

"This work is original. It tackles key issues of the present-day world economy, adding new views to a long-standing debate on the role of governments, laws, institutions, regulations, conventions and the like, leading readers back to late eighteenth-century economic thought. In studying rules (codified of course, but also habitual ways of doing), Stanziani suggests a new chronology of capitalist development – *ni plus, ni moins*. In so doing, he sheds new light on issues such as laissez-faire policy, social welfare systems, mass consumption, institutions and actors from the late eighteenth century up to now. This is an impressive achievement."

– PETER SCHOLLIERS, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

"Stanziani explores European economic development from a fresh angle, substituting a focus on law, credit, institutions, regulation and organizational innovations for the customary centrality of technology and industry. The result is a provocative, practice-centered analysis, stretching across four centuries. An extraordinary recasting of economic history, as arresting as it is engaging."

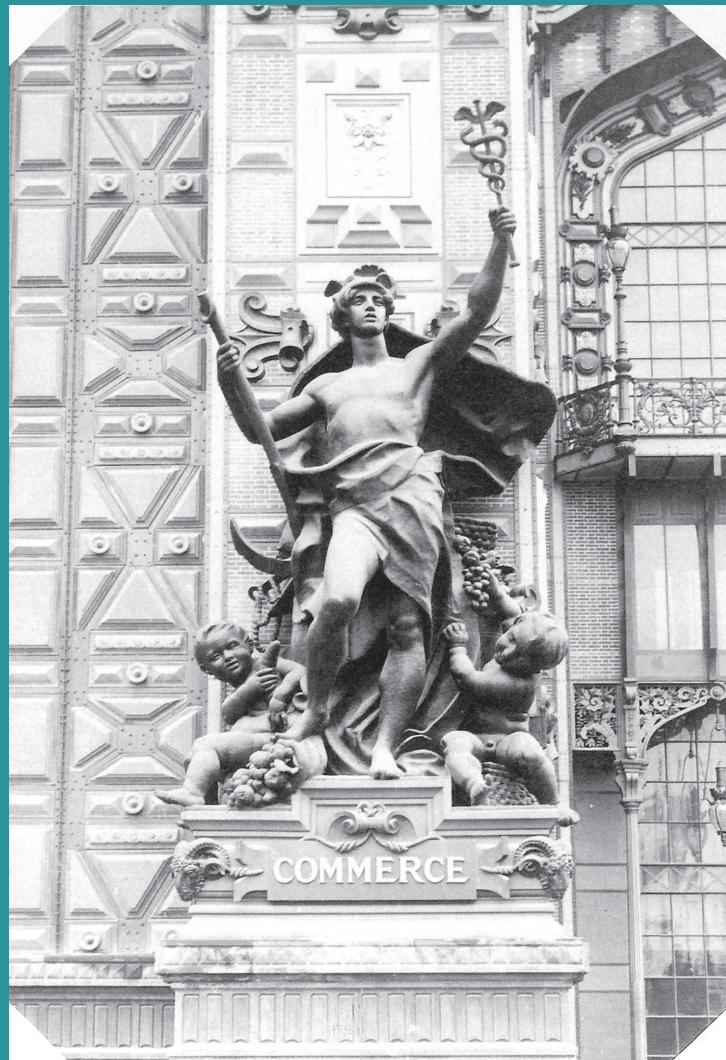
– Philip Scranton, Rutgers University

ALESSANDRO STANZIANI is a professor at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) and Senior Researcher at the Centre National des Recherches Scientifiques (CNRS) in Paris. He earned a PhD in economics from the University of Naples and a PhD in history from the EHESS, Paris. He has received numerous grants for his research, including one from the CNRS for a project on bonded labour in the Indian Ocean and one from the British Academy and French Ministry of Research program on food policies in France and Britain in the eighteenth to twentieth centuries (with Peter Atkins). Stanziani has written approximately eighty articles and book chapters in English, French, German and Russian. He is the author of *L'économie en révolution. Le cas russe, 1870–1930* and *Histoire de la qualité alimentaire, 18e–20e siècles*. He is the editor of *La travail contraint en Asie et en Europe, XVIIe–XXe siècles* and *La qualité des produits en France XVIIIe–XXe siècles* and co-editor of *Nomenclatures et classifications. Enjeux économiques et dynamiques historiques* (with Martin Bruegel and Jérôme Bourdieu).

Cover art: World's Fair of 1889 in Paris.
Le Commerce: colossal statue at the entry of the main hall. Photograph by Hippolyte Blancard.
Courtesy of Bibliothèque nationale de France.

Cover design: Newgen Imaging Systems

Stanziani Rules of Exchange



Rules of Exchange

French Capitalism in Comparative Perspective,
Eighteenth to Early Twentieth Centuries

Alessandro Stanziani

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS
www.cambridge.org
ISBN 978-1-107-00386-6

9 781107 003866 >

CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE