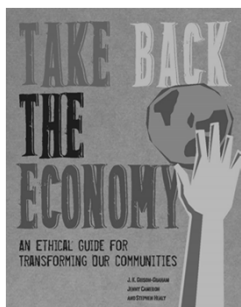
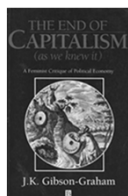


URSP 3050
Special Topics in
Urban Studies 1

Lecture 2

Key concepts and strategies
underpinning TBTE



Capitalocentrism

The Diverse Economy

Community Economy

The Politics of Research
A Politics of Language
A Politics of the Subject
A Politics of Collective Action

Capitalocentrism

Capitalism = " _____ "

Anything that is not capitalist is positioned in relation to capitalism (with capitalism always in the _____ position)

Examples:

Housework reproduces labour power for capitalism

Non-capitalist modes of production in the majority world are shrinking as capitalism "takes over"

Non-capitalist (and anti-capitalist) activity takes place within a capitalist world

Alternatives to capitalism are inevitably co-opted by capitalism as it adjusts to crises

"It is perhaps no coincidence that in times of capitalist crisis, alternative ideas and practices emerge [e.g. organic food, fair trade] ... capitalism is dependent on these crises and alternatives for its own reproduction ... we must not disavow the importance of many local, non-market practices for the social, cultural, environmental and economic reproduction of capitalism. While many of us think and hope that alternatives can displace capitalism from within, it may just be that our resistance is the very incubator capital is dependent on to renew itself."

Steffen Böhm, 2014, Review of TBTE, *Sociology*, 48(5), 1057

The options for political action?

Alternatives end up _____ capitalism

What's needed is an organised and "comprehensive revolutionary movement" that directly _____ capitalism.

David Harvey, 2012, *Rebel Cities*, 137
Interview with *The Guardian*

Is this the only form of politics for creating a different future ?

Yes, there are viable political alternatives, but for these to be seen as legitimate we need to retheorise the economy/capitalism

The Diverse Economy

A discourse of _____

What's happened to "capitalism"?

It's gone

Instead there are capitalist _____

Following Marx, in a capitalist enterprise a capitalist (e.g. an owner, a shareholder) owns the surplus labour that the workers produce

Note:

Surplus labour = what's left over after workers have been paid

Profit is included as a part of surplus labour

We'll do more on the weeks 5 & 6 (enterprise chapter)

Diverse Economy Workshop

Community Economy

_____ reveals economic diversity

_____ refers to the economy that results when we use this economic diversity to negotiate our interdependence with other humans and the environment

In a community economy, we take action on a series of ethical concerns:

- _____ together well and equitably
- _____ to enrich social and environmental health
- _____ in ways that supports their wellbeing as well as ours
- _____ sustainably
- maintaining, replenishing and growing our natural and cultural _____
- _____ our wealth so that future generations can live well

The Politics of Research

What is the purpose of research:

TBTE is characterised by a commitment to research (and writing) as a performative practice that can help:

- _____ the community economies that already exist
- _____ new possibilities
- _____ new worlds into being

Strategies to help us do this:

- A politics of language
- A politics of the subject
- A politics of collective action

A Politics of Language

A language/discourse of economic diversity
(rather than a capitalocentric discourse)



To help make economic possibilities more
recognisable

A language/discourse of community economies



To help assemble together the range of
initiatives that are already present

To help make these initiatives more evident as
"a movement"

A Politics of the Subject

Reading:

J.K. Gibson-Graham, 2006, *A Postcapitalist
Politics*, Page xxxv-xxxvi

Use of story-telling to tap into the affective/feeling register (e.g. 4-7, TBTE)



To help readers identify with and desire different economic worlds and possibilities

A Politics of Collective Action

Providing "tools" and exercises that readers can work through in collaboration with others
Providing "lists" of examples of what other people are doing



To prompt readers to reflect on their current economic practices and to explore economic possibilities

"Your Homework"

Write your second reflection:

- What have you learned from the workshop (e.g. something new, something confirmed, something curious)
- Refer to the lecture reading
