



Community Economies Institute

2020/2021

ANNUAL REPORT

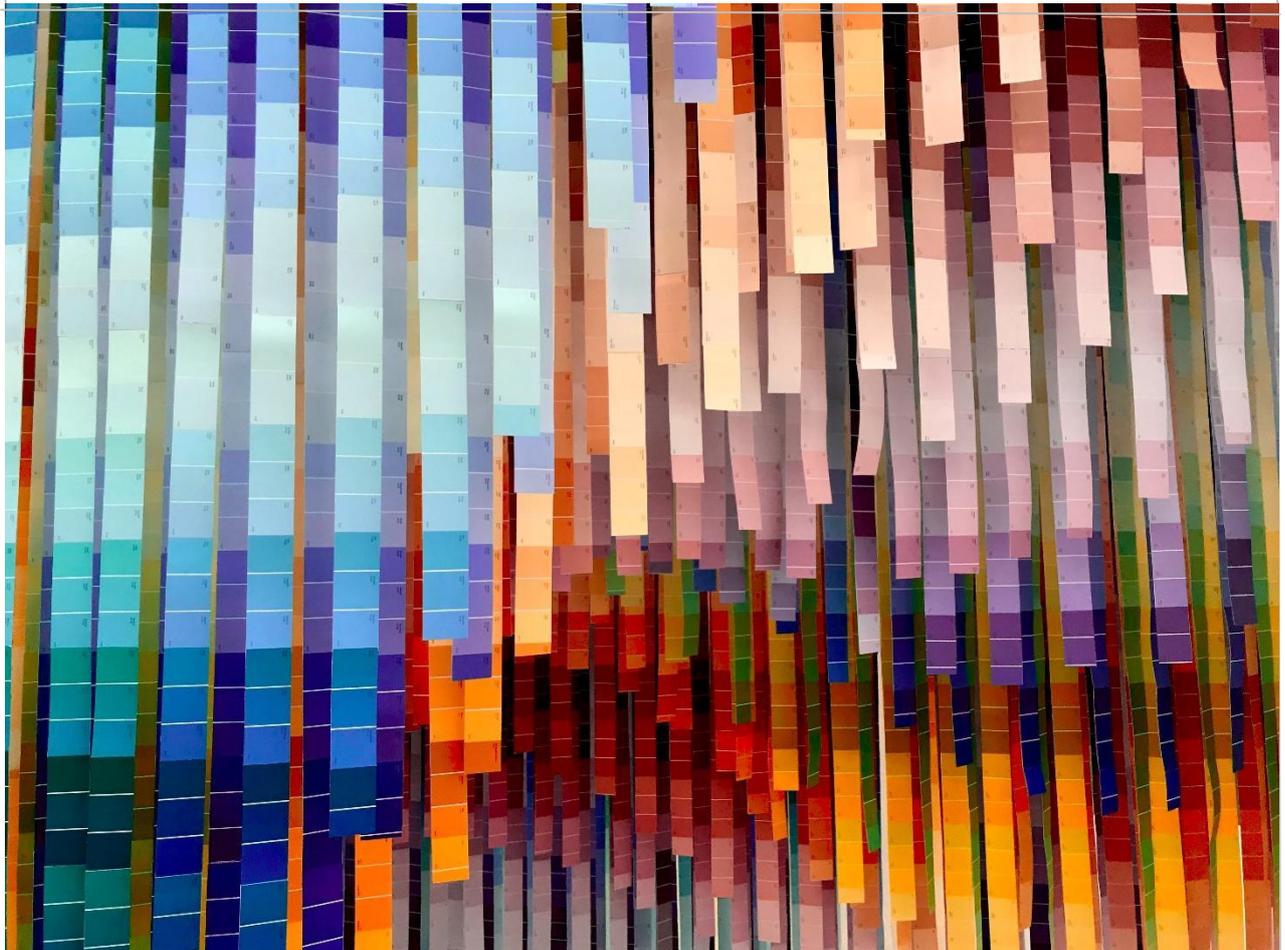


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1.0 Background

Welcome to the second annual report of the Community Economies Institute Limited (CEI). [The CEI](#) is a not-for-profit, member-based organization involving scholars, artists, activists and practitioners from different regions of the world. We have 48 members from the Americas, the Antipodes (Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand), Asia, Europe and the UK. The list of CEI members is in Appendix 1. Our members engage in creative and critical work to promote ethical economic practices that acknowledge and act on the interdependence of all life forms, human and nonhuman. We are interested in [fostering thought and practice](#) to help communities survive well together and to challenge forms of domination that stand in the way of realising diverse community economies. The CEI exists to support this work.

The CEI also manages and supports the [Community Economies Research Network](#) (CERN), an associated global network of 296 scholars, artists, activists and practitioners interested in enacting new visions of economy.

This report reflects on the work of the first elected [Board of Directors](#) as guided by the priorities from the CEI Strategic Plan (which was agreed to at the CEI's first Annual General Meeting, held on 29/30 October 2020). It also features other highlights from 2020/2021 (generally from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021). The preceding annual report is [available online](#).

We would like to offer our acknowledgement that the places in which many of us live and work are Indigenous lands, cared for by generations of traditional custodians before us, who give ongoing care today. We express our gratitude to them and to Country.



Map of [Location of CERN Members](#), as at 29 August 2021

2.0 Chair's Report

This report marks the end of the CEI's first year of operation with an elected Board of Directors. It has been a year marked by the pandemic: lockdowns, travel restrictions, teaching and learning from home, and extending our capacities to engage and connect with each other online. 'Zoom fatigue' and 'COVID-brain' have entered everyday vocabulary, and the emotional exhaustion of pandemic-life has really taken hold. In these conditions the mutual nourishment and care that the CEI seeks to facilitate among members feels more important than ever. In this year we have found ways to keep connected, to extend ourselves, and to sustain our learning about how to administer a not-for-profit in ways that are both effective and ethical.

In this report we list some of our key achievements, but underneath all of these is the 'below-the-waterline' work of many to think through *how* we should do this work. Through ongoing exchange of ideas, listening and learning, experimentation, discussion and negotiation, we are finding our way towards organisational practices that reflect what is really important to us: ethical engagement, collaborative practice, transparency and equity, and working in ways that encourage trust and respect for one another. Often what is involved is a steady *unlearning* of old habit of institutional life, and the repetition of new habits that encourage collectivity.

One key collective practice is the 'check-in circle' that begins every Board meeting and most CEI gatherings (although these days the circle is always virtual!). The circle supports each gathering to begin on the premise of connection with each other, and serves as a reminder of the being and becoming together that characterizes not just a community economy, but the community that is the CEI.

Although a written document is always a bit one-sided, this report is also something of a check-in of what CEI members have been up to across our many dispersed locations all over the globe. I invite you to use it as a prompt to share your points of connection with us, and your ideas for how the CEI can keep exploring the core questions of how to survive *well* together.

Katharine McKinnon
Chair, CEI Board of Directors
director@communityeconomies.org

3.0 The Board of Directors

The composition of the first elected Board of Directors has been as follows:

Name	Legal Position	Role	Term
Jenny Cameron	Director	Deputy Chair; Secretary; C&C Working Group	3-year term (to 2023)
Katherine Gibson	Director	Research Working Group	3-year term (to 2023)
Stephen Healy	Director	Research Working Group	2-year term (to 2022)
Ana Inés Heras	Director	COP Working Group	3-year term (to 2023)
Katharine McKinnon	Director and Secretary	Chair; T&L Working Group	1-year term (to 2021)
Joanne McNeill	Director	Treasurer; C&C Working Group	2-year term (to 2022)
Oona Morrow	Director	COP Working Group	1-year term (to 2021)
Pryor Placino	Director	C&C Working Group; T&L Working Group	2-year term (to 2022)
Rob Snyder	Director	C&C Working Group	1-year term (to 2021)

C&C Working Group = Coordination and Communication Working Group

COP Working Group = Communities of Practice Working Group

T&L Working Group = Teaching and Learning Working Group

All Directorships are until the date of the Annual General Meeting in the relevant year

Following the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 29/30 October 2020, the Board of Directors met on a monthly basis. As outlined in Appendix 2, there have been 11 monthly Board meetings since the 2020 AGM and one strategic planning meeting. To accommodate the different time zones, there were alternating times for the main monthly meetings, and the main meetings were preceded by preliminary meetings for those who could not make the main meetings. Working Groups generally met between the monthly Board meetings.

