

Lecture 8

This week the focus was on the range of ways, other than mainstream markets, that people use to get the goods and services that they need—and through which they encounter more directly the people and places that provide these goods and services. We started with a recap of last week ([Slides 2 to 18](#)), and I updated them on several things I had found out about during the week:

- A new page on the Australian Shop Ethical website that promotes initiatives such as CSA and Farmers' Markets ([Slide 9](#))
- A guide for [what seafood to eat/not eat in Hong Kong](#), produced by WWF and information about a Hong Kong government ban on eating shark fins and bluefin tuna ([Slides 10 to 11](#))
- Information about practices by Apple in Mainland China (based on a seminar I attended during the week by Professor PUN Ngai, and which I wrote about in a blog, entitled [Our Love Affair with our Mobile Devices](#)) ([Slides 13 to 17](#)).

1. We started with an introduction to the idea that people can encounter each other more directly as part of the process of securing what they need—and that these encounters can be reciprocal or gift-based ([Slides 19 to 24](#)).
2. We then went through three examples of reciprocal encounters:
 - Hour Exchange in Portland, Maine. We watched a short documentary about the Exchange, from <http://www.pbs.org/now/fixing-the-future/community.html> (Scroll down the page to the documentary – but there are lots of other good documentaries on the way) ([Slide 25](#))
 - Then we contrasted this with a second time bank, Fureai Kippu in Japan (and these two time banks and the differences between them are discussed in TBTE, pages 106 to 107)
 - A Time Coupon system in the Wan Chai neighbourhood of Hong Kong and run through St James Settlement (which I had visited several weeks earlier) ([Slides 28 to 36](#)). (For one story about this initiative see <http://hk-magazine.com/city-living/article/new-dollar>).
3. We then looked at two examples of gifting:
 - Fallen Fruit ([Slides 37 to 40](#))
 - Gleaning ([Slides 40 to 45](#))
4. And concluded by looking at the Collective Actions section of this chapter in TBTE (pages 112 to 122); and a few words of advice on their case study presentations (including showing them a short section of the wonderfully poetic video essay see in the Kowloon district of Hong Kong, [Precipitations](#), but explaining that this would not be appropriate for their visual presentations—although in their own wonderful way I feel like Hope and Victor captured something equally unique with their [time-lapse video of a portion of their 11pm to 1.30am shift in the Special Service Period](#) at the Women Workers' Cooperative at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) (food outlets at CUHK are required to be open until 1.30am, so to assist the Women Workers' Cooperative, students have formed a support group to run the late shift, so the women can go home and rest). (Here's the link to [Hope and Victor's full visual presentation](#)).

(I should add that there are lots of examples in these lectures as the students had given their mid-semester feedback and one thing they identified was that they would like more examples in lectures).