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.”


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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*

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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 re theorise 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)
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:

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

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**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

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“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