4.0 The CEI Strategic Plan

Background

The CEI has a strategic plan that is a work-in-progress. The plan was drafted by the initial Board and then presented to members for discussion at the first Annual General Meeting (29/30 October 2020). This document has guided the Board's activities and it is based around four areas that correspond to the four working groups that carry out the activities of the CEI.

Areas of the Strategic Plan	Corresponding Working Group
<p>Coordination and Communication <i>What do we want to achieve?</i> Have a well-run organisation that makes CEI and CERN members feel welcomed and valued, that has regular communications to strengthen connections between members, and that promotes wider interest in community economies research and practice.</p>	Coordination and Communication (C&C) Working Group
<p>Communities of Practice <i>What do we want to achieve?</i> Build and sustain communities of practice for members of the CEI and the associated Community Economies Research Network (CERN).</p>	Communities of Practice (COP) Working Group
<p>Research <i>What we want to do?</i> Support members to do their research, with a focus on research that partners with diverse groups to understand and foster community economies in a variety of ways.</p>	Research Working Group
<p>Teaching and Learning <i>What we want to do?</i> Support members to provide teaching and learning opportunities that engage with community economies concepts and practices for a range of purposes and in different languages and cultural contexts. This includes academic and community-based teaching and learning, community initiatives, artistic and creative endeavours etc.</p>	Teaching and Learning (T&L) Working Group

The strategic plan is an ambitious document with ideas for 106 activities! Some of these activities are already being carried out (e.g., maintaining and updating Listservs and membership databases). Some are new activities (e.g., calling for proposals from CEI members for events that would foster North-South-East-West conversation and collaboration). Some activities are relatively small and easy to undertake (e.g., creating protocols and templates for applying for grant funds with the CEI as the organisational lead). Some are more complicated and resource intensive (e.g., developing online teaching modules).

In April 2021, the Board met to determine which of the 106 activities would be the priorities for the remainder of the year—recognising that the CEI is a relatively new organisation that has a small budget (with the main source of income coming from membership fees), and that the work of running the CEI is done by volunteers (principally the CEI members who serve as Directors on the Board). The Board determined to focus on four activities, as outlined in the table below. The remainder of this section reports on these four priorities.

Priorities from the Strategic Plan	Working Group Responsibility
<p>Coordination and Communication Continue our current coordination and communication activities as these are the necessary foundation for our day-to-day operations and these activities are currently running smoothly. PRIORITY 1: COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES</p>	Coordination and Communication (C&C) Working Group
<p>Research Explore opportunities for securing funding for the CEI to help sustain and strengthen the organisation. PRIORITY 2: SECURE FUNDING FOR THE CEI</p>	Research Working Group
<p>Communities of Practice & Research Run internal CEI Symposiums to help strengthen connections between CEI members, and to deepen CEI knowledge and practice. PRIORITY 3: RUN INTERNAL CEI SYMPOSIUMS</p>	Research Working Group
<p>Communities of Practice & Research & Teaching and Learning Run a CERN Liviana Online conference to help strengthen connections between CEI and CERN members, and to deepen CEI knowledge and practice. PRIORITY 4: RUN A CERN LIVIANA ONLINE CONFERENCE</p>	Communities of Practice (COP) Working Group & Teaching and Learning (T&L) Working Group

Priority 1: Coordination and Communication Activities

The Coordination and Communication (C&C) Working Group is responsible for activities in a range of areas, chiefly:

- Managing CEI and CERN membership, and maintaining CEI and CERN Listservs (including day-to-day activities such as welcoming new members, adding new members to the Listservs, following up ‘bouncing’ emails, updating the spreadsheet of CERN members and circulating this every 6 months for updates, and maintaining the [map of CERN members](#)).
- Managing the CE Website (including supporting CEI members to update their [website profiles](#) and add to the [Research Projects](#) section).
- Managing CEI social media, namely the [CEI YouTube channel](#), the [CEI Facebook page](#), and the [CEI LinkedIn page](#).

- Writing News Stories which feature on the [CE Website Home Page](#) and in the [News](#) section of the website, and which highlight activities that CEI and CERN members are engaged in.
- Writing the CEI internal newsletter to keep members up-to-date with what's going on.
- Carrying out fun activities such as organising Board meetings across multiple time zones, minute-taking, tracking financial matters, and coordinating writing tasks including the writing of this Annual Report and the preparation of governance documents.

Much of this work is done by the three members of the Coordination and Communication Working Group (the CEI Deputy Chair and Secretary, Jenny Cameron; Treasurer, Joanne McNeill; and CEI Board member, Pryor Placino). CEI Board member Katherine Gibson also helps out with membership and website matters.

The priority has been to continue doing this work with the goals of keeping the organisation functioning smoothly, establishing a 'rhythm' for the various activities, and refining processes (and this has included writing-up tasks in the CEI Operational Manual so that the Coordination and Communication tasks can be 'passed on' to future Board members).

Some of the Coordination and Communication highlights for the period of this Annual Report are as follows:

- **Shifting from rolling to fixed membership.** CEI membership is managed through TidyHQ. Initially members were on a rolling membership. In other words, membership renewed twelve months from the time of a CEI member joining. This meant that renewals were occurring throughout the year, and had to be continually monitored to follow-up members who did not renew their membership on time. To streamline the process the Board decided to transition all members to a fixed membership with all memberships due on 1 July each year (the start of the Australian financial year). This now means that there is one period of the year when memberships renew and there can be follow-up with those who are late to renew. With all memberships being paid at the one time it also makes it easier to budget for the next twelve months. The Board thanks members for their assistance with the shift from rolling to fixed membership.
- **'Catch-up and Profile' sessions.** Jenny Cameron has been running almost monthly 'Catch-up and Profile' sessions to support CEI members create or update their [website profiles](#) (and to add [Research Projects](#)). These are Zoom drop-in sessions, generally run for two hours on a Thursday evening and two hours on a Friday morning (Jenny's time) to cater for members across different time zones. Most sessions are attended by one or two CEI members and the small numbers work well as Jenny can work closely with members to get them started on creating their profile or updating their profile or adding a research project. Some members also take advantage of the 'drop-in' nature of these sessions and 'drop-by' to say 'Hi.'

- **Social Media Presence.** Pryor Placino created a [CEI YouTube Channel](#) with assistance from a paid casual appointment. The channel has 8 playlists:
 - #Liviana2020 Conference Session Recordings
 - Lectures (after 2015)
 - Lectures (before 2015)
 - Interview (after 2015)
 - Lectures (before 2015)
 - Documentaries
 - Conversations
 - Teaching Videos.

