From Individual to Collective Consciousness

Fostering Positive Social Change Through Collective Prefigurative Practices

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financial crisis

Great Crash of 2008

Disbelief, and a punter reaches...
PEOPLE NEED JOBS!

EAT THE RICH
The end of capitalism has begun

With the end of the capitalist era, the heart of Karl Marx’s theory is becoming more relevant than ever. New ways of working and new phases of the economy are changing the status quo. The old ways will not continue to exist, but it is time to begin transition.

Fears of Recession Deepen Rout

Stock Decline Sweeps Through All U.S. Sectors and Pummels Asian Markets

The End Of American Capitalism?

Karl Marx's guide to the end of capitalism: a primer
Different Initiatives, Same Phenomenon?

- **Locally** rooted, but **transnationally** interconnected
- Acting on both the **urban** or **rural** space
- **Practice-based** and **community-based**
- Focused on ‘**doing**’ rather than ‘claiming’
- Emphasis on **holistic sustainability** (environmental, social and economic)
- Importance of (re)**commonification** instead commodification
- Usually not interested in seizing State power
‘New’- New Social Movements?

• Taking back control over the conditions of existence

• Claiming independence from the system

• Quest for participation and direct action, without mediation

• Building collective identity as a conscious process of organization
Post-Capitalist Movements?

Adapted from Chatterton and Pickerill (2010).
Utopian Movements?

Dystopia?

Ecotopia?

Eutopia?
Prefigurative Movements?

Prefiguration is a **practice** – an embodied **process** of **reimagining** all of society – and as such the specific practice of prefiguration is different every time and in each place it is enacted

(Maeckelberg 2016: 121)
THIS IS WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE!
Consciousness

From the latin verb ‘conscire’

Com or con = with
Scire = to know

Knowing with others
or
Knowing with another
Practical Consciousness...

In other terms...

Karma Yoga!
How can we
- researchers, activists, artists, citizens -
advance the study and practice of alternatives?
Interdisciplinarity
Transdisciplinarity
Participatory Methods
New Courses and Curricula

There are ALTERNATIVES to CAPITALISM.
New Ways of Producing and Disseminating Knowledge

THE EVOLUTION OF INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

I'm going to research whatever I want!  
I'm going to research whatever my professor wants!  
I'm going to research whatever my tenure committee wants!  
I'm going to research whatever my grant committee wants!  
I'm going to research whatever I want!  
"Research in Peace"

Jorge Cham © 2011

www.phdcomics.com
“Are there still other possibilities?
Of course there are.

[...]
Whichever option is chosen, it will not be the end of history, but in a real sense its beginning. The human social world is still very young in cosmological time.
In 2050 or 2100, when we look back at capitalist civilization, what will we see?”

Immanuel Wallerstein
Historical Capitalism with Capitalist Civilization, p. 163
Please do get in touch if interested in collaborations or have questions or comments

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