Urban Studies Program
Jointly Organized by Department of Geography and Resource Management & School of Architecture, Faculty of Social Science
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

URSP3050: Special Topics in Urban Studies I

2nd Term 2014-2015, Thursday: 9:30 – 12:15

Course Description

In Term 2 2015, this course is based on the 2013 publication *Take Back the Economy: An Ethical Guide for Transforming our Communities*. It focuses on the types of economic initiatives and developments that become visible when the economy is rethought as something that emerges from everyday action that take into account the wellbeing of people and the environment. It will explore the ways that people across the globe are building community economies based on ethical concerns for more sustainable and equitable futures.

Course Objectives

1. To provide an overview of the diverse economic activities that can be mobilized to build economies that foreground people and planetary health
2. To investigate the ethical concerns that people are acting on as they build community economies
3. To equip students with a way of economic thinking that so they might consider economic options for building more sustainable and equitable futures.

Expected Learning Outcomes

After taking this course, students should be able to:

1. Appreciate the diversity of economic practices that are found in urban (and rural) settings in different parts of the world
2. Compare the different theoretical approaches used to frame these diverse economic practices
3. Understand the ethical concerns that underpin many of these diverse economic practices
4. Analyze the contribution of these diverse economic practices to more sustainable and equitable forms of development
5. Identify the types of policies that might foster the diverse economic practices that contribute to more sustainable and equitable forms of development

Course Program

Week	Lecture	Workshop	Assessment Item
1 8 Jan.	Introduction: What is the economy?	The Economy as an Iceberg	
2 15 Jan.	Theoretical Approaches	The Diverse Economy	
3 22 Jan.	Surviving Well	Surviving Well Tools	
4 29 Jan.	Surviving Well	Case Studies – Planning (1)	
5 5 Feb.	Distributing Surplus	Distributing Surplus Tools	
6 12 Feb.	Distributing Surplus	Case Studies – Planning (2)	Reflective Journal 10% (Based on Wks 1, 2, 3, 5)
7 19 Feb.	Lunar New Year		
8 26 Feb.	Encountering Others	Encountering Others Tools	Case Study Plan 10%
9 5 March	Encountering Others	Case Studies – Research (1)	
10 12 March	Commoning	Commoning Tools	
11 19 March	Commoning	Case Studies – Research (2)	
12 26 March	Investing in Futures	Investing in Futures Tools	
13 2 April	Investing in Futures	Case Studies – Research (3)	Reflective Journal 10% (Based on Wks 8, 10, 12)
14 9 April	Presentation of Case Studies		
15 16 April	Course Review, Discussion of Exam (Take Home) Submission of Case Study Report		
24 April	Exam (Take Home)		

Assessment

Reflective Journal (based on in-class workshops):	**20%**
Case Study:	**50%**
Exam (take home):	**30%**

Reflective Journal

In Weeks 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 12 there are in-class workshops. Students are to write a one-page reflection on each of these workshops. The reflections should comment on what the student learned from the workshop, including the new understandings that the student developed and understandings that have been confirmed. The reflections should also refer to the related lecture readings and discussions. It is acceptable to use first-person (I). The first reflective journal (10%) is due **Thursday 12 Feb., 9.30am** (for in-class workshops from Weeks 1, 2, 3, 5). The second reflective journal (10%) is due **Thursday 2 April, 9.30am** (for in-class workshops from Weeks 8, 10, 12).

Case Study

The Case Study is made up of a Case Study Plan (10%, due **Thursday 26 February, 9.30am**); a Case Study Report (20%, due **Thursday 16 April, 9.30am**); and a Case Study Visual Presentation that communicates the main points from the report (20%, due **Thursday 9 April, 9.30am**). Depending on class size, the case study will be completed individually or in groups. If groups, these will comprise 2 to 3 students. Each individual or group will investigate a case study based on one of the following themes from *Take Back the Economy*: surviving well; distributing surplus; encountering others; commoning; or investing in futures.

The Case Study Report is to

- Describe the economic practices used by the case study
- Identifies the ethical concerns that the case study is based on
- Discuss how these ethical concerns are reflected in the economic practices
- Identify how the case study contributes to sustainable and equitable development
- Describe the challenges faced by the case study
- Discuss policies that might support the case study and help to support similar endeavours.

The Case Study Visual Presentation can take any form (e.g. poster, video, performance). Students are encouraged to think creatively about presentation formats.

The Case Study Plan must identify the case study for investigation, the planned sources of information and the planned visual presentation.

Where group work is conducted, marks will be moderated based on an individual one-page statement from each student describing what they contributed to the case study; what other group members contributed; their reflections on the group work process (e.g. what worked well/not so well and what they would do differently next

time). This statement must be submitted for marks to be awarded for groups who work on this this assessment task (due **Thursday 16 April, 9.30am**).

To ensure a high quality case study and a productive group work process there are in-class workshops where staff will assist students work planning their case study (Weeks 4 & 6) and researching their case study (Weeks 9, 11, 13).

Exam

A final exam will test what students have learned about approaches to economic thinking in light of the course lectures and workshops. The exam will be conducted in a 'take home' format in which students are given the exam question and just over one week to complete the exam (due **Friday 24 April, 5pm**).

Readings

Week 1 Introduction: What is the economy?

Gibson-Graham, J.K., Cameron, Jenny & Healy, Stephen, 2013. *Take Back the Economy: An Ethical Guide for Transforming our Communities*, University of Minnesota Press. **Introduction & Chapter 1**

Week 2: Theoretical Approaches

Cameron, Jenny, 2010. 'Take Back the (Food) Economy: Lessons from the Hummingbird', Keynote Presentation, Fair Share Festival, Newcastle. Available online at http://www.communityeconomies.org/site/assets/media/Jenny_Cameron/Cameron_Fair_Share_Dec._2010.pdf.