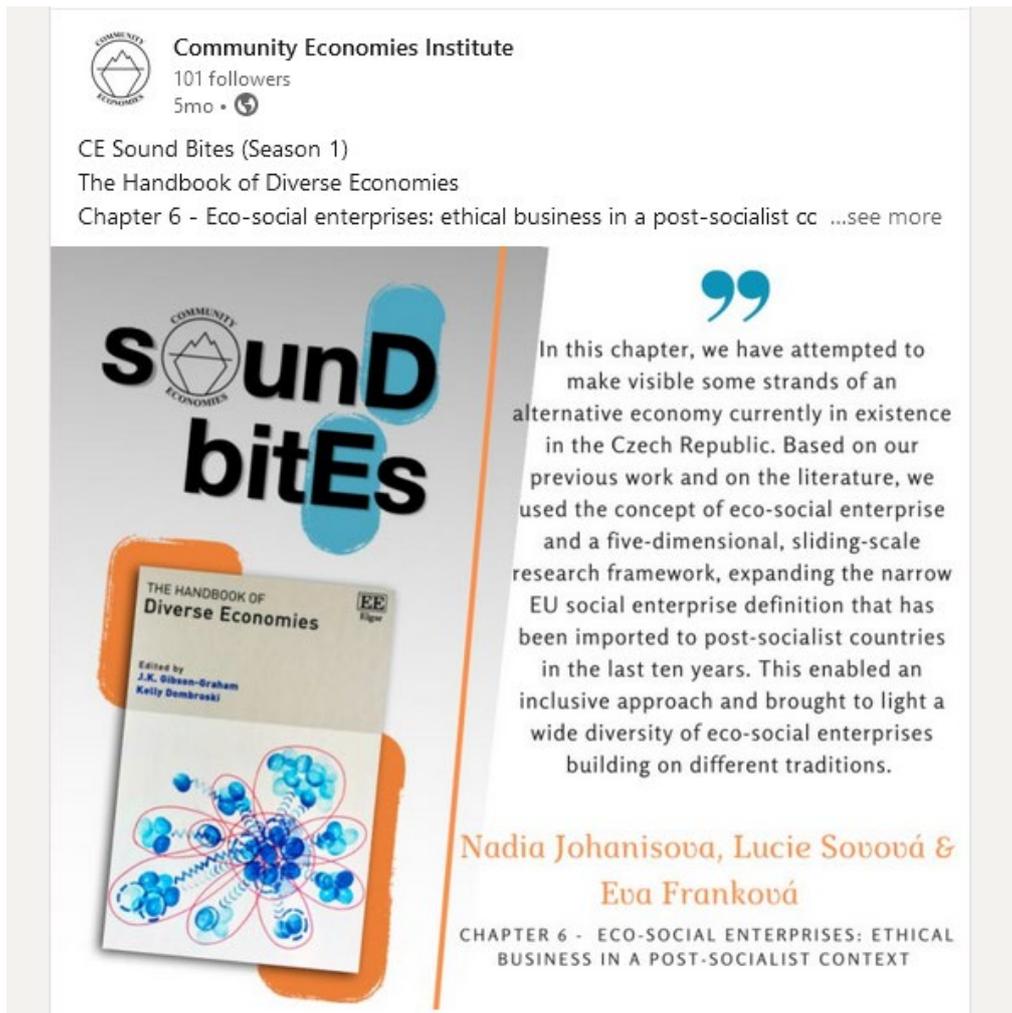
A steady stream of new videos is being added (mainly thanks to the number of events that now take place over Zoom).

The Home Page of the Channel features a 5-minute video that provides an [introduction](#) to the key concepts and approach of Community Economies thinking and practice. The video was produced by CEI Board members Katharine McKinnon and Katherine Gibson, and Leonie Van Eyk, and was finalised in November 2020.



Still from video, [Introducing Community Economies](#)

Pryor also created a [CEI LinkedIn page](#) and a [CEI Facebook page](#). These two sites feature News items from the CE Website (see below for more on CE News). Pryor has also been running a Sound Bites campaign that features snippets from chapters from [The Handbook of Diverse Economies](#).



Example from the Sound Bites campaign on the [CEI LinkedIn page](#).

- **The CE Website.** The News Stories continue as a feature of the [CE website](#). In the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 Jenny Cameron (with assistance from CEI member Christina Jerne) wrote thirty-nine news stories. Twelve were translated into Spanish by volunteer Matías Burin Heras. A big thanks to Matí. The stories report on activities of CEI and CERN members, and included stories on:
 - [The activities of Eka Nari Sanghathan](#) (or single women's collective) in Rayagada, South Odisha, India, co-founded by CERN member Bhavya Chitranshi
 - [The Banker Ladies](#), a film by CERN member Caroline Shenaz Hossein
 - [Indigenous-led economic codesign](#), based on work by CEI members Alison Guzman and Ignacio Krell, and the Mapuche-Lafkenche people of Lof Llaguepulli in the Lake Budi area of Chile.
 - The awarding of the 2021 Vuoden Tiedekynä prize by Kone Foundation to CERN member Pieta Hyvärinen for their article on [mushroom-foraging in Finland](#)
 - [New York's solidarity economy](#), based on a webinar by CERN member Lauren Hudson (who also defended her PhD dissertation on this topic in January 2021)
 - [Nowtopia](#), a film by CERN member Tom Smith.

Priority 2: Secure Funding for the CEI

We identified two potential funding streams to support the activities of the CEI and CEI members (apart from membership fees and gifts):

1. Grants that would support CEI research projects (broadly defined), with the CEI as the lead organisational body. We are very pleased to record that the first grant has been awarded to the CEI of NZ\$6,900 from the Pacific Development and Conservation Trust for a project lead by CEI member Luke Drake for work in Vanuatu (for more on this grant, see below page 21).
2. Philanthropic funds to support the activities of the CEI.

Scoping Meetings

To develop the second avenue of funding, we started with researching the US philanthropic landscape. Meetings were held with then CEI member Rob Snyder (during his term as CEO of the Island Institute in Maine), and CERN member Bradley Wilson, Director of the Centre for Resilient Communities, West Virginia University. Both are well versed in accessing philanthropic funds to support their institutions. These discussions focused on identifying what the CEI has to offer funders, and strategies for meeting funders, building up a network of supporters and promoting what we do.

Data bases

We were made aware of the candid.org database which documents what projects are funded and to what level by US philanthropic institutions. CEI member Isaac Lyne was employed to interrogate this database. We conducted research into likely funders such as the Partners for New Economy who issue grants for 'New economic thinking, approaches and narratives.' The data Isaac produced will continue to be interrogated. We joined Philanthropy Australia Directory of Funders.

Funder's pitch

On advice from Rob and Bradley, we composed a one page 'funder's pitch.' Rob facilitated a very useful discussion with the Oak Foundation where we tested out the pitch and received feedback about the CEI profile. Since that meeting, we have worked on a spreadsheet of our partner organisations with the plan to produce a map of our involvements that could be used in future discussions with funders.

The Next Steps

Responsibility for this priority currently rests with the Research Working Group (RWG), comprised of CEI Board members Stephen Healy and Katherine Gibson. CEI member Lindsey Naylor is willing to take on tasks. More members of the RWG would help. In terms of research grant funding, the CEI needs to work out how to track the research projects that CEI members are involved in and the organisations that members partner with in direct or indirect ways. In terms of securing philanthropic funding, the timeline is probably 2 to 5 years and so researching options and building relationships will be an ongoing task.

