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Liquidity, materiality and high-frequency trading

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Abstract

In 1999, Carruthers and Stinchcombe provided the classic discussion of 'the social structure of exchange' in which

'exchange' is the material aspects of the material need far closer at hand than highlighting

two features since

1999, location and

to physical enclaves is

Einstein's which issues

controversy particularly of

of material

fairness.

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Notes

1. For the metaphor, see the August 2011 issue of this journal; for the argument that even stock markets 'are normally illiquid with temporal spikes of liquidity', see Pitluck (2011, p. 26).
2. Such venues include ECNs (electronic communication networks), such as Island, which are officially recognised but are not stock exchanges (i.e. do not have the power themselves to 'list' companies).
3. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, section 15A, paragraph b6 (<http://taft.law.uc.edu/CCL/34ACT>, accessed 26 August 2011).
4. As the effects of the 2008 banking crisis began to wane in the latter half of 2009, trading volumes and volatility – factors that typically boost HFT profits – went down. Some HFT firms withdrew from the market, an interviewee told us, while others seem to have adjusted their systems to reduce risk, which involves trading less frequently.
5. Such interconnections have been present for three decades, and were made vividly manifest by the 1987 crash. Until the last decade, however, the interconnections typically
6. 'Raw' and do not involve the only used, SEC-mar order-book changes



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