

Introduction

Jimryn Parc and Patrick Messerlin

We are pleased to announce the publication of the inaugural issue of *Culture and Business*. While originally slated for an earlier release, unforeseen events such as the COVID-19 pandemic and transitions in editorial positions have led to a delay in the publication of our first issue. We extend our sincerest apologies to the contributors whose articles are featured in this debut edition for the prolonged wait.

In this inaugural issue, we present two insightful articles that shed light on the intricate relationship between culture and business, in this respect what influences the cost and consumption of cultural products. The first article, titled “What are the determinants for public library borrowing? Lessons from the Helsinki region,” authored by Seppo Suominen, delves into an examination of the factors influencing book rentals in the Helsinki region of Finland, a country with one of the highest library users per capita. Through meticulous analysis, the author reveals the significant roles played by retail price, author recognition, and public awareness in shaping borrowing patterns, rather than cultural, literary, or artistic value. This study offers critical insights for libraries and publishing industries alike.

The second article, “Understanding the price of vinyl in the UK market: A case study of independent dance music labels” by Stephen Ranger, offers a fascinating exploration into the escalating prices of vinyl records in the United Kingdom, an influential market in the global music industry. The author’s research highlights the nuanced factors contributing to this trend, revealing that the type of release plays a pivotal role in pricing dynamics while the exact impact of Brexit is still as yet to be determined. It suggests that labels will need to be more structured when it comes to future releases to overcome potential difficulties. This case study provides valuable insights for music enthusiasts, retailers, and independent labels navigating the complex landscape of the vinyl market and its pricing policy.

These articles serve as compelling demonstration of the intricate interplay between culture and commerce – an often-overlooked aspect that profoundly influences consumer behavior and industry dynamics. As we embark on this journey with *Culture and Business*, we invite readers and scholars alike to engage with these scholarly contributions and explore the multifaceted connections between culture, business, and society.

Content

Jimmy Parc and Patrick Messerlin	<i>Introduction</i>	i
Seppo Suominen	<i>What are the determinants for public library borrowing? Lessons from the Helsinki region</i>	1
Stephen Ranger	<i>Understanding the price of vinyl in the UK market: A case study of independent dance music labels</i>	23