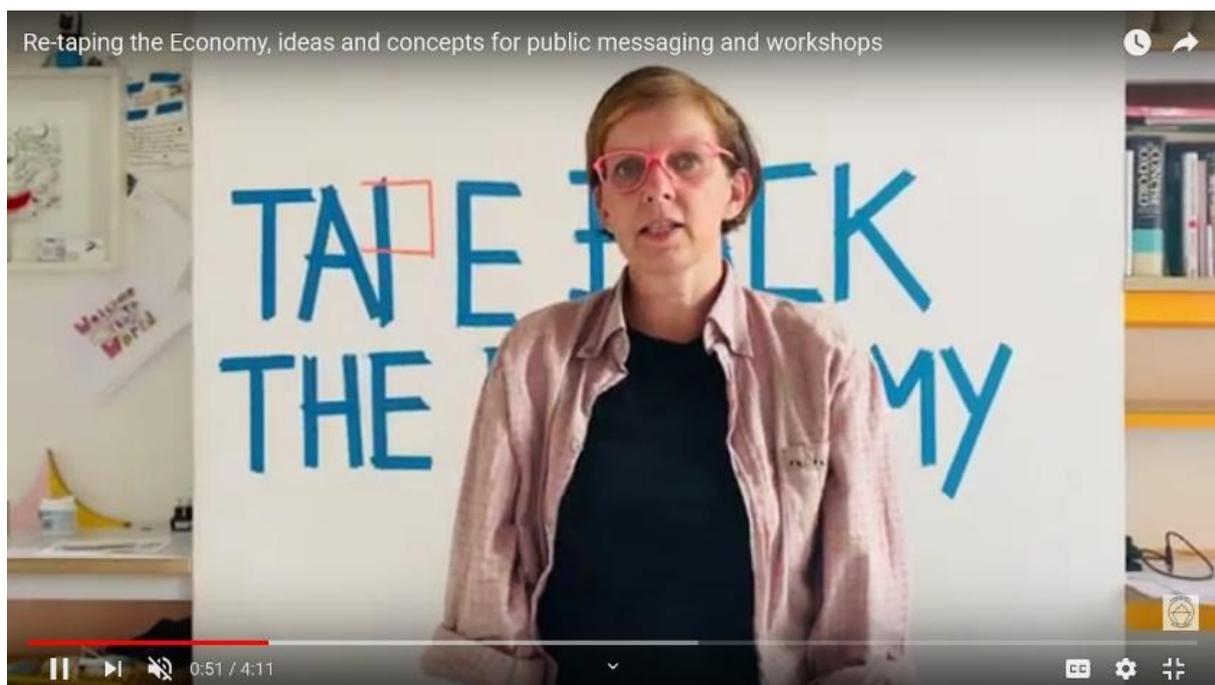
Priority 3: Internal CEI Symposiums

A third priority was to organise internal CEI Symposiums to help maintain and expand a shared research culture across an increasingly internationalised membership. An additional impetus was to focus on how thinking done within the diverse economies framework and theory of community economy articulates with concepts, ideas and movements that are theoretically and practically adjacent.

Planning for the first symposium began in May 2021. We experimented with a new format: presenters pre-recorded short video provocations by CEI members that would serve as a basis for a two-hour discussion. Each symposium was held in two time slots to maximise participation from different parts of the globe.

The first was held in June 2021 on the theme of **Thinking with Solidarity Economies**. The discussion was fantastic, and was stimulated by the video presentations by Ana Inés Heras; Christina Jerne; and the team of Stephen Healy, Marianna Pavlovskaya, Maliha Safri and CERN colleague, Craig Borowiak.

The second symposium was held in the first week of September, **Thinking with Diagrams and Metrics**. Brief video presentations were prepared by Kathrin Böhm; Katharine McKinnon; and the team of Gradon Diprose, Kelly Dombroski and their colleague Amanda Yates. Again, the discussion was terrific. We thank all those who made presentations and all who participated in the symposiums.



Still from Kathrin Böhm's presentation on 'Re-taping the Economy'

Priority 4: CERN Liviana Online Conferences

The final priority was to run an online conference for CEI and CERN members (and others). The Spanish term liviana was used to denote a 'light' and 'easily digestible' event in which participants could listen to each other and find out more about people's ideas and projects.

Liviana was held online from 2 to 14 November 2020. The organising group was comprised of CEI Board members Katharine McKinnon, Ana Inés Heras and Pryor Placino (who also [designed the conference website](#)). CERN member Anisah Madden and CEI member Kevin St Martin contributed by providing feedback and co-coordinating some specific tasks.

There were [22 sessions in total](#), and 257 registrations (this does not include the sessions that participants did not need to register for).

Participants were CEI and CERN members and people from other networks and communities who joined sessions to get to know more about community and diverse economies. Some of the sessions are available on the CEI YouTube Channel on the [CERN Liviana Playlist](#). This includes the plenary, [Thinking with Community Economies](#), by Katherine Gibson. Sessions were also profiled in [News stories](#) on the CE Website.

There was positive feedback from participants and a second Liviana online conference is scheduled for the first two weeks of November 2021.



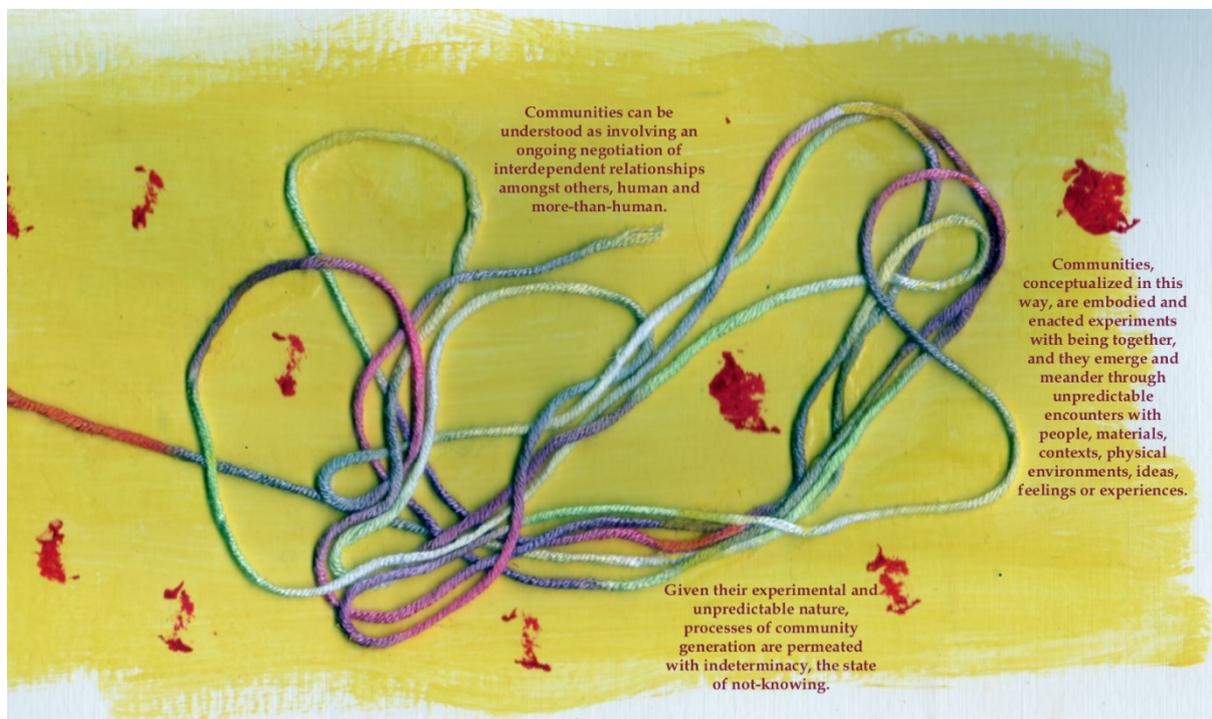
5.0 Other Highlights from 2020/2021

Communities of Practice

The CEI seeks to build and nurture a diverse network of CEI and CERN members and to foster a culture of ethical engagement and collaborative practice, based on trust and mutual respect for one another. One way that the CEI does this is by facilitating regionally based groups of CEI and CERN members. These groups are in various stages of formation. Some such as CERN-Sydney have been running for over a decade and have a strong routine based on monthly meetings where there is a focus on reading each other's work (especially work at the draft stage). Other groups are in earlier stages of formation and exploring more about each other's interests and what mode of working together will suit. An exciting development is the formation of a nascent CERN-Artists group. What follows is a snapshot from the various groups that gives a sense of what some groups are doing as a whole and what some individuals within groups are doing. This is the 'tip of the iceberg' of CEI and CERN activity.

CERN Artists

Starting from the CERN Liviana Conference 2020 (see page 12, above), artists involved in the CEI and CERN have held several meetings to start working on a collaborative publication, which will focus on what art can bring to community economies theory and practice.



Communities can be seen as.

By Ana Inés Heras. Based on the "Community" entry for the Climate Justice Code by CEI members Molly Mullen, Aviv Kruglinski, Leo Hwang, and Ana Inés Heras.

CERN-Asia

CERN-Asia was launched on 12 May, 2021 via Zoom. This event was co-coordinated by CEI members Ann Hill, Pryor Placino and Katharine McKinnon. Immediately following this launch, CERN Asia co-hosted with The Centre for Sustainable Communities (at the University of Canberra, Australia) a symposium entitled ‘Online field engagement during COVID-19: learning from The Philippines and India.’ CERN-Asia members Pryor Placino and Bhavya Chitranshi presented in this event. Another online forum called ‘Rethinking Development by Reimagining Education – The Self-Designed Learning Movement in India’ is set for September 30, 2021. CERN member Christoph Neusiedl will present in this meeting. The coordinators of CERN-Asia plan to hold an online symposium every 3 to 4 months. All CERN members who are doing Asia-related research/teaching are welcome to present in these meetings.



