

# Political Economy of Food

A thick, hand-drawn style orange line underlining the title.

# When is Food Food?

Seed, microgreen, raw, cooked (fried, roasted, toasted, steamed, boiled, stewed, barbecue, poached, etc), preserved (frozen, freeze dried, dried, canned, salted, fermented), rotten.



# SOURDOUGH

Please make a sourdough starter by following the instructions on the class lesson for today.



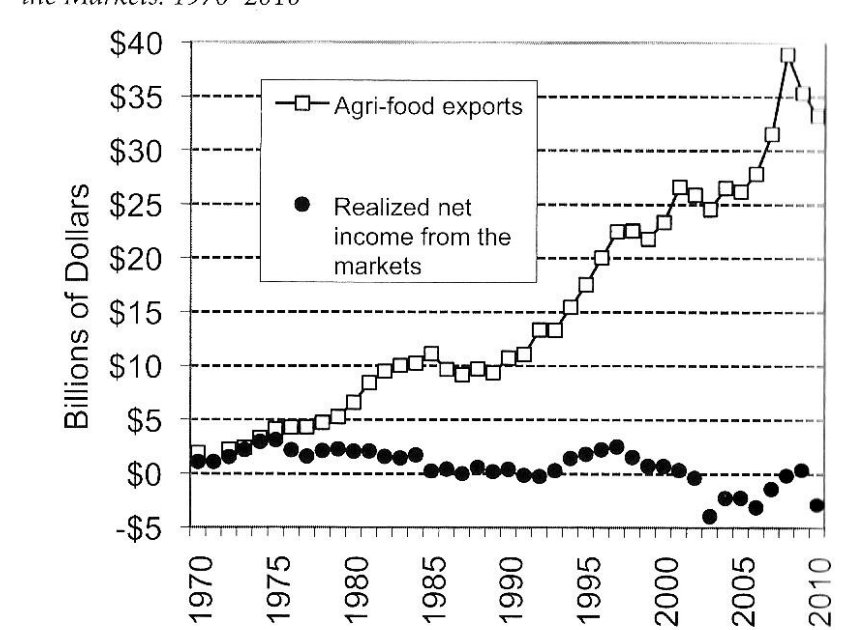
# Discussion?

In the previous class, I demonstrated that the contemporary food system are not socially just, environmentally responsible, and economically sustainable.

What economic conditions of the local/global food system?

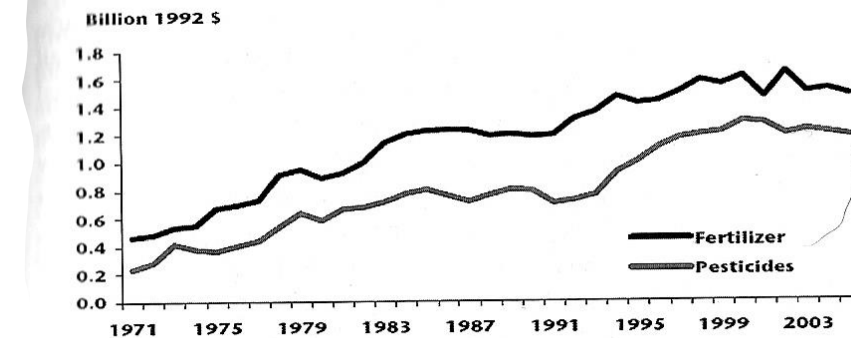
How can we create a better food system?

What critiques does Eric Holt-Gimenez provide of the global food system?



Sources: Export data provided upon request from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; AAFC, Agri-Food Trade Service <[www.ats-sea.agr.gc.ca](http://www.ats-sea.agr.gc.ca)>; AAFC, *Medium Term Outlook for Canadian Agriculture: International and Domestic Markets*, January 2010. Income data from Statistics Canada, 2002, *Agricultural Economic Statistics*, Cat. No. 21-603-E May, Ottawa; Statistics Canada; Statistics Canada, 2010c, *Net Farm Income-Agriculture Economic Statistics*, Cat. No. 21-010-X, May, Ottawa; Statistics Canada.

Figure 2-8 Canadian Farm Expenditures on Fertilizers and Pesticides (Adjusted for Inflation): 1971-2005



Sources: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, *An Overview of the Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food System*: 2007, p. 124.



Let's start from  
the beginning...

**What is an economy?**

# Aristotle

Aristotle in 23 Volumes, Vol. 21, translated by H. Rackham.  
Cambridge, MA, Harvard University Press; London, William  
Heinemann Ltd. 1944.

