



# The Worth and The Weight of the Social Economy

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CIRIEC International

*Measuring and Reporting Sustainability Performance*

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## Modalities of evaluation:

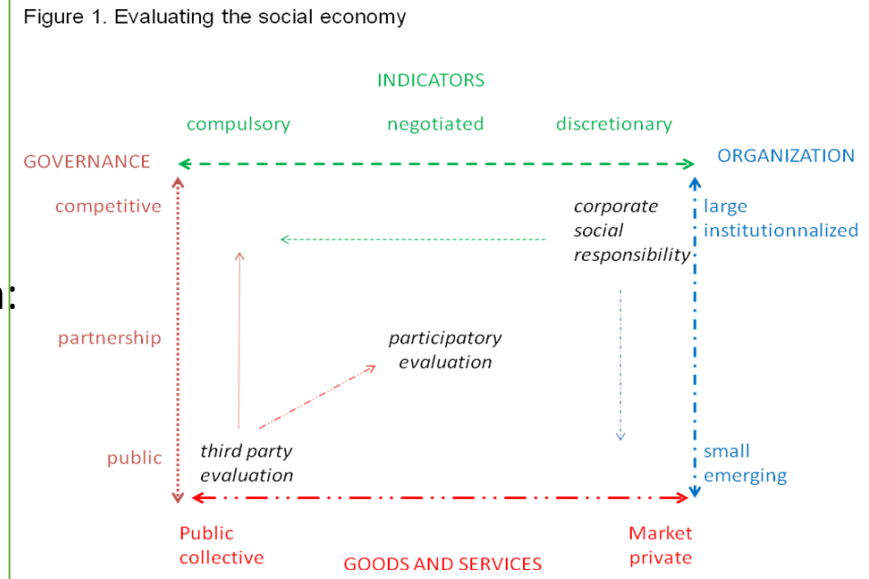
- Discretionary
- Third party
- Participatory

## Evaluation as governance mechanism:

- Accountability
- Competitive advantage
- Deliberative partnership

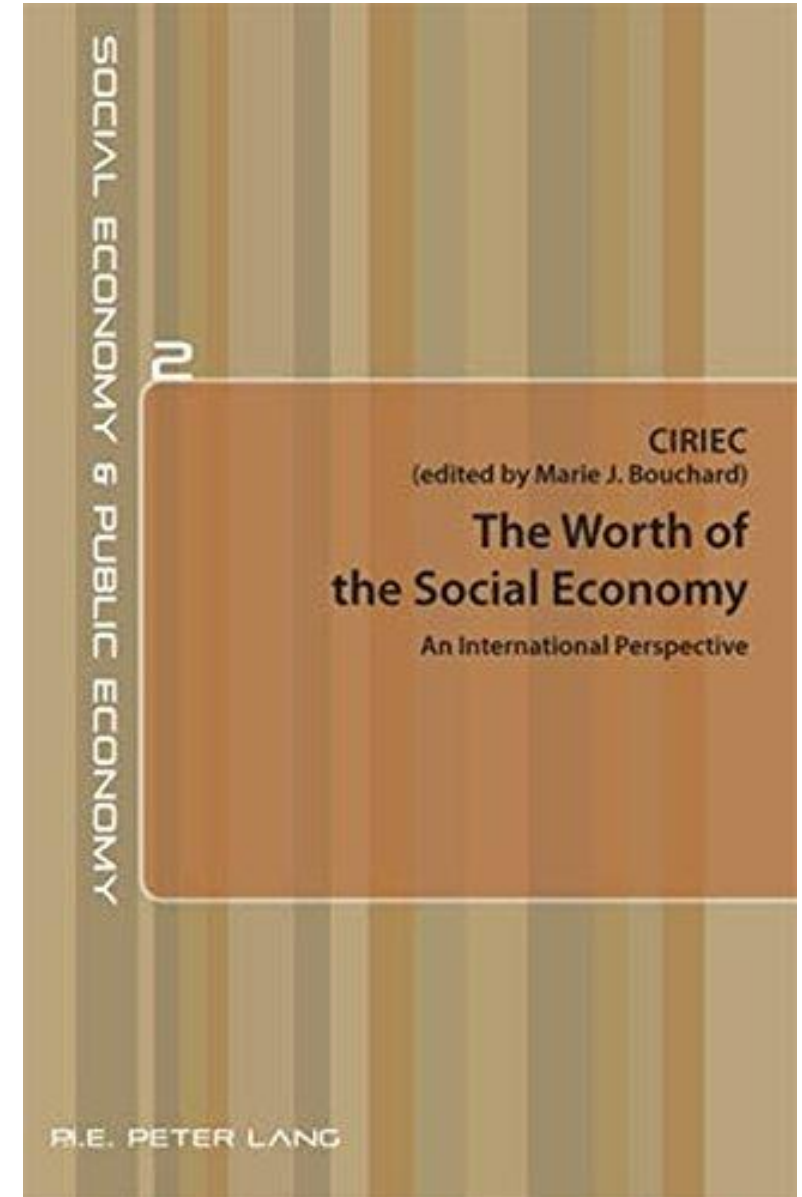
## Some issues:

