

In formal market exchange, transactions must be measurable (commensurable). Mainstream economists believe these transactions to follow unchangeable laws. Yet, our livelihoods are sustained by less formal 'markets'. How do we measure the value exchanged when *sharing* goods and services within the household or *taking* products from nature? What are the rules that govern these transactions and who makes them?

TRANSACTIONS	RULES OF (IN)COMMENSURABILITY
<p style="text-align: center;">NONMARKET</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Household flows</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Gift giving</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Indigenous exchange</p> <p style="text-align: center;">State allocations</p> <p style="text-align: center;">State appropriations</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Gleaning</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hunting, fishing, gathering</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Theft</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Poaching</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">INCOMMENSURABILITY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Intra-household negotiation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cultural norms of reciprocity</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ritual practice</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Citizen entitlements</p> <p style="text-align: center;">State entitlements</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Traditional right</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Negotiation of stewardship</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Illegal right</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Right of the have-not</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">MARKET EXCHANGE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Free”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Naturally protected</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Artificially protected</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monopolized</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Regulated</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Niche</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ECONOMIC COMMENSURABILITY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Laws” of supply and demand</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Natural law”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Social agreements or state policy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monopoly corporate power</p> <p style="text-align: center;">State policy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Social agreement</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ALTERNATIVE MARKET</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sale of public goods</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ethical “fair-trade” markets</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Local trading systems</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Alternative currencies</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Underground market</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Co-op exchange</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Alternative credit</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Barter</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Informal market</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SOCIAL COMMENSURABILITY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">State policy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Producer-consumer agreement</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Producer-consumer agreement</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Community agreement</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Trader agreement</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Inter-co-op agreement</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Financier-borrower negotiation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Trader agreement</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Trader agreement</p>

How are different kinds of labor compensated in your community? Who does what?

LABOR	COMPENSATION
<p>UNPAID</p> <p>Housework</p> <p>Family care</p> <p>Neighborhood work</p> <p>Volunteer</p> <p>Self-provisioning labor</p> <p>Slave labor</p>	<p>Nonmonetary</p> <p>Nonmonetary</p> <p>Nonmonetary</p> <p>Nonmonetary</p> <p>Food and other goods</p> <p>Food and lodging</p>
<p>WAGE LABOR</p> <p>Salaried</p> <p>Unionized</p> <p>Nonunionized</p> <p>Part time</p> <p>Temporary</p> <p>Seasonal</p> <p>Familial</p>	<p>Negotiated salary + benefits</p> <p>Protected wage + benefits</p> <p>Unprotected</p> <p>Un/Protected wage</p> <p>Unprotected</p> <p>Unprotected</p> <p>Personally set wage</p>
<p>ALTERNATIVE PAID</p> <p>Self-employed</p> <p>Cooperative</p> <p>Indentured</p> <p>Reciprocal labor</p> <p>In-kind</p> <p>Work for welfare</p>	<p>Living expenses + savings</p> <p>Cooperative wage + share</p> <p>Food, lodging, and stipend</p> <p>Reciprocated labor</p> <p>In-kind payment</p> <p>Dole payment</p>

“The diverse economy is made up of many kinds of enterprise in which ownership and production are differently configured. In this exercise of reading for difference, our use of the term enterprise diverges from popular understandings and focuses on the ways in which different production units generate and deploy produced wealth.”

Who appropriates surplus in your organization? In your university? Are they the same people who produce it? How is surplus redistributed?

ENTERPRISE	APPROPRIATION OF SURPLUS
<p style="text-align: center;">NONCAPITALIST</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Communal Independent Feudal Slave</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cooperators Self Landlord/household head Slave owner/leaser</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">CAPITALIST</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Family firm Private unincorporated firm Public company Multinational</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Family Business owners Board of directors Board of directors</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ALTERNATIVE CAPITALIST</p> <p style="text-align: center;">State enterprise Green firm Socially responsible firm Nonprofit Producer and consumer cooperatives</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">State Board of directors Board of directors Board of directors Producers, consumers</p>

This chart represents the many ways that social wealth is produced and distributed. The columns of transactions, labor, and enterprise represent “axes of economic difference”. Capitalism is one set of relations in a sea of economic activity! But what floats? What sinks? How can we turn the tide?

TRANSACTIONS	LABOR	ENTERPRISE
<p style="text-align: center;">MARKET</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WAGE</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CAPITALIST</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ALTERNATIVE MARKET</p> <p><i>Sale of public goods</i></p> <p><i>Ethical “fair-trade” markets</i></p> <p><i>Local trading systems</i></p> <p><i>Alternative currencies</i></p> <p><i>Underground market</i></p> <p><i>Co-op exchange</i></p> <p><i>Barter</i></p> <p><i>Informal market</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ALTERNATIVE PAID</p> <p><i>Self-employed</i></p> <p><i>Cooperative</i></p> <p><i>Indentured</i></p> <p><i>Reciprocal labor</i></p> <p><i>In-kind</i></p> <p><i>Work for welfare</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ALTERNATIVE CAPITALIST</p> <p><i>State enterprise</i></p> <p><i>Green capitalist</i></p> <p><i>Socially responsible firm</i></p> <p><i>Nonprofit</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">NONMARKET</p> <p><i>Household flows</i></p> <p><i>Gift giving</i></p> <p><i>Indigenous exchange</i></p> <p><i>State allocations</i></p> <p><i>State appropriations</i></p> <p><i>Gleaning</i></p> <p><i>Hunting, fishing, gathering</i></p> <p><i>Theft, poaching</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">UNPAID</p> <p><i>Housework</i></p> <p><i>Family care</i></p> <p><i>Neighborhood work</i></p> <p><i>Volunteer</i></p> <p><i>Self-provisioning labor</i></p> <p><i>Slave labor</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NONCAPITALIST</p> <p><i>Communal</i></p> <p><i>Independent</i></p> <p><i>Feudal</i></p> <p><i>Slave</i></p>