- **Chrematistics** – art of acquisition – limitless accumulation unnatural and problematic
- **Oikonomia** – management of the household – true form of an economy

# Karl Polanyi

*Polanyi, K. (2001) The Great Transformation; The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time, Beacon Press*

- Types of economic practices:
  - Markets (exchange)
  - Household economy
  - Redistribution
  - Reciprocity

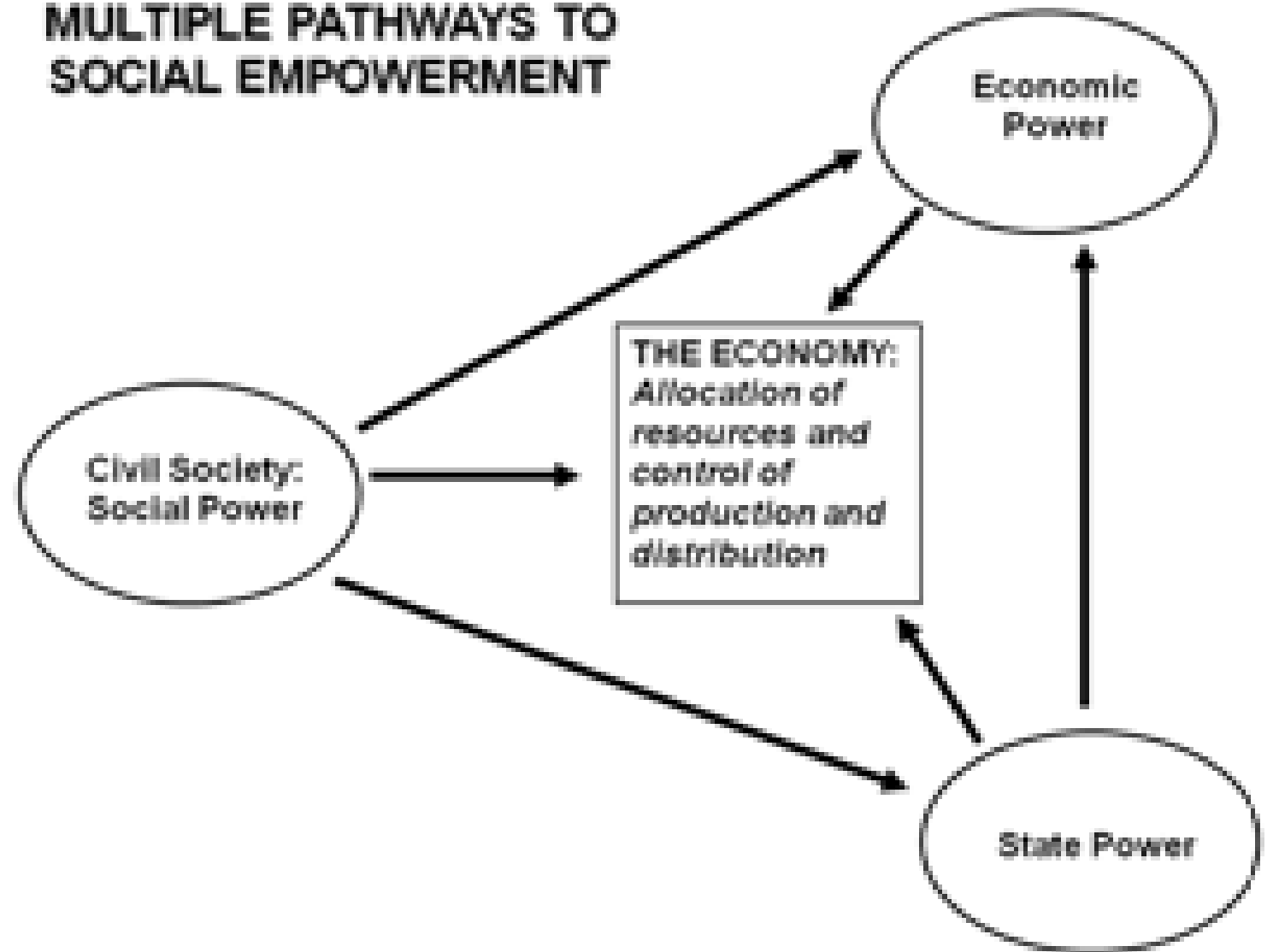


# Envisioning Real Utopias

*Olin Wright, E. (2010) Envisioning Real Utopias, Verso*

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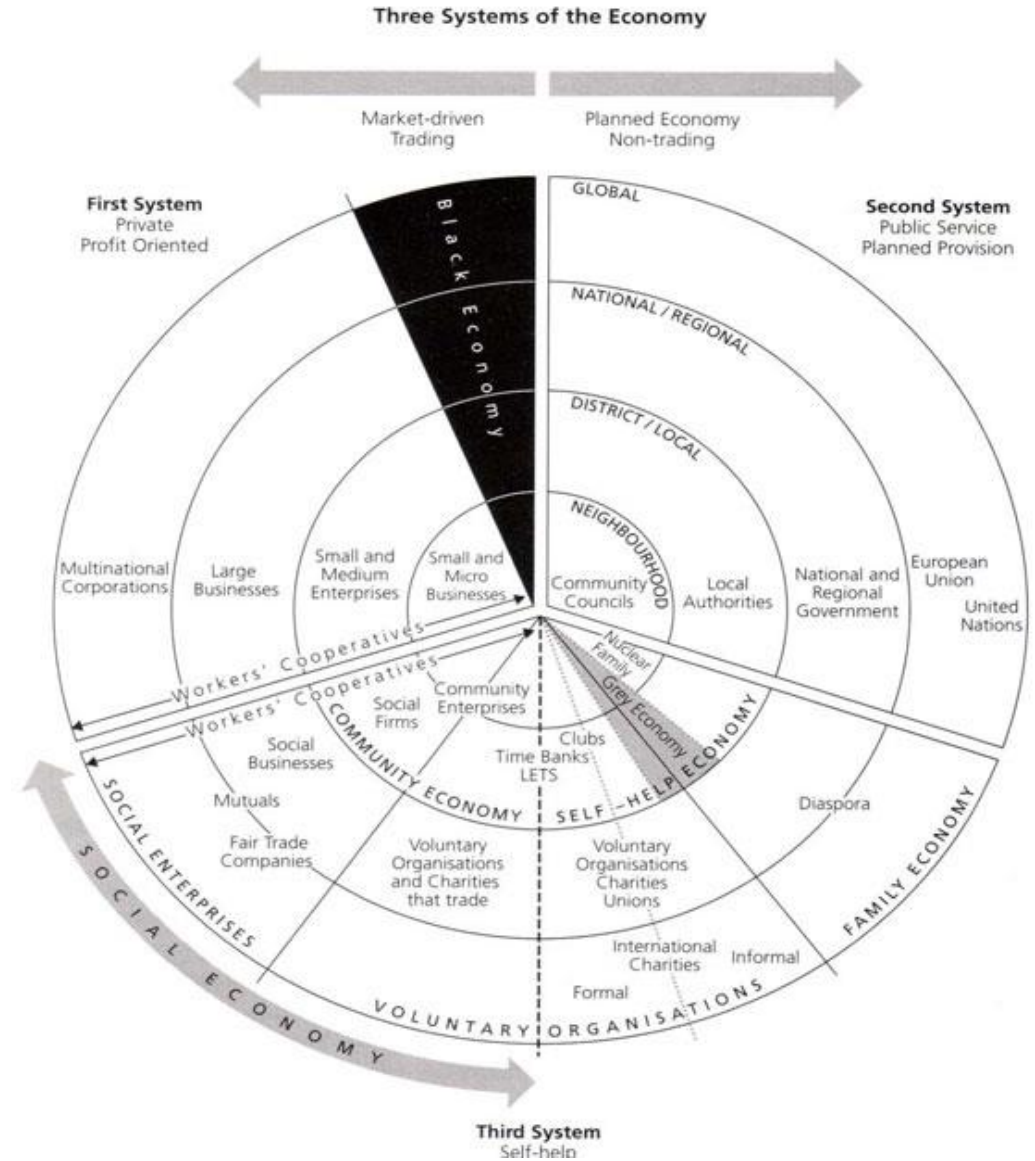
## MULTIPLE PATHWAYS TO SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT

