



# Cooperative Economics Alliance of New York City

## Academic Resource Guide

### Theory on Solidarity/Democratic Economies (particularly in connection to cooperatives)

Gibson-Graham, J.K. 2006. *A Postcapitalist Politics*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Gibson-Graham bring together theory, from feminist poststructuralism to political economy, to examine the various challenges and successes of alternative economies, as well as outline strategies for creating and fostering post-capitalist communities, in spite of the supposed inevitability of capitalist globalization.

Healy, Stephen. 2011. "Cooperation, Surplus Appropriation, and the Law's Enjoyment." *Rethinking Marxism* 23 (3): 364–73.

Healy discusses the progressive potential of cooperatives from a Marxist perspective: whether the primary benefit is through its collective production and distribution of surplus or the potential for progressive surplus distribution to the larger society outside the cooperative.

Healy, Stephen, Craig Borowiak, Marianna Pavlovskaya, and Maliha Safri. 2018. "Commoning and the Politics of Solidarity: Transformational Responses to Poverty." *Geoforum*.

Healy et al. bring a Relational Poverty Theory analysis to the solidarity economy movement to better understand the concerns of co-optation and exclusionary trends within the movement, while also drawing from Gibson-Graham's postcapitalist theory of commoning, as well as the experience specific organizations, to demonstrate how solidarity economies use shared spaces and resources to achieve their radical ends.

Menser, Michael. 2018. *We Decide! Theories and Cases in Participatory Democracy*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Menser analyzes the history of participatory democracy - both theoretically through feminist, anarchist, liberal, and environmental justice strands and practically within various movements - in order to demonstrate the very real potential for a more egalitarian society with community-based governance..

Miller, Ethan. 2010. "Solidarity Economy: Key Concepts and Issues." In *Solidarity Economy I: Building Alternatives for People and Planet*., edited by Emily Kawano, Tom Masterson, and Jonathan Teller-Ellsberg, 25–41. Amherst, MA: Center for Popular Economics.

Miller explains the foundations of the solidarity economies, as a process of identifying, connecting, and building diverse economic forms that hold shared values of cooperation and mutuality, individual and collectively well-being, equity, ecological health, democracy and pluralism.

Peuter, Greig de, and Nick Dyer-Witheford. 2010. "Commons and Cooperatives." *Affinities: A Journal of Radical Theory, Culture, and Action* 4 (1): 30–56.

Peuter and Dyer-Witheford analyze the ambivalent nature of the cooperative – as both a labor commons that is anti-capitalist and as a (potentially) co-opted structure within capitalism – but also notes the radical potential of the cooperative if constitutive of a larger process of commons struggles.

Safri, Maliha, and Julie Graham. 2010. "The Global Household: Toward a Feminist Postcapitalist International Political Economy." *Signs* 36 (1): 99–125.

Safri and Graham argue for the significance of the global household, existing across transnational family networks, as international institutions of production and finance, and as a key site feminist noncapitalist transformation from below.

## US Cooperative Movement History and Practice

Abrams, John. 2008. *Companies We Keep: Employee Ownership and the Business of Community and Place*. White River Junction, VT: Chelsea Green Publishing Company.

Abrams explores the underlying principles of employee ownership and workplace democracy, which he argues, leads to better decision-making.

Bajo, Claudia Sanchez, and Bruno Roelants. 2013. *Capital and the Debt Trap: Learning from Cooperatives in the Global Crisis*. Palgrave Macmillan UK.

Bajo and Roelants analyzes the resiliency of four cooperatives through the 2008 financial crisis, demonstrating the potential for cooperatives to provide an alternative to the debt trap underlying the boom and bust of the dominant economic system.

Cornell, Andy. 2011. *Oppose and Propose*. Oakland, California: AK Press.

Cornell documents the history of the radical pacifist organization of the 1970's and 1980's, the Movement for a New Society, showing the important precedent for collective and autonomous forms of education, living, decision-making, and direct action that form crucial foundations for anti-authoritarian movements and prefigurative politics.

Curl, John. 2009. *For All the People: Uncovering the Hidden History of Cooperation, Cooperative Movements, and Communalism in America*. Oakland, California: PM Press.

Curl recounts the hidden history of the American cooperative movement, from colonial times through to modern corporate hierarchies.

Deller, Steven, Ann Hoyt, Brent Hueth, and Reka Sundaram-Stukel. 2009. "Research on the Economic Impact of Cooperatives." *University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives*.

Deller, et. al. assess the economic significance of cooperatives in the United States by quantifying the magnitude of cooperative businesses across economic sectors.

Nembhard, Jessica Gordon. 2014. *Collective Courage: A History of African American Cooperative Economic Thought and Practice*. University Park, Pennsylvania: The Pennsylvania State University Press.

Nembhard examines the history of black cooperatives in the United States, demonstrating the historical benefits of cooperative ownership and economic democracy to black communities through collective economic agency and grassroots-level economic organizing.

Nembhard, Jessica Gordon. 2018. "African American Cooperatives and Sabotage: The Case for Reparations." *The Journal of African American History* 83 (1): 65–90.

Nembhard chronicles the violence and terrorism by white supremacists against black cooperatives, and argues for reparations in the form of funding for the development and reinvigoration of cooperatives in black communities.

