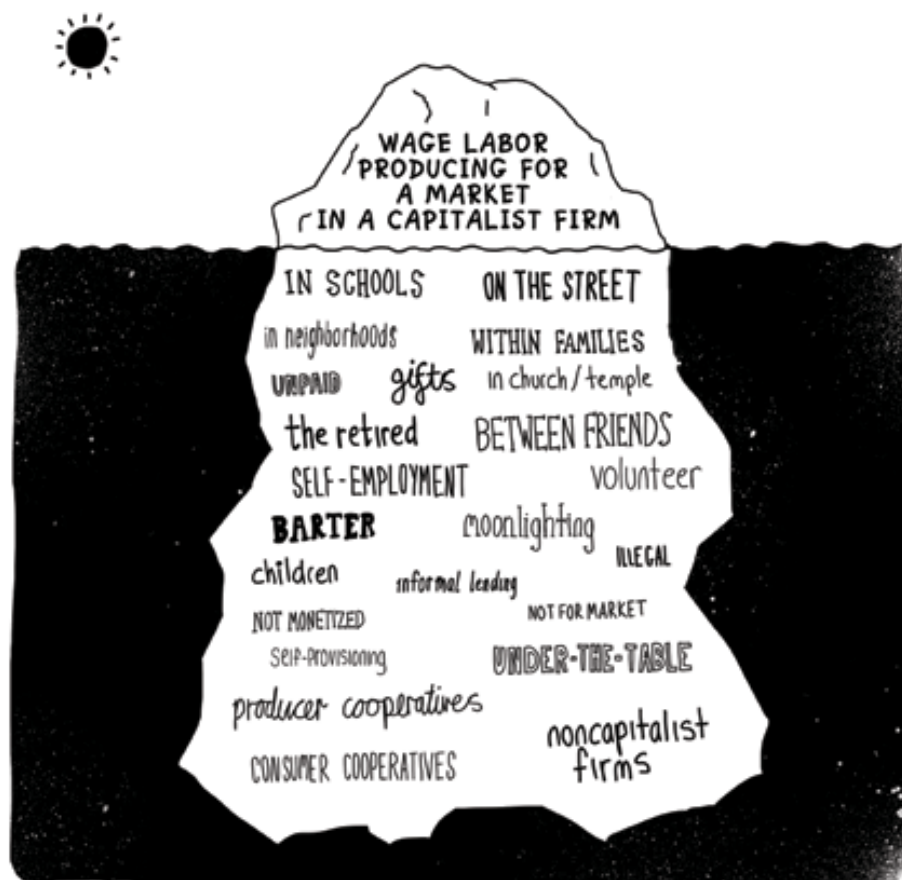


A first step to taking back the economy is to recognize the economic diversity that abounds in this world. This means broadening our focus from what we usually identify as 'the economy' to include an array of hidden economic activities (and many of these hidden activities often directly contribute to our well-being). Once we expand 'the economy' we multiply opportunities for taking back the economy.

1. Discuss the iceberg diagram (below) which distinguishes between visible economic activities and those that are usually hidden. It also includes some of the places where hidden economic activities occur (such as within families). Can you think of some actual examples of the types of hidden economic activities that are in the iceberg diagram? What are some ways of distinguishing between the activities that are above the waterline and those below? For example, you might think of activities that sit above the waterline as being the sorts of things that get reported on the evening news.
2. Brainstorm the range of economic activities that you do in a regular day or week. Use the blank iceberg on the next page to record these activities. What contribution do these activities make to your well-being? Here it's useful to think of your well-being as not just material (in the sense of having money to live) but also the relationships that add to your quality of life.



Source: Gibson-Graham, J.K., Cameron, J. & Healy, S., 2013, *Take Back the Economy: An Ethical Guide for Transforming our Communities*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, page 11.

