

Title	Participation in the Age of Globalization and Information, Volume 9
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Brief Introduction	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FOREWORD</b></p> <p>This volume of <i>Advances in the Economic Analysis of Participatory and Labor-Managed Firms</i> marks the third volume in this series to be produced by Elsevier. The two previous volumes, <i>Employee Participation, Firm Performance and Survival</i>, edited by Virginie Perotin and Andrew Robinson, published in 2004, and <i>The Determinants of the Incidence and the Effects of Participatory Organizations</i>, edited by Takao Kato and Jeffrey Pliskin and published in 2003, marked the re-launching of the series. (The series began in 1985. Six volumes appeared during 1985–1995 when the series was published by JAI and was co-edited by Jan Svejnar and Derek C. Jones.)</p> <p>A key aim of the re-launched series is to publish <i>Advances</i> on a regular and annual basis. Reflecting a deepening pool of talent as the field of participation has grown during the last 20 years or so, another change, as is evident in the present volume, is to make frequent use of guest editors for issues of <i>Advances</i>. As series editor, I welcome suggestions and proposals from readers for particular issues. Other changes concerning <i>Advances</i> will be modest.</p> <p><i>Advances</i> will continue to act as a forum for high-quality original theoretical and empirical research in the broad area of participatory and labor managed organizations. The original rationale for the series was the observation that while general and specialized journals publish work in this field, many do so only occasionally. There continues to be a need for an annual periodical that presents some of the best papers in a single volume.</p> <p>While the focus will continue to be on economic issues, analytical studies on closely related areas are also welcome. <i>Advances</i> will also continue to serve as an outlet for high-quality pieces that regular journals often consider to be too long.</p> <p>The broad area of participation and labor management has changed much since the inception of the series in 1985. The tragic disintegration of the Former Republic of Yugoslavia also meant the disappearance of the principal systemic example of self-management. But the collapse of the former USSR has also triggered widespread experimentation with diverse forms of participation in many transition economies, notably many firms with large degrees of employee ownership. Among firms in western economies we also witness</p> <p style="text-align: center;">xi</p> <p>the continued growth of diverse institutional arrangements that provide for participation by employees in decision-making as well as in enterprise results. Many economies continue to be characterized by flourishing cooperative sectors, though the scope, nature and form of these sectors varies markedly across countries and over time. Of special note perhaps is the fact that several important examples of worker cooperatives continue to thrive, with the Mondragon Cooperative Consortium now representing the seventh largest consortium in Spain.</p> <p>Against this institutional backdrop much new and innovative theoretical and empirical work in the broad field has appeared. The key aim of the <i>Advances</i> series continues to be to make it a broad-based periodical within which is presented both new theoretical results and fresh evidence on the performance of participatory firms and sectors. The intent is to maintain high quality and to place this periodical among other successful Elsevier series. I hope you will be informed and stimulated by this volume and that you will consider contributing to it and conveying information about <i>Advances</i> to other interested colleagues.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Derek C. Jones Series Editor</p>