

Building sustainable economic structures from below...

...Impact- or community-oriented?



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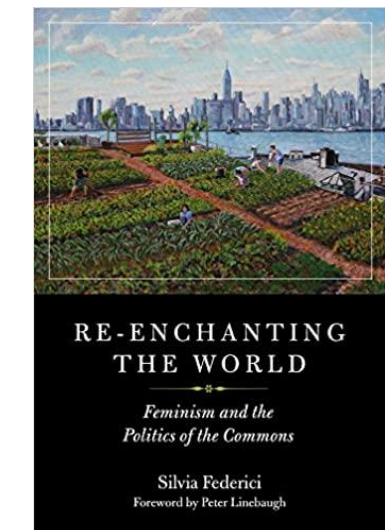
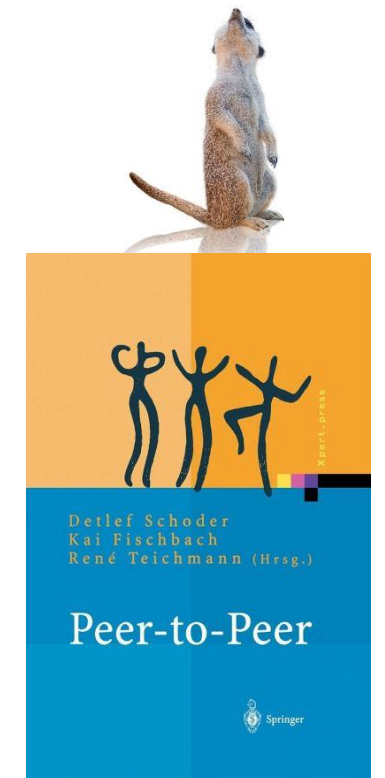
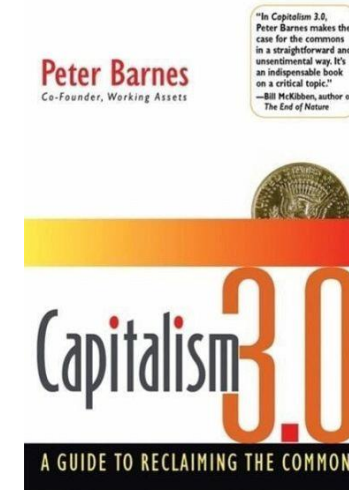
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Approaches to alternative economic organizing: between Impact and community embeddedness

- Commons
- Solidarity Economy
- Peer to peer economy
- Collaborative/co-creative economy
- Gemeinwohlökonomie
- Social Entrepreneurship
- (new) cooperative approaches
- Care Economy
- Community Supported Economy
- ...



Impact: measurement, scaling, growth?



Local products are **26%** of the average food co-op's total sales



The average co-op works with **178** local farms and producers



Food co-ops support farm to school programs in all **50** states and U.S. territories



Community embeddedness: relationships and stability



Call Us Crazy, But It's Working

They told us we were hopeless idealists and would never make it. It's 30 years later, and crazy is starting to look good. Learn how a co-op of organic family farms is showing Big food a better way.

[Learn more](#)

Illustration 11: Organic Valley advertisement (2018). Source: Organic Valley

Civic and cooperative economic sectors in *Teilgabe(.net)*



- Community Supported Agriculture (Solidarity Agriculture)
- Senior citizens' cooperatives
- Renewable energy cooperatives
- Platform cooperatives
- Cooperative gastronomy

Defining features of civic economic activity for the common good



1. Public responsibility
2. Common Good Orientation
3. Association and Cooperation
4. Mutual Emancipation and Self-Determination
5. Collectively Shared Property
6. Needs-oriented Operations
7. Economic Viability
8. Experimental Transformation
9. Civic Action
10. Democratic Participation

Blome-Drees, Johannes, Philipp Degens, Burghard Flieger, Lukas Lapschieß, Christian Lautermann, Joschka Moldenhauer, Jonas Pentzien und Carla Young 2021: *Kooperatives Wirtschaften für das Gemeinwohl in der Zivilgesellschaft*, in: Zeitschrift für Gemeinwirtschaft und Gemeinwohl, 44. Jg., Heft 4, S. 455-485. [DOI:10.5771/2701-4193-2021-4-455](https://doi.org/10.5771/2701-4193-2021-4-455)

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Some features could be **mechanisms** for independence from growth...

...however, it is hard to buffer alternatives from the pressures of growth-driven market ecosystems

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Bottom-up approaches to socially and ecologically sustainable and democratic economy activity use **cooperation** and association in order to build **power**

Association and cooperation: the power to *not* grow



Some challenges for community-oriented actors



- Where economic activity is the most sustainable locally and regionally, cooperation and scaling is limited – **too little growth** for the approaches we need?
- Civic and democratic governance is the most effective at a local level – **subsidiarity** as a principle helps with careful growth
- Regulatory and state systems can make cooperation across **political units** challenging
- Civic engagement needs **infrastructure**: actors provide free labor (engagement), often at personal cost – how can the State provide resources and spaces for a civic economic ecosystem?



Vielen Dank.

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Die Alternativen setzen auf verschiedenen Ebenen der Ökonomie an