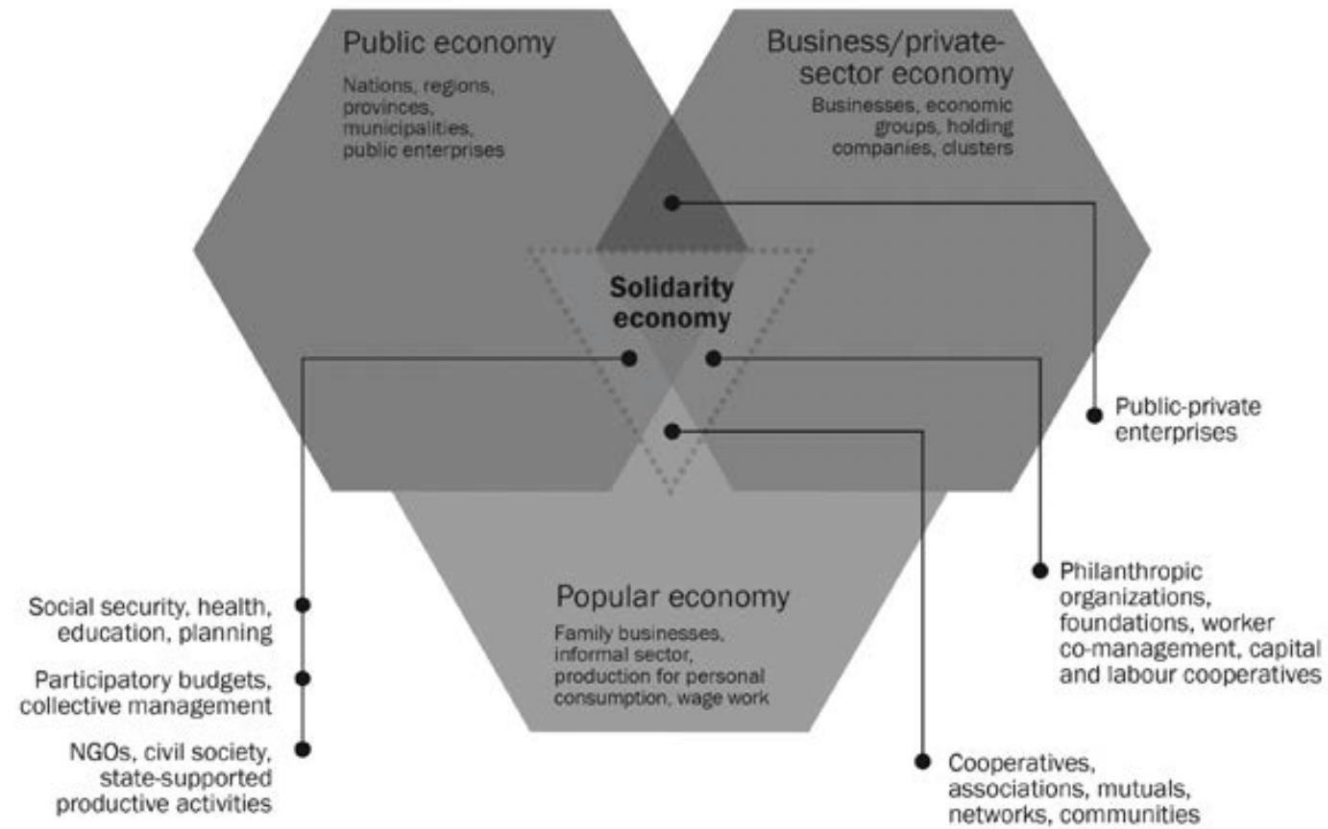




## Three Systems of an Economy

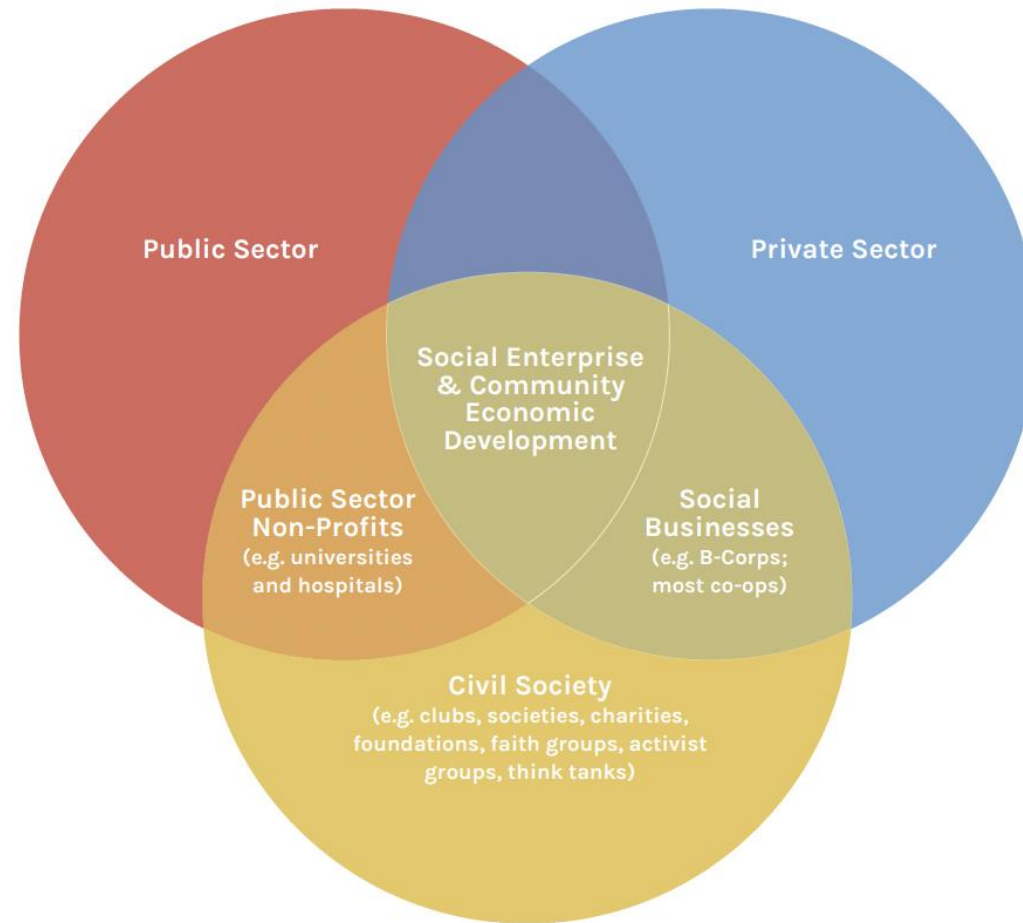
Pearce, J. (2009) Social Economy: Engaging as a Third System, In Amin, A. The Social Economy; International Perspectives on Economic Solidarity, p. 26.





Source: Based on Coraggio (2015), published in UNRISD (2016, 121).

