Festschrift for Axel Leijonhufvud: Preface

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Axel Leijonhufvud was born in Stockholm, Sweden and obtained his Bachelors degree at the University of Lund. After coming to the United States in 1960, he earned an MA from the University of Pittsburgh and a PhD from Northwestern University. He came to the University of California at Los Angeles in 1964 and was named Full Professor in 1971. In 1995 Axel was appointed Professor of Monetary Theory and Policy at the University of Trento in Italy although he remains an Emeritus Professor at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

In August of 2006 the Economics Department at UCLA organized a conference to recognize Axel Leijonhufvud’s contributions to the department and to economics at large. It is a remarkable testament to the esteem with which Axel is held in the profession that we were able to attract a star cast of former students, colleagues and friends, all of whom were kind enough to contribute their time and their work to this volume that celebrates a career which spans five decades and shows no sign of decline.

Many people contributed to the success of the conference with both time and resources. Gary Hansen suggested the idea that UCLA should honor our senior faculty members in this way and he provided departmental resources to fund this as the first of a series of similar conferences to honor distinguished UCLA faculty. The then Dean of Social Sciences, Scott Waugh, supported the conference financially as did Al Harberger, David Levine, Ken Sokoloff and the Ettinger Fund, an endowment funded by Robert Ettinger, a 1980 Alumnus of UCLA and President of Flaherty and Crumrine Inc. Gwen Matthews organized the conference events assisted by Michelle Ellis, Lucas Lee and Gloria McBride. I would especially like to thank Masonori Kashinagi who read and commented on the entire manuscript and created the index. Last but not least, the 2006–07 Harvard Westlake Jazz Explorers consisting of Lucas Berman, Leland Farmer, Kurt Kanazawa, Ian Sprague and Ian Stanton provided a memorable evening of entertainment.