CERN-Europe

The CERN Europe group, coordinated by CEI member Oona Morrow and CERN member Lucie Sovova, has held several meetings in the period covered by this report. One of these meetings included presentations by Ailie Rutherford and Sara Skarp and discussions of their work. Ailie gave a demonstration of her [String Figures](#) project with Bettina Nissen. This project involves developing new visual mapping software that allows participating groups to map and plot networks centred on a principle of mutual care. This builds on Ailie and Bettina’s earlier [Crypto-Knitting-Circles](#) project. Sara’s presentation, entitled “‘Litter is the gateway to all good things’: commoning for (more) sustainable waste futures,” was based on [her research](#) into how community-based waste management and prevention can help to enact a more sustainable waste future, thereby demonstrating how local solutions to global issues are possible. CERN Europe is currently in the process of determining if and how we would like to meet in the year to come, and recruiting co-facilitators.

CERN Europe members have been very active outside of the regional meeting. For example, CERN members Ozan Alakavuklar and Giuseppe Feola contributed to an ongoing [post-capitalist mapping project](#) in the city of Utrecht, which includes several podcasts with participating organisations that will be released over the year. CERN members in the Netherlands contributed to organising the [8th Annual Degrowth Conference](#) in the Hague (and online). This included the participation of the [WEGO](#) Network led by CERN member Wendy Harcourt. CERN member Chizu Sato led the Arts and Culture working group and this resulted in numerous degrowth inspired arts installations, cultural performances, film screenings, and more organised across the Hague (and online). Several CERN members were involved in exhibitions and performances. Pascale Gatzen from [Practice Held in Common](#) and a group of Linen Stewards from [the Linen Project](#) shared their experiences of caring for land and flax, and led a weaving workshop. [CASCO Art Institute Working for the Commons](#) also contributed via their collaboration with the [Traveling Farm Museum](#) of forgotten skills (a bicycle mounted museum that travels Utrecht's fast disappearing agricultural landscape packed with maps, podcasts, and educational materials about farming in the region).

Bianca Elzenbaumer continued to experiment in practice with community economies approaches in the Alps as part of her Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship [Alpine Community Economies Lab](#). As part of this research, she co-organised the [Rural Commons Festival](#), which included a session she organised on the relation of rural and urban community economies practices (and which Oona Morrow and Lucie Sovova co-chaired).



Rural Commons Festival

Image supplied by Bianca Elzenbaumer

CERN-Latin America

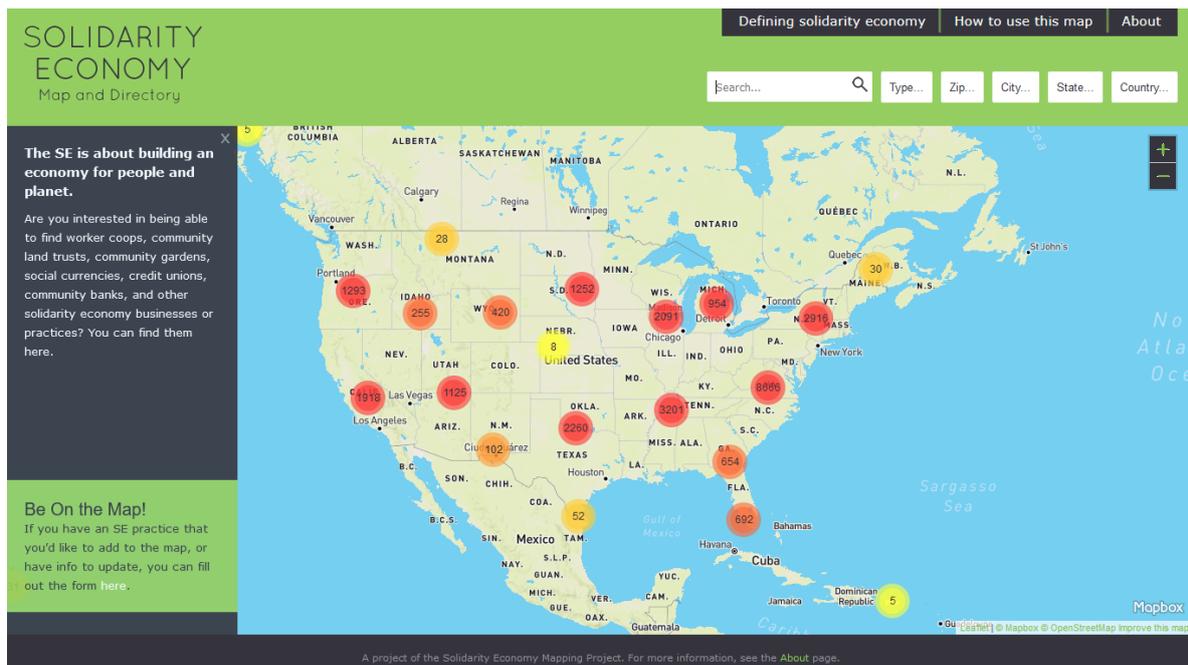
During the 2020/2021 period, CERN Latin American met monthly. Since its inception, this group has been open to members of CEI and CERN of different latitudes, and also to people who are not yet a CEI or CERN member but join because they are interested in understanding a community economies' perspective.

Starting in February 2021, the coordination of the group changed, and Ana Heras stepped out of the role, to welcome three new volunteers: Alison Guzman, Daniel Carrasco and Ignacio Krell. The outgoing and incoming coordinators discussed the feedback provided by members in 2020 (in a survey the group designed and implemented). Additionally, the coordinators discussed the topics that had been advanced by the Justice and Equity Working Party. This led to a proposal for the 2021 sessions to be designed around the theme of 'Against All Forms of Oppression.' During March and April 2021 this proposal was discussed; and from May 2021 different members presented work related to this theme. Alison, Daniel and Ignacio designed a tool to translate issues that members raised in their presentations into topics for debate. These topics included processes of subjectivation, domination, networking across different groups, relationship with structures of government/state, and commitment. It must be stressed that since these issues are being discussed in Spanish and Portuguese, translation of them is not direct, nor easy.

CERN-North America

Plans are afoot to reanimate CERN-North America, with several CEI members keen to strengthen connections across the region. An added impetus will be when Katherine Gibson takes up her appointment as the [Gough Whitlam and Malcolm Fraser Visiting Professor of Australian Studies](#) at Harvard University in early 2022 (an appointment that was delayed because of the COVID crisis). CEI and CERN members in North America continue to actively research and publish. For example, CEI members Stephen Healy, Marianna Pavlovskaya Maliha Safri and CERN colleague Craig Borowiak continue to publish on their research into the solidarity economy and to produce outputs such as the [Solidarity Map and Directory for the US](#)).

Other highlights include the appointment of CEI member Heather McLean to a permanent position in the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Athabasca University in Alberta Canada (a university that specialises in online teaching). Kevin St Martin was promoted to full professor and has taken on a new role as Chair of the Department of Geography at Rutgers University, New Jersey (joining fellow CEI members Marianna Pavlovskaya who is Chair of the Department of Geography and Environmental Science, Hunter College, New York City, and Maliha Safri who is Chair of the Economics Department at Drew University, New Jersey).



CERN-NZ

Across Aotearoa New Zealand, CEI and CERN members are involved in several joint endeavours. Many are involved in the special issue under preparation for *Asia Pacific Viewpoint* on diverse and community economies in Asia-Pacific edited by Kelly Dombroski, Katharine McKinnon and Caihua Dorji.

Others are involved in the National Science Challenge Building Better Homes Towns and Cities, in the Huritanga Systems Change for Socio-Ecological Wellbeing programme. Kelly Dombroski, Gradon Diprose and Amanda Yates presented at the CEI symposium (see page 11 above) on their work designing tools for visualising and valuing socio-ecological wellbeing and community economies return on investment. This is a four-year research programme in its second year. It also includes work on organic waste management infrastructure with Emma Sharp, Gradon Diprose and Bailey Peryman, among others. Recently, Bailey was invited by Christchurch City Council to put in a proposal detailing the costings and environmental benefits of a decentralised community organic waste composting system, which is an exciting opportunity to impact on socio-ecological wellbeing in the city.