Figure 3.1 The solidarity economy within the broader economy

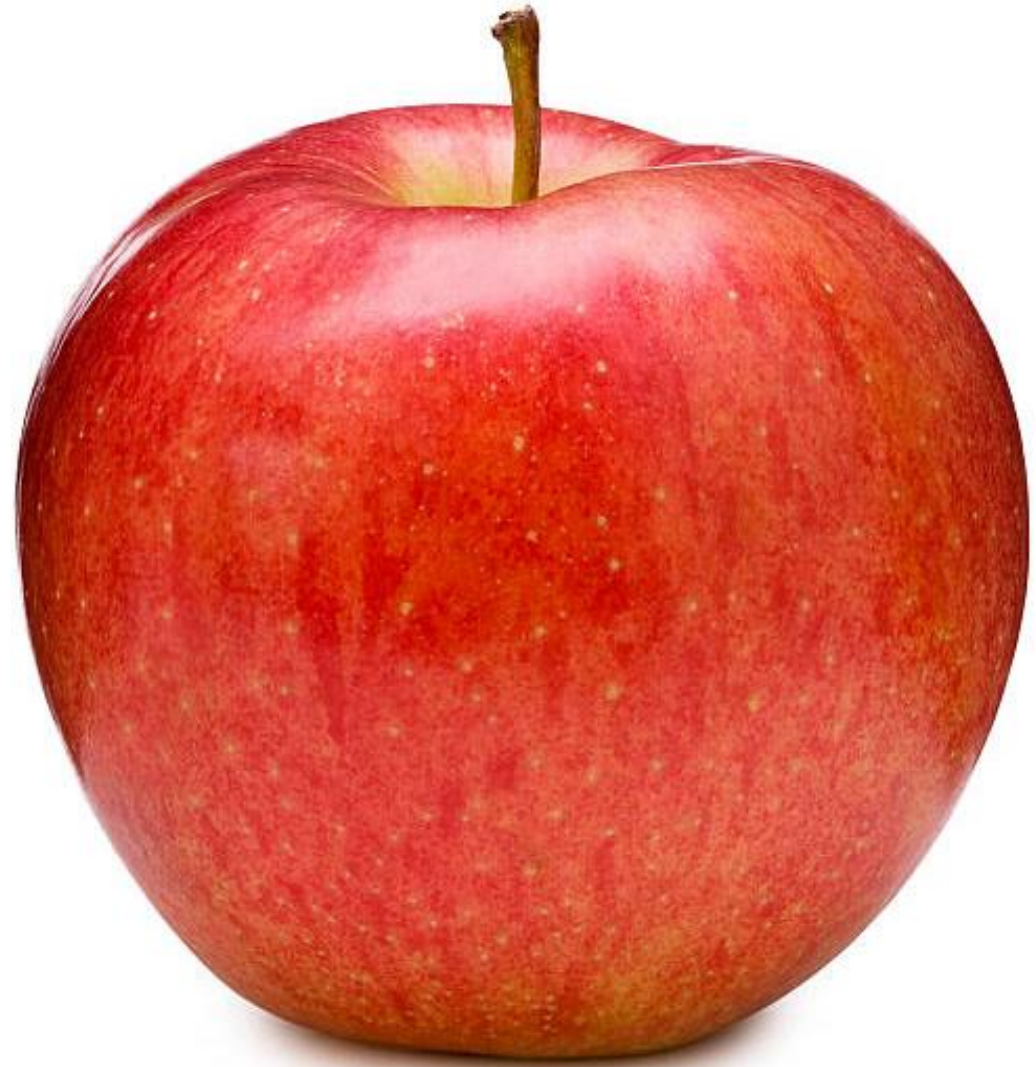


# Questions?

- What is capitalism? What is capital?
- What are classical, neo-classical and neo-liberal economics?
- What is Marxism?
- What is a social economy? What are examples of social economies?
- What are externalities? Why are they important to ecological economists?
- What practices are performed in an economy?
- What problems exist with the way the global economy functions?
- What is 'value'? How do economists understand value? What types of value are there? How can we compare value?
- What is ecological economics and how does it differentiate from traditional economics?
- What is degrowth?
- How can understanding economies help improve foodscapes?

What is an  
Apple?

What is the  
Value of an  
Apple?





What is KFC?

What is the  
Value of KFC?





Press Release

## MEAT OF THE FUTURE: KFC AND 3D BIOPRINTING SOLUTIONS TO USE A BIOPRINTER TO PRODUCE KFC NUGGETS

July 16, 2020

July 16, 2020, Moscow, Russia –KFC is taking the next step in its innovative concept of creating a "restaurant of the future" by launching the development of innovative 3D bioprinting technology to create chicken meat in cooperation with the 3D Bioprinting Solutions research laboratory. The idea of crafting the "meat of the future" arose among partners in response to the growing popularity of a healthy lifestyle and nutrition, the annual increase in demand for alternatives to traditional meat and the need to develop more environmentally friendly methods of food production. The project aims to create the world's first laboratory-produced chicken nuggets. They will be as close as possible in both taste and appearance to the original KFC product, while being more environmentally friendly to produce than ordinary meat. Receiving a final product for testing is already planned for the fall of 2020 in Moscow.

3D Bioprinting Solutions is developing additive bioprinting technology using chicken cells and plant material, allowing it to reproduce the taste and texture of chicken meat almost without involving animals in the process. KFC will provide its partner with all of the necessary ingredients, such as breading and spices, to achieve the signature KFC taste. At the moment, there are no other methods available on the market that could allow the creation of such complex products from animal cells.

### Top Releases

#### KFC CANADA MAKES BAMBOO A PERMANENT PACKAGING SOLUTION

July 20, 2020

#### MEAT OF THE FUTURE: KFC AND 3D BIOPRINTING SOLUTIONS TO USE A BIOPRINTER TO PRODUCE KFC NUGGETS

July 16, 2020



# Economic Value

What is a commodity?