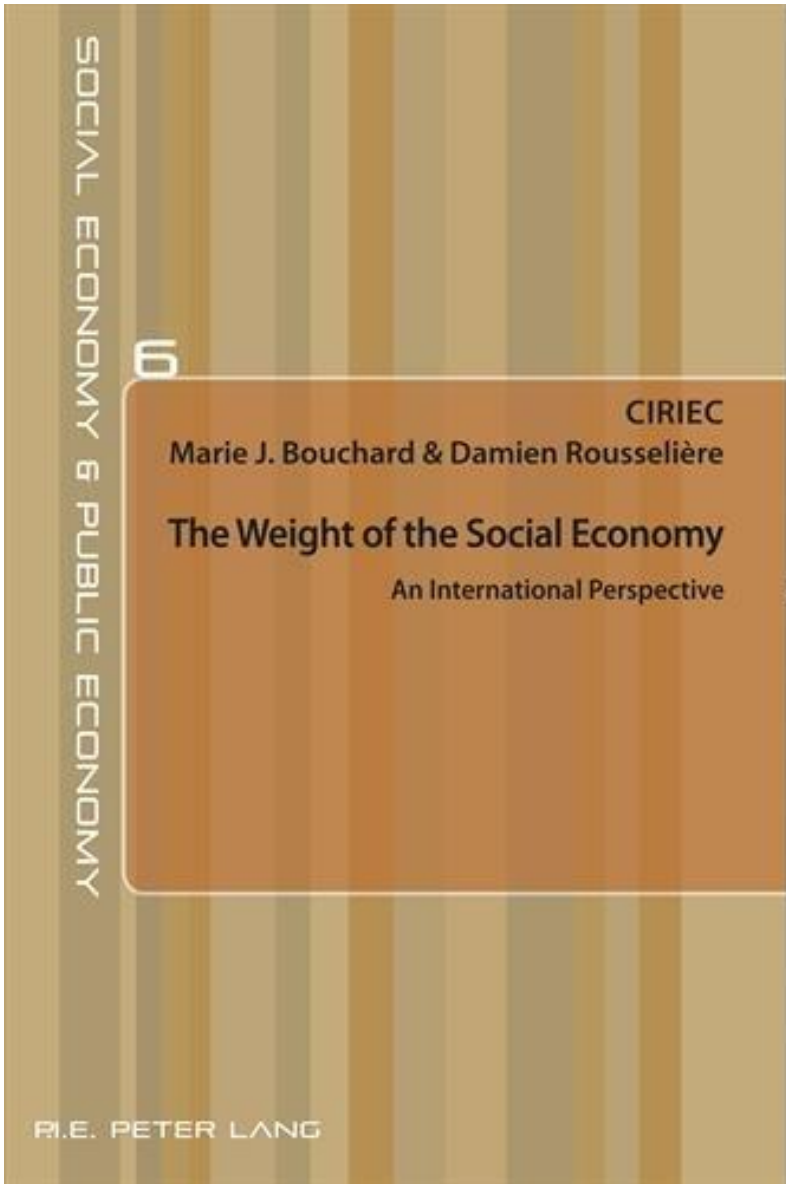
- Evaluation is not neutral
- Normative and performative dimensions of evaluation
- Technicization of social issues
- or
- Alternative indicators of economic and social wellbeing (e.g. bridging individuals to communities, predistribution and redistribution of wealth, creation of collective assets, democratic governance of common goods,...)



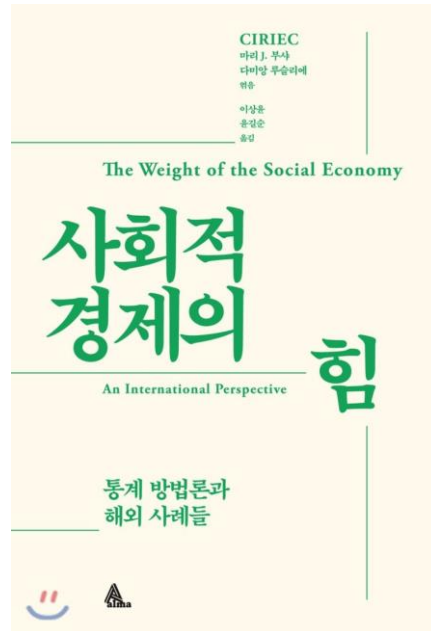
## Evaluation of the social economy in an international perspective (2009)

Brazil, Canada, France, Japon, Portugal, United Kingdom, United States





## Statistic measurement of the social economy in an international perspective (2015/2019)



<http://www.yes24.com/Product/Goods/73417313>

### Why is it important?

- SE is present in all sectors of the economy
- Its contribution > what standard economic indicators can measure
- Countercyclical entrepreneurship with higher survival rate

### How do we produce stats?

- Qualifying entities -> identity
- Classifying activities -> comparability
- Measuring -> comensurability

### Various representations of the SE:

- Fully-fledged economic agent
- A unique economic model
- A territorial economic actor

### Some issues:

- SE's distribution and spillover effects
- Trade-off between legitimacy (social construction), legibility (to public authorities and society), and cost (data)
- New stat frameworks carry a confused view of the SE

<https://www.peterlang.com/view/title/51075>

<http://www.tiess.ca/declaration/>



# Montreal Declaration on Evaluation and Social Impact Measurement

## Preamble

We, social economy (SE) actors and networks, funders and researchers, gathered on April 9, 2019, in Montreal, consider that the various issues, visions and opportunities related to social impact measurement and evaluation require us to take a stand.

Social impact measurement refers, at least in theory, to the quantitative evaluation of the long-term effects directly related to an intervention. It is one option among others to evaluate an intervention. In practice, the concept of social impact measurement is most often used in reference to more varied evaluation approaches that are primarily applicable to short- and medium-term outcomes and effects.

Evaluative approaches that address social phenomena are legitimate. However, they are complex and raise methodological challenges. We cannot reduce social issues to “best practices” or evaluations that aim to account for these issues by applying a universal methodology.

**Consequently, we CONSIDER THAT...**

# References

- Bouchard, Marie J. (Ed.) (2009), *The Worth of the Social Economy. An International Perspective*, Brussels, Berne, Berlin, Frankfurt am Main, New York, Oxford, Wien, PIE Peter Lang, CIRIEC International collection Social Economy and Public Economy, 268 p. <https://www.peterlang.com/view/title/11631>
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  - Korean translation (2019), 사회적경제의힘, Seoul (Korea), iCOOP Co-operative Institute (translated by Sang-Youn Lee and Gil-Soon Youn). <http://www.yes24.com/Product/Goods/73417313>
- TIESS, Chantier de l'économie sociale, CQCM, CSMO-ESAC, CEIQ, CQL (2019), *Montreal Declaration on Evaluation and Social Impact Measurement*, Montreal, Territoires innovants en économie sociale et solidaire, signed by 28 organizations and 41 persons (as of 30 May 2019). Online: <http://www.tiess.ca/declaration/>