

Title	Social Capital in the Knowledge Economy
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Brief Introduction	<p>Preface</p> <p>It is possible that there once was a time when scholars used to sit isolated with their cogitations in their attics, emerging now and then to publish their latest erudite offerings which no one had ever thought of before. If such a time did once exist, it certainly does so no longer. Writing a scientific or scholarly book in our era is to a large extent a team effort in which your team members are continually changing and you are unceasingly grateful for the privilege of enjoying and benefiting from the exertions, ideas, comments and support of a large number of very able people. Scientific and scholarly work nowadays is a process impossible without the existence and use of <i>social capital</i>.</p> <p>This book is no exception to the above stated. There are very many colleagues (some of them referees and thus anonymous) and friends who have made the book possible. The foremost of these is Roger Bolton, with whom I wrote my first paper on social capital. Most of that paper has found its way into various passages of this book, while Chapter 6, <i>Social Capital and Entrepreneurship</i>, comes almost completely from Roger's pen. Thank you, Roger, for letting me use your text!</p> <p>The empirical studies of the biotech industries of Japan, California and Sweden would have been impossible without a great deal of help. Kiyoshi Kobayashi and Kakuya Matsushima of Kyoto University and Therese Vallerius and Helena Jansson-Franchi of the Swedish Office of Science and Technology in Los Angeles organized the distribution and collection of questionnaires as well as arranging study visits for me in Kansai and California respectively; Lars Norlander attended to the Swedish questionnaire and compiled the data. Miho Ota helped us to interpret the Japanese replies. The empirical study of the biotech industries was prepared by Elin Nilsson, with whom I also coauthored a paper of which some parts are included in this book.</p> <p>The initiative to write this book came from Folke Snickars. A large number of colleagues have shared their knowledge with me through discussions, comments on papers and chapter drafts and interviews: Aku Alanen, Fredrik Andersson, Martin Andersson, Åke E. Andersson, Jonathan Conning, Eskil Ekstedt, Rod Falcon, Björn Falkenhall, Robert Formaini, Henrik Fridén, Peter Friedrich, Masahisa Fujita, Tracy Gordon, Urban Gråsjö, Börje Johansson, Kiyoshi Kobayashi, Anna S Nilsson, Hiroshi Ohta, Masamitsu Onishi, Takashi Omori, Dan Sasaki, Komei Sasaki, Arthur Silvers, Robert Stimson, Roger Stough, Anand Swamy, Gunnar Törnqvist, Takayuki Ueda, Lars Westin, Junfu Zhang, Wei-Bin Zhang and a number of unknown referees.</p> <p>Work on the book took me to the American East and West coasts as well as to Japan. I am very grateful for the hospitality extended to me by Roger and Judy</p>

Bolton, Jack and Gail Osman, Irene Tegelvik, and Kiyoshi Kobayashi and his family.

The manuscript was edited and brought to completion during the fall of 2005 when I had the great privilege of being Visiting Professor of the Center for International Research on the Japanese Economy (CIRJE) at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Tokyo. I am grateful to Yoshitsugo Kanemoto and Naoto Kunitomo for affording me the opportunity to work in such a stimulating environment, and to Shunji Ishihara for scholarly support and congenial company. Special thanks go to Hitomi, Tsukasa, Yuki and Kimiko for practical assistance, inspiring coffee breaks and very enjoyable company.

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Parts of this book have been published previously as papers in *Small Business Economics* (www.springer.com) and *Regional Studies* (www.tandf.co.uk), with Roger Bolton and Elin Nilsson as coauthors respectively. Also, parts of my chapter in Karlsson C, Andersson ÅE, Cheshire P and Stough RR (Eds) *Innovation, Dynamic Regions and Regional Dynamics* (forthcoming 2007 by Springer) are included in this book. The publishers' and editors' permissions to reuse the texts are highly appreciated.

The English linguistic check was made by Geoffrey French. It is a privilege to collaborate with such a skilled advisor.

Östersund, May 2006

Hans Westlund