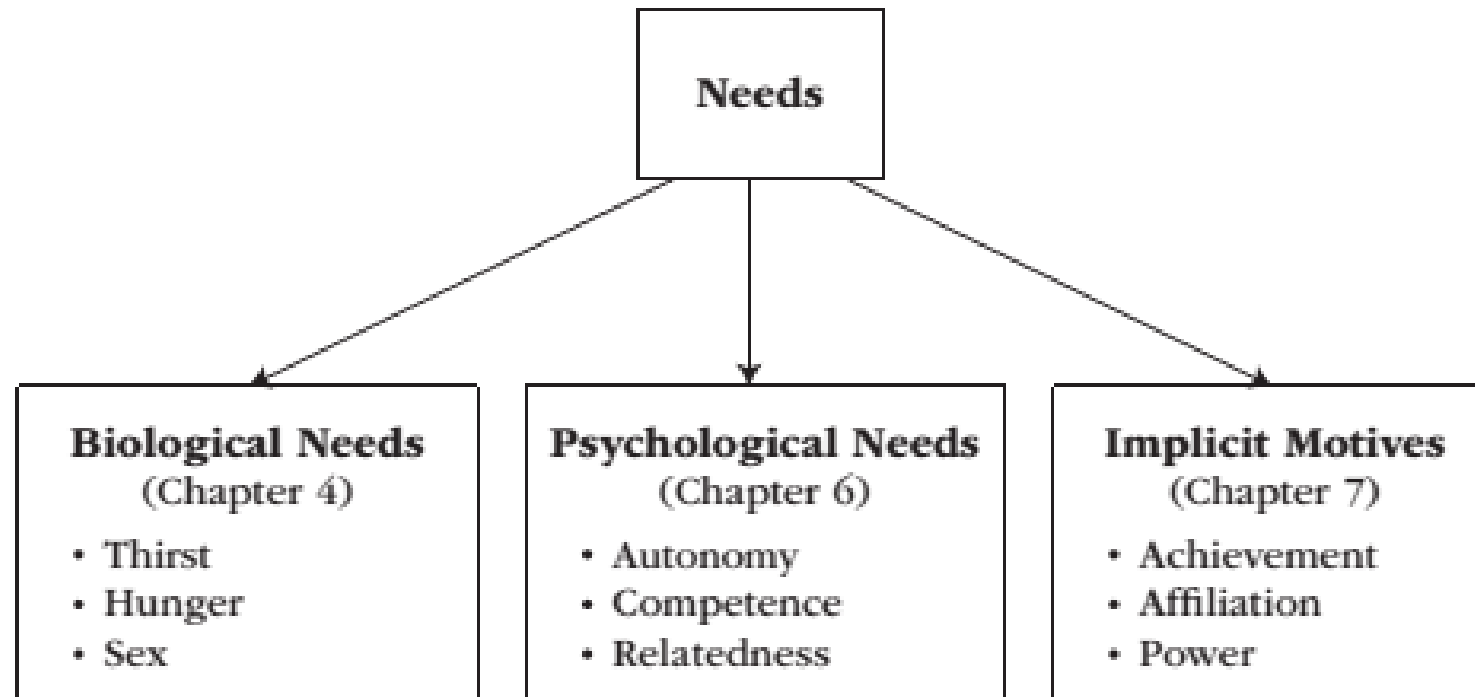
What is capital?

How do commodities obtain value?



# Needs

- **Need** – A condition within the person that is essential and necessary for growth, well-being and life.
- **Deficiency needs** – Are responses to a state of deprivation and generate tension-packed, urgency-laden emotions, such as pain, relief, anxiety, frustration, stress, etc....
- **Growth needs** – Gently guide behaviour toward a developmental trajectory of growth and well-being. They typically generate positive emotions, such as interest, enjoyment, hope and vitality.



