Editorial

Has statistical physics contributed to economics and finance?
The work I did around 1960 answers this question with a YES.
B. Mandelbrot

AFTER THE FALL of the Berlin Wall, the dissolution of so–called "real socialism" and the recess in the Cold War, began a period that has not yet culminated where the demand for physicists in both industry and academia has declined visibly,[1, 2, 3] as the military–oriented research projects were hampered by the foreseeable funding cuts of a scenario that, according to F. Fukuyama was "the end of History."

This has led generations of physicists to the financial and economic institutions of the planet, which greedily hire them because of their strong mathematical training and computer skills, becoming *quants* (quantitative analysts) of them. The success obtained in this task has led some of them to found their own firm,[4] offering services in the area of finance.

The area of interdisciplinary research, on the frontier between economics and physics, which has been baptized as econophysics,[5] has set the guidelines for understanding the complexity of economic phenomena from a natural science perspective in a more precise way than the one offered by neoclassical theory, which is the mainstream of current economic thinking.

This issue contains some valuable contributions to this area of knowledge. From a very thorough review of the use of complex networks in economics to a historical analysis of the interdisciplinary origins of finance, in the pages that follow the reader will find a balanced panorama of this area of interdisciplinary research.

1 Kaiser, D. «Cold War requisition, scientific manpower and the production of American physicists after World War II.» *Historical Studies in the Physical and Biological Sciences*, 33, 2002, 131-159.
2 Kleves, D. *The physicists: The history of a scientific community in modern America*, cap. 25. Harvard University Press, 1995.
3 Leslie, S. *The Cold War and the American Science. The Military–Industrial–Academic Complex at MIT and Stanford*, cap. 9. Columbia University Press, 1993.
4 https://www.cfm.fr/
5 The term econophysics was proposed by Eugene Stanley, a physicist at Boston University, in a conference on statistical physics held in Calcutta in 1995.