CERN-NZ had a big year for PhD completions, with SM Waliuzzaman and Anmeng Liu graduating, and Caihua Dorji completing his PhD, all from the University of Canterbury (UC). Wali's thesis on commoning in the Kalyanpur slum in Dhaka, Bangladesh was [featured in the CE News](#). Matt Scobie and Kelly Dombroski have a new PhD student working on community economies, joining several others doing CE work for Masters and PhD. This is part of the research cluster for Community and Urban Resilience at UC, which Kelly co-chairs.

A new member joined CERN-NZ, Suliasi Vunibola, who is also at the University of Canterbury. Kelly Dombroski got through to the interview round for the Rutherford fellowship in both 2020 and 2021. This is for a five-year programme 'Transitioning to care economies.' There are 22 finalists for 11 fellowships. Molly Mullen (Auckland University) is working on arts projects with a diverse economies framing, applying for funding to do more next year.

CERN-Sydney

CERN-Sydney has been meeting regularly (generally every two months), with meetings being held online when lockdowns required. Attendance at each meeting was steady at between eight to twelve people. During the period covered by this annual report, the group continued to read draft pieces of work from members, and this included reading draft work from Nanako Nakamura, who joined by Zoom from Japan. There was a session with Elizabeth (Za) Barron who joined by Zoom from Norway to discuss her two recent publications on emplacement and sustainability. Ethan Miller joined by Zoom from Maine, US for two sessions focussed on his 2019 book, [Reimagining Livelihoods: Life beyond Economy, Society, and Environment](#).



Photo by [Chris Montgomery](#) on [Unsplash](#)

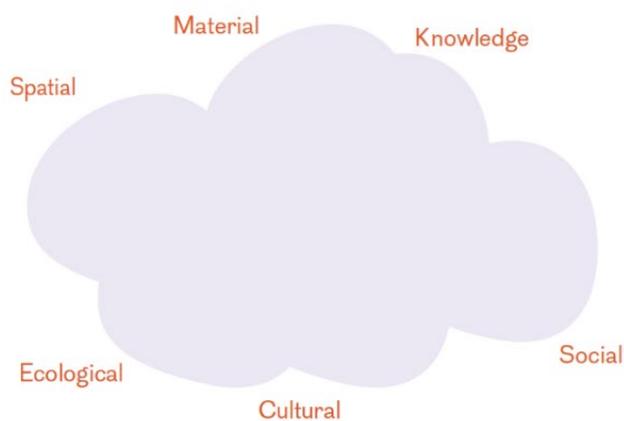
The Interdependence

Work continues to progress on The Interdependence, with a [new website](#) now up and running and an [Instagram page](#). The Interdependence recognises and connects people and organisations who are cultivating economies practices that are based on mutual care and who strive to bring these practices into everyday life. The use of the associated idt. is a way to replace and displace Inc. and Ltd., terms associated with corporate norms and values of competition. People and organisations can become members of The Interdependence and contribute to creating and strengthening ethical relations of interdependence.



During the first half of 2021, CEI members Bianca Elzenbaumer and Kathrin Böhm collaborated with Silvia Cohn and Júlia Faros Duran, students from the MA in Eco-Social Design at the University of Bolzano, to test and expand the idt. through a series of new mapping and workshopping tools. This included designing a fanzine template to publish interviews with community economy practitioners (see images below). The new toolset and website was launched during the Rural Commons Festival in Vallagarina in May 2021.

This phase of the idt. was made possible through free labour contributed by Bianca, Kathrin, Julia and Silvia (who can use the work and tools elsewhere in their work, and as research and output to their studies). The €800 for programming and designing the website was paid for through a shared fee paid to Kathrin and Bianca and fellow CEI member Kate Rich for a talk and workshop at UNIDEE/Foundation Pistoletto (which was co-organised by Bianca).



The Cloud represents the commons that each member of The Interdependence shares and recognizes a responsibility over. It is adapted from the book *Take Back the Economy*, which describes different types of commons. (pg 130) The Cloud acts as a more diffuse venn diagram that allows for more flexible and less enclosed categorization. The member would then write in the different types of commons they can identify in their initiative, inside of the cloud.

“We are continuously sustained by *biophysical, social, cultural, and knowledge commons. If our commons are to survive and flourish, they need to be maintained and managed. It is critical that there be a “we,” a community that establishes how commons are to be managed. Without a commitment of care, we are likely to lose our commons. We need to become commoners and to see ourselves as active contributors to shaping the ways in which we are accessing, using, benefiting from, caring for, and taking responsibility for commons.”
(*Take Back the Economy* p 147)

Workings for The Interdependence

Image by Kathrin Böhm



The Fanzine Template for publishing interviews with community economy practitioners.

Images by Kathrin Böhm



Working on The Interdependence

Images by Kathrin Böhm

The Feral MBA

As part of the fieldwork for her PhD, CEI member Kate Rich ran two pilot Feral MBA programs. [The first pilot](#) was in Tasmania, Australia in February 2020, and had 18 participants; the second was a four-week online program in Plymouth during November 2020 and had 16 participants.

The Feral MBA draws on Kate's experiences as an artist and the founder of [Feral Trade](#), a grocery business trading internationally that Kate started in 2003 and that operates through people's social networks. The Feral MBA also draws on the wisdom of others in the CEI, including Kathrin Böhm (founder and co-founder of initiatives that include the social and cultural enterprise [Company Drinks](#), and the [Centre for Plausible Economies](#)); Bianca Elzenbaumer (co-founder of the [Comunità Frizzante](#) community drinks manufacturing business in the Italian Alps); and Katherine Gibson (co-author as J.K. Gibson-Graham of seminal works including [The End of Capitalism](#) (as we knew it); [A Postcapitalist Politics](#); [Take Back the Economy](#); and [The Handbook of Diverse Economies](#)).

Kate says about the Feral MBA, "I was really aware of people's struggle to make a livelihood. These are artists and businesses who are constantly running up against this issue of not being calibrated with the world they are trying to occupy. I felt a strong sense of possibility to use what I had learned from doing business and what I was learning from people who are passionate and experimental and creating businesses of wildly different shapes. I wanted to share the inspiration of what people are doing, and to also share the troubles, as things we could better work on collectively. There is such a limited vocabulary for business, outside of mainstream terms. **This was the opening for a Feral MBA—it's a radically different training course in business for artists and others.** My interest in involving artists because of the skills they can bring to the problem of business as usual and the opportunities for them to apply their skills to an activity that is normally not played around with. These are skills such as playing with form and thinking with indeterminacy. What can artists bring to business? As part of this venture, I started a practice-based PhD (at the University of the West of England) where the subject of the PhD is the Feral MBA. The Feral MBA is a 20-year endeavour, the PhD is a sub-set of that, to resource it in useful ways."



Image by Kate Rich

Theses

CEI members Tuomo Alhojärvi and Pryor Placino completed their PhDs.