**Figure 4.2** Types of Needs

# Dialectic From Capital Volume 1

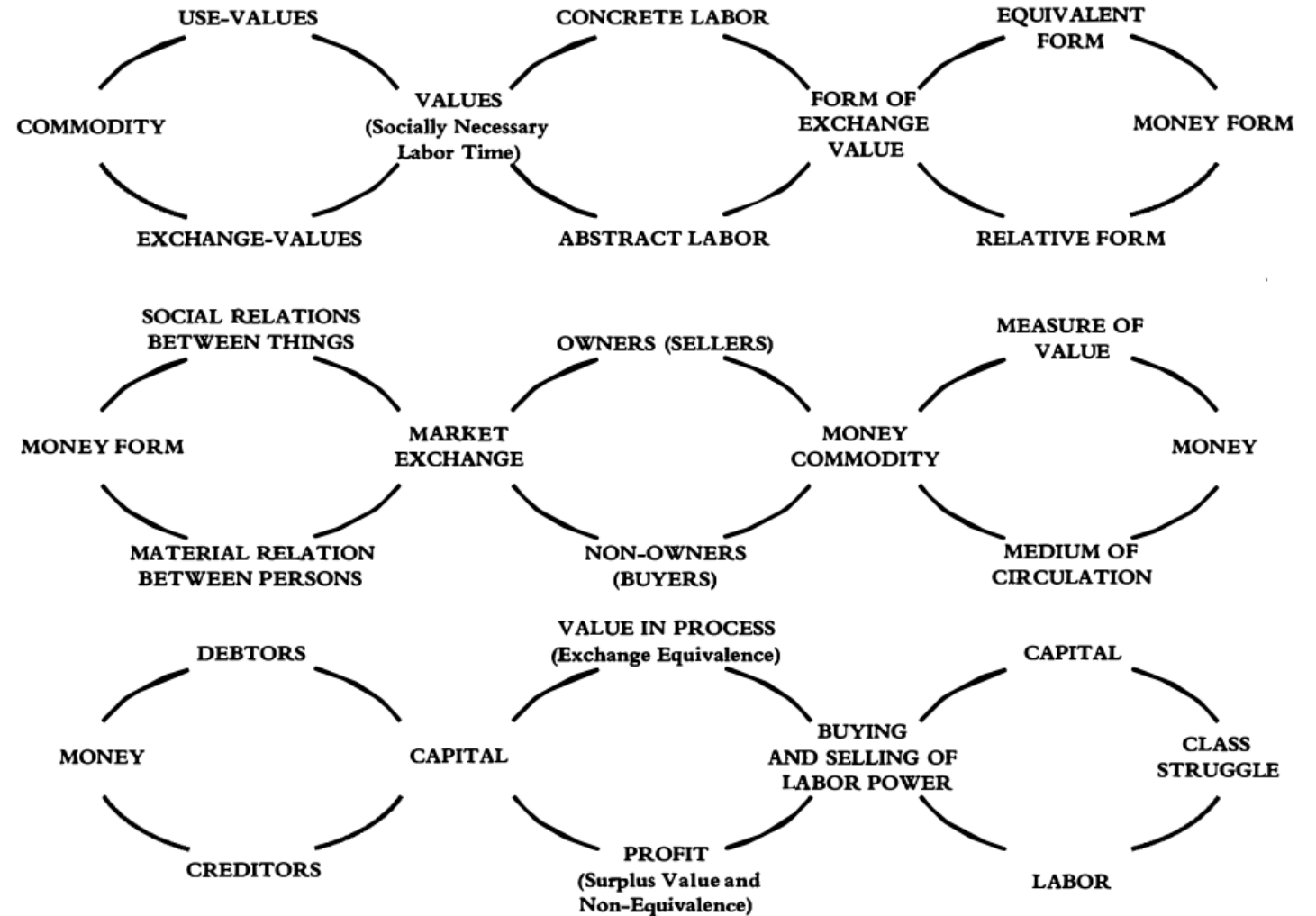
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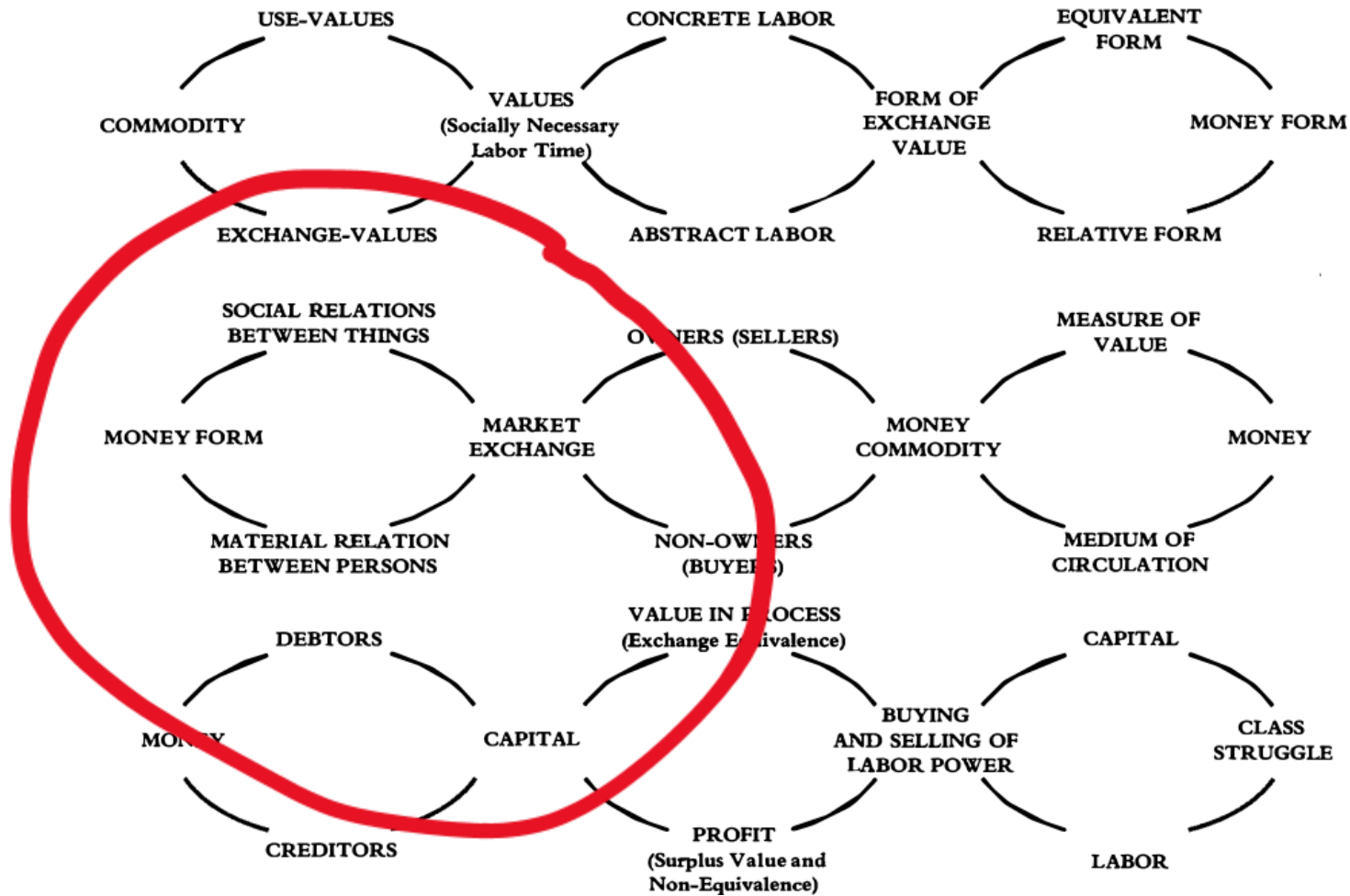
# Dialectic From Capital Volume 1

