In 2011 *Economy and Society* celebrates its 40th year of publication. As a tribute to the wealth of contributions to the journal over the last 40 years the editors have chosen a variety of articles from the journal archive which highlight the breadth of content and demonstrate its continued relevance to today’s research.

Chosen articles have been grouped together in four ‘Virtual Special Issues’ representing four themes which are central to the content of the journal.

The first Virtual Special Issue is on *Michel Foucault and Governmentality*. Click on the Special Issue title below to view the list of articles which are free to access online until 30th April 2011.

**Michel Foucault and Governmentality**

Three more Virtual Special Issues with free access will be released throughout the year, so remember to check this page for the latest articles.
In the past twenty years *Economy and Society* has been decisive in developing Michel Foucault's analyses of 'governmentality', pressing this concept into service in new domains. In a wide range of articles written from diverse disciplinary backgrounds, scholars have clarified the conceptual vocabulary and empirical vitality of the notion of 'the conduct of conduct' for political and social analysis.

In addition to a special issue dedicated to this theme ('Liberalism, Neo-Liberalism and Governmentality' 22.3, 1993), there has been debate about the relationships that may pertain between liberal government, despotism and authoritarianism (Valverde 1996, Dean 2001), consideration of the ways in which Foucault's conceptual vocabulary can help to re-frame key problems in political theory (Burchell 1993, Hunter 1990, Hindess 1997, Pasquino 1993), analysis of the implications of Foucault's work for the methodological assumptions of the human sciences, and for the analysis of the social, including the government of diverse fields such as health, poverty, unemployment, policing, risk, and ethical conduct (Osborne 1993, Rose 1996, Dean 1992, O'Malley 1992, 1996, Cruikshank 1993).

The journal has housed debate about the significance of governmentality outside western liberal contexts (eg Sigley 1996, Keane 2002), and concerning the transformations of government produced by new technologies of warfare and welfare (Donzelot 2008, O'Malley 2010).

Click on the article titles to read them for free online.

**Governing economic life**
*Peter Miller* and *Nikolas Rose*, Volume 19, Issue 1, 1990

**A genealogy of the government of poverty**
*Dean Mitchell*, Volume 21, Issue 3, 1992

**Risk, power and crime prevention**
*Pat O'Malley*, Volume 21, Issue 3, 1992

**Liberal government and techniques of the self**

**Revolutions within: self-government and self-esteem**
*Barbara Cruikshank*, Volume 22, Issue 3, 1993

**The death of the social? Re-figuring the territory of government**

"Despotism " and ethical liberal governance

**Politics and governmentality**
*Bary Hindess*, Volume 26, Issue 2, 1997

**Governing through risk and uncertainty**
*Richard Ericson*, Volume 34, Issue 4, 2005

Michel Foucault and liberal intelligence
*Jacques Donzelot*, Volume 37, Issue 1, 2008