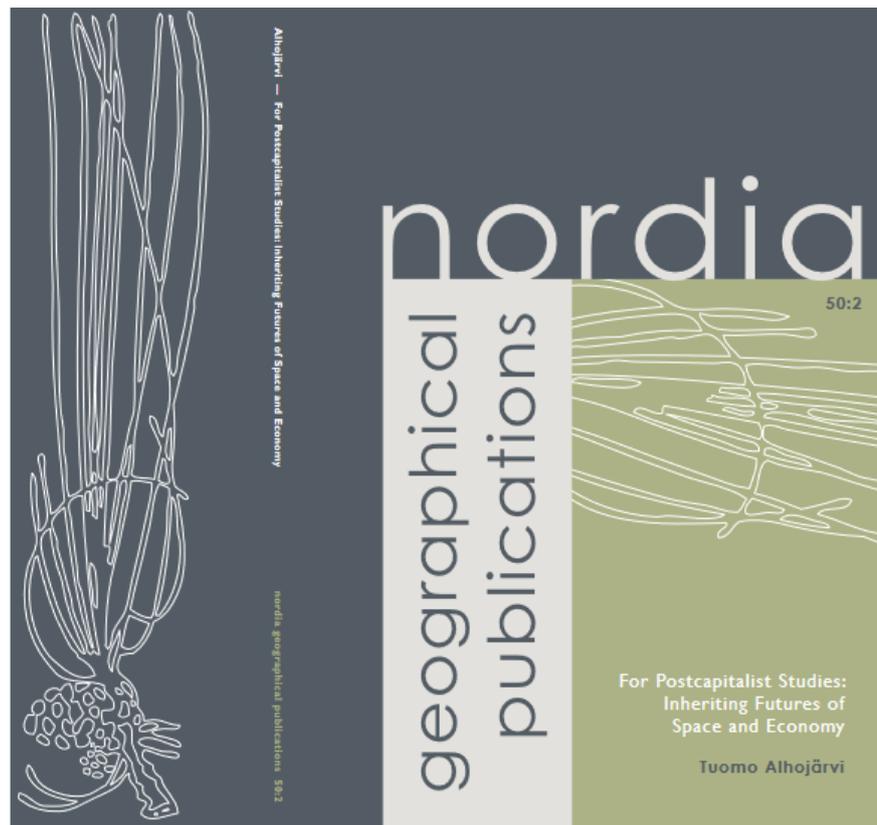
Tuomo's thesis, *For Postcapitalist Studies: Inheriting Futures of Space and Economy*, is available online by [clicking here](#). Tuomo works as a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Geography Research Unit at the University of Oulu, Finland.



Tuomo Alhojärvi is a geographer immersed in postcapitalist praxis. In this study, he seeks to negotiate problematic legacies within the thinking of 'other worlds' by bringing together J.K. Gibson-Graham's feminist economic geography and Jacques Derrida's deconstructive philosophical practice. From this meeting emerges a fresh challenge for renegotiating the inherited futures of space and economy. Postcapitalism becomes a code word for trouble. In addition to thinking impossible things, Tuomo is keen on foraging, running and vermicomposting.



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 PunaMusta Oy 2021



Pryor's thesis, *Cracking the Concrete: Hidden Livelihoods and Building Possibilities*, is about the co-making of building materials and livelihoods in an environmentally changing and crisis-ridden world. In one part of the thesis Pryor examines the gap between concrete's spectacular technical capacities and questionable environmental performance. He argues that there are cracks in the promises of concrete, and proceeds to navigate these cracks to explore new ways of repairing them. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork in informal aggregate mining communities in two peri-urban municipalities in Metro Manila, Philippines, Pryor examines mining practices and miners' diverse household survival strategies to open up different opportunities for more resilient livelihoods.

Pryor recently took up a position as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the School of Global Studies, Thammasat University, Bangkok (where he is in good company with fellow CEI member Istvan Rado who is also at the School of Global Studies at Thammasat University).

Books

The Diverse Economies and Livable Worlds Book Series continues to be published by University of Minnesota Press with four CEI members serving as series editors, J.K. Gibson-Graham, Stephen Healy, Maliha Safri and Kevin St Martin.

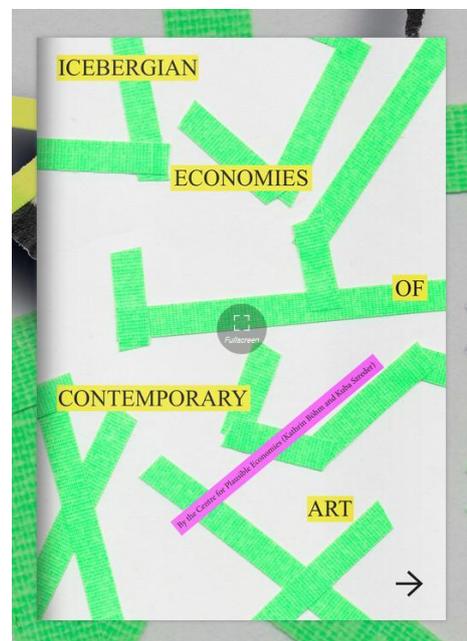
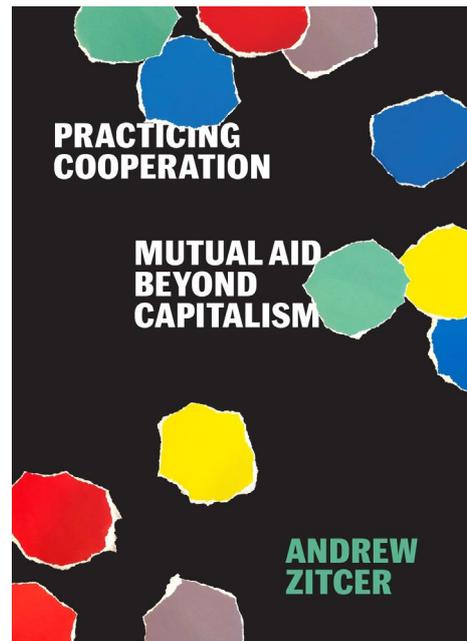
The Book Series editors are pleased to announce that two new books are forthcoming:

- Andrew Zitcer, *Practicing Cooperation: Mutual Aid Beyond Capitalism*, coming out in Fall 2021.
- English translation of Jean-Louis Laville, *The Social and Solidarity Economy* (with an Introduction by Stephen Healy and Maliha Safri), coming out in Spring 2022.

Two book proposals are currently under review.

Other books published in the period of this annual report include *Icebergian Economies of Contemporary Art* by CEI member Kathrin Böhm and Kuba Szreder. This work offers reflections on art and economy, stimulated by J.K. Gibson-Graham's representation of the economy as an iceberg. Themes include visible/invisible; blue line or the surface; the gloss over the dark matter; me versus the many; and art world/s.

An online version of the book is [available here](#). The book was a contribution to a larger project, [Cyber-PiraMMMida](#), which explores the pyramidal spectres and structures which haunt the worlds of architecture, art, academia and the everyday



Grant Success for the CEI

The CEI is delighted to announce that it was awarded a grant from the Pacific Development and Conservation Trust which is administered by Te Tari Taiwhenua | Department of Internal Affairs in Aotearoa New Zealand.

CEI member Luke Drake (from California State University, Northridge) is the Project Lead and Katharine McKinnon (CEI Chair and Director of the Centre for Sustainable Communities at University of Canberra, Australia) is the primary contact.

The project, 'Urban Water-Wise Gardening and Melanesian Food Heritage', builds on Luke's strong connections with Vanuatu and involves a collaboration with Breakthru Women's Voice Vanuatu (BWVV), a women's group drawn from four churches across Port Vila, Vanuatu. The project aims to increase environmental and cultural resilience by integrating water conservation techniques and promoting indigenous gardening and cooking in urban areas. Rainwater catchment tanks and traditional food gardens will be installed at four sites and gravity-fed watering hoses will be used to irrigate traditional crops such as dryland taro, water taro, and kumala, reducing the community's use of Port Vila's groundwater supply and demonstrating water-wise gardening. Crops from the gardens will go towards traditional food preparation at church events, providing children and young people with healthy meals which have become increasingly costly for urban families due to low wages and women's unemployment during the COVID-19 pandemic (and more difficult to access because of the wide availability of inexpensive processed foods). Young people who were born in Port Vila have less connection to traditional livelihoods, and so BWVV will demonstrate gardening techniques, indigenous names, and cooking styles that are used on members' ancestral lands.



The Project builds on Luke's ongoing connections with Vanuatu, including [field trips with students](#) to Port Vila.

Photo by Luke Drake

6.0 Treasurer's Report

The CEI is a small volunteer-run not-for-profit organisation. As such its finances are modest. With the first strategic plan being adopted at the first AGM on 29/30 October 2020, the Board has been using this to guide decision-making about financial matters.

For the [first Annual Report](#) in 2020, the CEI Board adopted the Radmin 'Open Budget' to report on how the organisation is resourced, and have decided to continue with this approach for 2021. The 'Open Budget' template was developed by CEI member Kate Rich (see page 21 above) and makes visible the diverse range of resources supporting the organisation, including so-called non-budget items (such as those that are in-kind, gifted, gleaned, granted, non-enumerated, non-remunerated and loaned).

