Papers

### zfwu 26/3 (2025): Relational Economics and Relational Theory of the Firm

#### Call for Papers until February 3rd, 2025

What is relational economics? The fact that in economic transactions everything is usually connected to everything else, or rather: many things are connected to many things, is a simple and by no means satisfactory answer. Nevertheless, John R. Commons already saw much more in this matter than Oliver E. Williamson was able to bring back into the micro-analysis of economic orthodoxy. It is Commons, in contrast to Williamson and in consideration of Whitehead's process ontology, that forms the intellectual basis of Josef Wieland's economic theorising for the research programme of relational economics (cf. Biggiero et al. 2022; Wieland 2020; Wieland 2022). In terms of the history of ideas, it can be said that relational economics is the logical further development of governance ethics. In the first approach, if one wants to switch from a methodological individualism to a methodological relationalism (cf. Santos 2015; Wieland 2016; Schwengbers 2024), one will have to assume an openness that includes also prosocial preferences. This is also needed if the idea of a cooperative economy for the mutual benefit of all is to be a defining concept. Relational economics is also a fundamental economic programme that is inconceivable without a relational theory of the firm - the empirical fact of "corporate capitalism" is theoretically overtaken here. It is individual and corporate actors who process relational transactions.

This young economic research programme is, of course, linked to a wide variety of questions on a theoretical, conceptual, normative and empirical level:

- How can the relationality of economic transactions be modelled?
- What is the firm in relational economics and what are its limitations?
- What significance do stakeholders have in relational economics??
- What is the co-operation rent of the firm?
- What are the capital market theoretical consequences of the relational economics programme?

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