Experimenting with Unconditional Basic Income
Lessons from the Finnish BI Experiment 2017-2018

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This discerning book provides a comprehensive analysis of the nationwide randomised Finnish basic income experiment 2017 to 2018, from planning and implementation through to the end results. It presents the background of the social policy system in which the experiment was implemented and details the narratives of the planning process alongside its constraints, as well as a final evaluation of the results.

‘The editors of this brilliant volume argue that basic income is the “money of trust”. Basic income advocates and critics alike will read this book to unpack and correct the media portrait of an ambitious experiment designed to determine the extent to which we can or should trust one another and our social institutions. Researchers will be, by turns, fascinated and terrified by the “politics” of conducting controversial social experiments on vulnerable human beings under the gaze of the international media.’
– Evelyn L. Forget, University of Manitoba, Canada

‘There has never been anything as close to a real basic income experiment in developed countries as the one conducted in Finland in 2017-2018. This book is an extremely useful, no-nonsense, multi-disciplinary analysis of its results and its limits, of the political constraints it faced and the political impact it had. No one amongst the many around the world who are setting up, advocating or studying basic income experiments can afford to ignore it.’
– Philippe Van Parijs, University of Louvain, Belgium and Basic Income Earth Network

‘The Finnish experiment providing unconditional basic income to a selection of its citizens has been closely observed internationally by policymakers, academics and even the wider public. In this important book, researchers who were all directly involved in the planning, implementation and analysis of the experiment and its effects describe and evaluate its various stages. Most interestingly, they also give detailed insights into how basic income was experienced by its recipients, and what it has meant for them in terms of labour market participation, health, well-being, and social capabilities.’
– Wim van Oorschot, University of Leuven, Belgium

2021 224 pp Hardback 978 1 83910 484 8 £85.00 £76.50 US$130.00 US$117.00
Elgaronline 978 1 83910 485 5