The table below provides a breakdown of 'budget' income and expenditure and 'non-budget' time contributions for the (Australian) Financial Year 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. The CEI account balance **at 30 June 2021 was AU\$16,438.33.**

The shift from rolling to fixed membership (with all membership fees being due by 1 July each year, as outlined above on page 7) had some impact on the pattern of cash flow this year with most members paying their fees around 1 July 2021. A small number of members were well into their twelve-month rolling membership and these members' fees were waived until 1 July 2022; nevertheless, some of these members 'topped-up' their membership fee with a donation to cover additional months of membership. We thank these members. The shift to fixed membership will be more pronounced in coming years as all membership funds will come in at the same time rather than being staggered across the year.

Once again, we did not run the Summer School, due to the global Covid situation, and this affected income. However, income was bolstered by a number of generous donations, including just over AU\$3,000 from a group of CERN members who co-authored a piece for *Indicia 03* publication and directed their payment to the CEI;¹ and just over AU\$2,500 in honorariums and the like contributed by Katherine Gibson. Thank you all!

Last year, we included an 'iceberg' representation of estimated 'non-budget' contributions made by Board members. This year we invited members to complete a short survey, aiming to get a more comprehensive idea of the time and other inputs being contributed by members. Fifteen responses were received (including responses from the eight Board members). The table below identifies the time contribution of these fifteen respondents and includes some notes about additional contributions that were identified by the respondents.

¹ Darren Sharp, Pryor Placino, Melissa Kennedy, Abby Mellick Lopes, Katherine Gibson, and one non-CERN contributor, Vanika Arora.

CEI Open Budget: 1 July 2020 - 30 June 2021*	
\$\$ Income	AU\$
Memberships	\$5,073.67
Honorariums, royalties, donations	\$5,578.24
Interest income	\$3.15
Total Income for period	\$10,655.06
\$\$ Expenditure	AU\$
IT & website support	\$800.00
Australian Securities & Investment Commission (ASIC)	\$383.00
Electric Embers hosting fees (domain & lists)	\$1,050.22
Bank & telegraphic transfer fees	\$76.95
CEI Zoom account	\$900.79
CERN Europe grant: .idt design work	\$1,719.39
CE Video editing & production (casual appointment)	\$750.00
CEI You Tube content coordination (casual appointment)	\$465.60
General Member refund	\$69.17
Purchase Philanthropy Australia directory (Research WG)	\$110.00
Total Expenditure for period	\$6,325.12

Members' time contributions (from 15 survey responses)	Time
1. Working with other CEI or CERN members on CE-related content or activities, e.g., preparing grant applications; co-writing articles; conference presentations; workshops or other events; feedback on drafts; sharing readings; letters of support for job applications; mentoring etc	180 days
2. Event contributions, e.g., presenting; logistics coordination; promotions (for Liviana conference, CEI Symposia or other CEI / CERN related events).	18.5 days
3. Contributing to a CERN Regional group, e.g., attending a meeting; organising an activity; invitations and liaison; language translation of materials; mentoring etc.	24 days
4. Contributing to CEI or CERN communication channels, e.g., CEI profile; CE News Stories; listserv discussions; website; social media; newsletters; language translation of materials.	27 days
5. Connecting with existing or potential new CEI or CERN members, e.g., emails; endorsements; providing introductions or collaboration suggestions across the networks.	25 days
6. Board member and Working Group member duties, including meetings, strategic planning, annual reporting.	70 days
Total time estimates for period	344.5 days

Notes on budget and non-budget records and reporting:

- We are standardising to annual financial year reporting as of this year, and so there is a small overlap with some financial information reported in last year's Annual Report – specifically, incoming and outgoing amounts for July-Sept 2020.
- The information on members' time contributions is from the 15 responses to the members' survey that were received (from a total of 48 CEI members).
- Our hard-working Deputy Chair + Secretary contributed 72 of the total 344.5 days of time, broken down into 20 of the 27 days for #4 above, and 52 of the 70 days for #6 above.
- In the survey, members were also asked about:
 1. Accessing institutional funds that helped facilitate CEI activities (e.g., grant funds; research funds; administration or travel budgets)
 2. Direct payment of CEI costs (other than membership fees) from own or other external resources (e.g., website hosting fees; video production; graphic design)
 3. Provision of food and other consumables for hosting meetings, events, gatherings etc.

A range of contributions were identified in these categories and included, for example, a portion of a multi-million-dollar research grant related to community livelihoods and community economies; payment of graphics and video production costs from own or institutional funds; contribution of food for regular Regional CERN meetings.

Appendix 1: Board Meetings

This is for the period between the 2020 Annual General Meeting (held on 29/30 November 2020) and the 2021 Annual General Meeting (held on 7/8 October 2021).

Title of Meeting	Date and Time of Meeting*
2020	
Main December Board Meeting	2 December (1 – 2pm)
Preliminary December Board Meeting	2 December (7 – 9pm)
2021	
Main January Board Meeting	6 January (1 – 3pm)
Preliminary January Board Meeting	5 January (7 – 8pm)
Main February Board Meeting	3 February (7 – 9pm)
Preliminary February Board Meeting	3 February (1 – 2pm)
Main March Board Meeting	3 March (1 – 3pm)
Preliminary March Board Meeting	2 March (7 – 8pm)
Main April Board Meeting	7 April (6 – 8pm)
Preliminary April Board Meeting	7 April (11am – 12pm)
Strategic Planning Meeting	13 April (2 – 4pm)
Main May Board Meeting	5 May (11am – 1pm)
Preliminary May Board Meeting	4 May (6 – 7pm)
Main June Board Meeting	2 June (6 – 8pm)
Preliminary June Board Meeting	2 June (11am – 12pm)
Main July Board Meeting	7 July (11am – 1pm)
Preliminary July Board Meeting	6 July (6 – 7pm)
Main August Board Meeting	4 August (11am – 12pm)
Preliminary August Board Meeting	4 August (6 – 8pm)
Main September Board Meeting	1 September (11am – 1pm)
Preliminary September Board Meeting	31 August (6 – 7pm)
Main October Board Meeting	6 October (7 – 9pm)
Preliminary October Board Meeting	6 October (12 – 1pm)

* The date and time of meetings given here is New Zealand Standard Time

Appendix 2: CEI Members (as at 29 August 2021)

There are 48 CEI members. The links in this list are to members' profiles on the CE Website (on the [People page](#)).

[Tuomo Alhojärvi](#)

[Jenny Cameron](#)

[Luke Drake](#)

[Nate Gabriel](#)

[Stephen Healy](#)

[Leo Hwang](#)

[Ignacio Krell](#)

[Isaac Lyne](#)

[Heather McLean](#)

[Oona Morrow](#)

[Peter North](#)

[Pryor Placino](#)

[Gerda Roelvink](#)

[Maliha Safri](#)

[Kevin St. Martin](#)

[Kaner Türker](#)

[Elizabeth Barron](#)

[Gradon Diprose](#)

[Bianca Elzenbaumer](#)

[Katherine Gibson](#)

[Ana Inés Heras](#)

[Christina Jerne](#)

[Aviv Kruglanski](#)

[Yahya Madra](#)

[Joanne McNeill](#)

[Molly Mullen](#)

[Ceren Özselçuk](#)

[Istvan Rado](#)

[Hermann Ruiz](#)

[Eric Sarmiento](#)

[Eeva Talvikallio](#)

[Ted White](#)

[Kathrin Böhm](#)

[Kelly Dombroski](#)

[Esra Erdem](#)

[Alison Guzman](#)

[Ann Hill](#)

[Nadia Johanisova](#)

[Anna Kruzynski](#)

[Katharine McKinnon](#)

[Ethan Miller](#)

[Lindsay Naylor](#)

[Marianna Pavlovskaya](#)

[Kate Rich](#)

[Ailie Rutherford](#)

[Boone Shear](#)

[Abby Templer Rodrigues](#)

[Miriam Williams](#)