### **Cooperatives in New York City**

Austin, Jennifer Jones. 2014. "Worker Cooperatives for New York City: A Vision for Addressing Income Inequality." *Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies (FPWA)*.

The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies argues for the importance of worker cooperatives as an important part of larger campaigns against poverty, unemployment, worker isolation, and income inequality in New York City, and examines the cooperative landscape in the city.

Casper-Futterman, Evan, and James DeFelippis. 2017. "On Economic Development in Community Development." In *Entrepreneurial Neighbourhoods*, edited by Maarten van Ham, Darja Reuschke, Reinout Kleinhans, Colin Mason, and Stephen Syrett, 179–202. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing Limited.

### **[do not have access]**

Estey, Ken. 2011. "Domestic Workers and Cooperatives: Beyondcare Goes Beyond Capitalism, a Case Study in Brooklyn, New York." *Journal of Labor and Society* 14 (3): 347–65.

Estey documents the BeyondCare child care cooperative in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, emphasizing the importance of cooperatives in home-based and often privatized work, such as child care, which are particularly susceptible to exploitation.

Glasser, Ruth, and Jeremy Brecher. 1997. "We Are the Roots: The Culture of Home Health Aides Health." *New England Journal of Public Policy* 13 (1): 113–34.

Glasser and Brecher analyzes the importance of the culture of Cooperative Home Care Associates (CHCA), a Bronx-based home care agency, to the cooperative's success.

Hudson, Lauren. 2018. "New York City: Struggles over the Narrative of the Solidarity Economy." *Geoforum*, no. April. Elsevier: 1–9.

In light of the recent municipal funding, Hudson examines the struggles over narrative within the NYC Solidarity Economy movement between a capitalism-friendly and cooperative-centric ‘poverty alleviation’ approach and a more radical, multi-form, and fluid vision. Hudson particularly notes the gendered nature of this transformative narrative, its political enactment by women in domestic spaces, and the invisibilization of this political work within the poverty alleviation discourse.

Iuviene, Nicholas G. 2010. “Building a Platform for Economic Democracy: A Cooperative Development Strategy for the Bronx.” Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Iuviene draws from Madragón in Spain and the Evergreen Initiative in Cleveland in order to give a recommendation for developing a cooperative economic development strategy in the Bronx. Iuviene focuses on three critical components- defining a geographical area, growing a cooperative network, and creating policies founded on an import replacing economic development model.

Pavlovskaya, Marianna, Maliha Safri, and Lauren Hudson. 2016. “New York City Worker Cooperatives Survey: Round 1.” *Solidarity Economy Research Project (SERP)*.

Pavlovskaya et al. survey the cooperatives in New York City, finding that most cooperatives are small in size, the majority of worker-owners are women of color, among other major findings.

Tanner, Rachael A. 2013. “Worker Owned Cooperatives and the Ecosystems That Support Them.” Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Tanner investigates the thriving cooperative ecosystem in Quebec in order to provide recommendations for the creation of a cooperative ecosystem in New York City. Tanner identifies governmental monetary and legal support, leadership and technical support from apex organisations, strong cooperative networks, and specific historical and cultural factors as crucial aspects of a supportive cooperative environment.

## **Cooperative outside of New York**

Borowiak, Craig, Richardson Dilworth, and Anne Reynolds, eds. 2016. *Exploring Cooperatives: Economic Democracy and Community Development in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin*. Madison: University of Wisconsin-Extension.

Casper-Futterman, Evan. 2011. “Back to (Non) Basics: Worker Cooperatives as Economic Development.” *Berkeley Planning Journal* 24 (February): 115–31.

- Cornwell, Janelle, Michael Johnson, Adam Trott, and Julie Graham. 2013. *Building Co-operative Power: Stories and Strategies from Worker Co-operatives in the Connecticut River Valley*. Amherst, MA: Levellers Press.
- Hartzell, Hal. 1987. *Birth of a Cooperative: Hoedads, Inc. A Worker Owned Forest Labor Co-Op*. Kalapuya Books.
- Howard, Ted, Kuri Lillian, and India Pierce Lee. 2010. "The Evergreen Cooperative Initiative of Cleveland, Ohio." *A Sense of Place: Place-Based Grantmaking in Practice*.

### **Other Resources (practice-oriented)**

[University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives](#)

[Mapping the Solidarity Economy](#)

[Solidarity Economy Resources \(Borowiak's website\)](#)

[International Cooperative Alliance](#)

[North American Students of Cooperation \(NASCO\) resources](#)

[Democracy at Work resources](#)

*NYC-specific*

[SolidarityNYC resources](#)

[NYC's Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative \(WCBDI\)](#)

*Regional Networks*

[NYC Network of Worker Cooperatives \(NYC NoWC\)](#)

[Philadelphia Area Cooperative Alliance \(PACA\)](#)

[Worker-Owned and Run Cooperative Network of Greater Boston \(WORC'N\)](#)

[Valley Alliance of Worker Cooperatives \(VAWC\) \(Northampton, MA\)](#)

[Network of Bay Area Worker Cooperatives \(NoBAWC\)](#)

[Madison Worker Cooperatives \(MADWorC\), Madison, WI](#)