

# **Exploring Time Banking from Economic Diversity: Analyzing the Social Models of Service Exchange Mechanism**

Szu-hung Fang

Post-doctoral Researcher, Design School, National Taiwan University

Shenglin E. Chang

Professor, Graduate Institute of Building and Planning, National Taiwan  
University

## **Abstract**

Time banking has been an alternative exchange mechanism in many societies for many decades. In Taiwan, since the mid-1990s, civil societies, community organizations, and governments have begun experimenting with this social innovation to supplement long-term care resources. The authors argue that developing practical time banking systems requires analyzing how diverse economic models interact with particular societies. In this paper, the authors examine three time banking exchanging models through the spectrum of economic diversities, including (1) Replacing care resources as Model R, (2) Empowering actors and communities as Model E, and (3) Grossing profit-oriented time banking model as Model G. The authors propose a multifaceted economic spectrum to locate the three R-E-G models of time banking, which creates a focused dialogue on time banking research, and then assists nonprofit organizations and governments at all levels to strategize practical time banking policies and to formulate sustainable mechanisms.

**Keywords: Time Banking, Economic Diversity, Empowerment, Reciprocity,  
Community**