
Capitalization, valuation and signification

Fabian Muniesa*¹

¹Centre de Sociologie de l'Innovation (CSI) – PSL Research University, MINES ParisTech - École nationale supérieure des mines de Paris, CNRS : UMR9217, Institut Mines-Télécom, ARMINES – Centre de Sociologie de l'Innovation (CSI) i3 CNRS UMR 9217 Mines ParisTech, PSL Research University 60 boulevard Saint-Michel 75272 Paris cedex 06, France

Abstract

The purpose of the communication is to critically examine the meaning of capitalization from a pragmatist angle. Capitalization is here understood as a particular process of valuation in which things acquire value through their capacity to become assets. This process, it is claimed, controls today a wide part of the formation of economic reality. Why does it mean to consider this pragmatically? The communication claims that it is possible and useful to draw from Peirce's views on signification (augmented with Deleuze's), in order to develop a pragmatist approach to capitalization. A few empirical illustrations are offered that contribute to an anthropological articulation of this insight.

Keywords: Valuation, Capitalization, Anthropology of Finance, Semiosis

*Speaker