
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Tony Tinker is Professor of Accountancy at Baruch College, CUNY, and holds/held distinguished visiting professorial positions at St. Andrews University, Scotland, Leicester and University of South Australia. He has served as Research Fellow at Glasgow-Caledonian University, Chercheur Invite University of Paris IX-Dauphine, Chercheur Invite University of Bordeaux IV, Montesquieu, Maybank Chair Visiting Professor at the University of Putra, Malaysia, Fellow of the ACCA Founder member of the Association for Integrity in Accounting, the CUNY Faculty On-Line Programs at CUNY, past-council member of the AAA, twice past-chair of its Public Interest Section, author/co-author of *Paper Prophets*, 1985/2004, *Social Accounting for Corporations*, 1984; *Policing Accounting Knowledge*, 1995 and *Accounting Poetics*, 2004 and numerous academic articles. He is co-editor of *IJCA*, and Editorial Board Member of several major accounting journals, and has appeared on CNNfn, BBC, CBC, Pacifica Public Radio, NY Public Radio, *Newsweek* and the *Wall Street Journal*.

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At no time in our intellectual history is there a need for a real accounting revolution. Accounting fingerprints are all over the worldwide recession. Bank accountants processed toxic loans with gay abandon. Auditors failed to do their job: they are obligated under Sarbanes Oxley to review management's establishment and operation of systems of internal control that should have prevented reckless lending. They failed. Regulators, such as the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Public Corporate Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB), were asleep at the wheel.

All this was aided-and-abetted by the juggernaut of mainstream academic research that has spent decades and millions of dollars, beating the free market drum with an anti-regulatory subtext. Accounting doctoral programs and their teacher/researcher outputs, are – to this day – indoctrinated with the same lopsided political agenda. Doctoral graduates are schooled in regression, but ignorant about the systems of internal control, transaction cycle analysis, bookkeeping and management fraud. Some doctoral programs window-dress their graduates, before unloading them onto the job market, by requiring them to teach introductory accounting. This is a cynical exercise in cosmetics.

University accounting departments have been at the forefront in accentuating this worldwide recession. Audit failings have been at the centre of the crisis, yet auditing remains marginal in the curriculum and a poor relation relative to their financial accounting free market booster counterparts. If ever there was a need for a real accounting revolution, it is now.

A culture of anti-intellectualism has infiltrated many parts of the academy in the recent years. This has been accentuated by the orthodoxies bifurcation between theory and practice: between the tape-spinning ode to the free market and the world of practice.

The 'cure' currently in vogue in some 'progressive' accounting circles is worse than the disease. They have joined the anti-intellectual quest and accept without question the degraded notion of 'the academic' as 'out-of-touch'. For them, the path to 'truth' involves sneering at 'theorising' and elevating mud-wrestling with the facts. This spurious practicality stems from a flawed epistemic understanding of critical accounting. It is a shabby philosophical foundation for a scholarly work.

A replication of this schizophrenia – between theory-and-practice – is most evident in the representation of Abe Briloff's works – as the new poster-case of 'what is practical'. Briloff, a faculty-colleague of ours here in New York, is no mere practitioner. His writings – his 'practices' – are steeped in Greek and other classics; they offer a moral and ethical penetrating analyses of social and economic activity. Briloff is not a hands-on bomb-thrower. Anyone who troubles to read his work knows that his practical interventions are profoundly theoretically informed and his ideas are constantly invigorated by factual analysis.

IJCA is a vehicle for praxis. For *IJCA*, praxis is synonymous with academic rigour. 'Theory' is not a pejorative; it never stands apart from history, practice and experience. Similarly, effective practice only proceeds on a wave of strong theoretical intelligence. The best kind of research reflects vigorous dialectical interplay between the two. *IJCA* welcomes submissions that are delivered in this spirit – delivered with a passion and commitment to this new Accounting Revolution.