Gibson-Graham, J.K., 2006. *A Postcapitalist Politics*, University of Minnesota Press. **Introduction**

Gibson-Graham, J.K., Cameron, Jenny & Healy, Stephen, 2013. *Take Back the Economy: An Ethical Guide for Transforming our Communities*, University of Minnesota Press. **Chapter 1**

Gibson-Graham, J.K.; Cameron, Jenny & Healy, Stephen, 2014. 'Author's response in the Book Symposium on Take Back the Economy: An Ethical Guide for Transforming Our Communities by J.K. Gibson-Graham, Jenny Cameron and Stephen Healy, Minneapolis; University of Minnesota Press, 2013' *Sociology* 48 (5): 1061-1062.

Weeks 3 & 4: Surviving Well

Gibson-Graham, J.K.; Cameron, Jenny & Healy, Stephen, 2013. *Take Back the Economy: An Ethical Guide for Transforming our Communities*, University of Minnesota Press. **Chapter 2**

Gibson-Graham, J.K.; Cameron Jenny & Healy, Stephen, 2015 (forthcoming) 'Pursuing Happiness: The Politics of Surviving Well Together' in C. Nelson, D. Pike & G. Ledvinka (eds), *Essays on Happiness*, Perth: University of Western Australia Publishing.

Williams, Colin, 2014. 'Non-commodified labour', in M. Parker, G. Cheney, V. Fournier & C. Land (eds) *The Routledge Companion to Alternative Organization* London: Routledge. **Chapter 7**

Weeks 5 & 6: Distributing Surplus

Cameron, Jenny, 2009. 'Experimenting with economic possibilities: ethical economic decision-making in two Australian community enterprises' in A. Amin (ed.) *The Social Economy: International Perspectives on Economic Solidarity*, London: Zed Press. **Chapter 5**

Coraggio, José Luis, 2009. 'Ethnographies of worker-run enterprises in Argentina' in A. Amin (ed.) *The Social Economy: International Perspectives on Economic Solidarity*, London: Zed Press. Chapter 7.

Gibson-Graham, J.K.; Cameron, Jenny & Healy, Stephen, 2013. *Take Back the Economy: An Ethical Guide for Transforming our Communities*, University of Minnesota Press. **Chapter 3**

Weeks 8 & 9: Encountering Others

Gibson-Graham, J.K.; Cameron, Jenny & Healy, Stephen, 2013. *Take Back the Economy: An Ethical Guide for Transforming our Communities*, University of Minnesota Press. **Chapter 4**

Raynolds, Laura & Keahey, Jennifer, 2014. 'Fair trade: social justice and production alternatives', in M. Parker, G. Cheney, V. Fournier & C. Land (eds) *The Routledge Companion to Alternative Organization* London: Routledge. **Chapter 11**

Rehn, Alf, 2014. 'Gifts, gifting and gift economies: on challenging capitalist with blood, plunder and necklaces', in M. Parker, G. Cheney, V. Fournier & C. Land (eds) *The Routledge Companion to Alternative Organization* London: Routledge. **Chapter 13**

Weeks 10 & 11: Commoning

Cameron, Jenny, 2015 (forthcoming). 'Sustaining the agricultural commons through enterprise innovation and economic diversity' in G. Roelvink, K. St Martin and J.K. Gibson-Graham (eds) *Performing Diverse Economies* Minneapolis University of Minnesota Press. Chapter 2

De Angelis, Massimo & Harvie, David, 2014. 'The commons', in M. Parker, G. Cheney, V. Fournier & C. Land (eds) *The Routledge Companion to Alternative Organization* London: Routledge. **Chapter 19**

Gibson-Graham, J.K.; Cameron, Jenny & Healy, Stephen, 2013. *Take Back the Economy: An Ethical Guide for Transforming our Communities*, University of Minnesota Press. **Chapter 5**

Weeks 12 & 13: Investing in Futures

Cutcher, Leanne & Mason, Peter, 2014. 'Credit unions', in M. Parker, G. Cheney, V. Fournier & C. Land (eds) *The Routledge Companion to Alternative Organization* London: Routledge. **Chapter 17**

Gibson-Graham, J.K.; Cameron, Jenny & Healy, Stephen, 2013. *Take Back the Economy: An Ethical Guide for Transforming our Communities*, University of Minnesota Press. **Chapter 6**

Jayasinghe, Kelum & Thomas, Dennis, 2014. 'Alternative and social accounting', in M. Parker, G. Cheney, V. Fournier & C. Land (eds) *The Routledge Companion to Alternative Organization* London: Routledge. **Chapter 18**

Week 15: Course Review

Gibson-Graham, J.K, 2006. *The End of Capitalism (as we knew it): A Feminist Critique of Political Economy*, University of Minnesota Press. **Introduction to the New Edition: Ten Years On**

Gibson-Graham, J.K.; Cameron, Jenny & Healy, Stephen, 2013. *Take Back the Economy: An Ethical Guide for Transforming our Communities*, University of Minnesota Press. **Conclusion**

Parker, Martin; Cheney, George; Fournier, Valerie & Land, Chris, 2014. 'Horizons of possibility: challenge, co-optation and transformation', in M. Parker, G. Cheney, V. Fournier & C. Land (eds) *The Routledge Companion to Alternative Organization* London: Routledge. **Chapter 24**