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THE PATH OF ARGUMENT IN VOLUME I OF MARX'S CAPITAL



# THE PATH OF ARGUMENT IN VOLUME I OF MARX'S CAPITAL



# Commodity Fetishism

# Limitless Accumulation

- C-C
- C-M-C
- M-C-M'
- M(LP-MP-RM)-C-M'
- M-M'



# Dialectic From Capital Volume 1



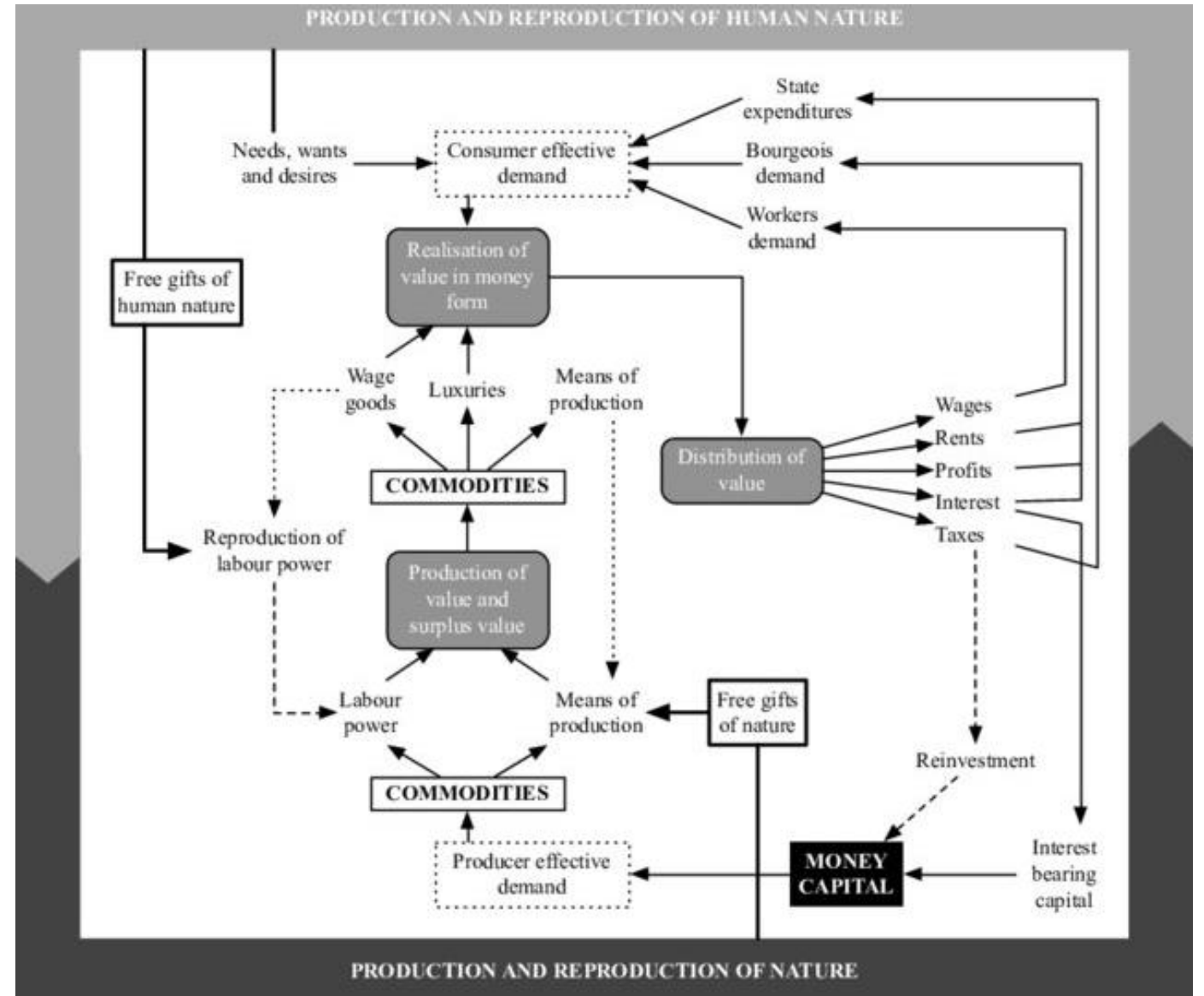
# Surplus Value

- Relative surplus value – (intensity) increasing the productivity of labour.
- Absolute surplus value – (increase labour time or decrease labour value) increasing the work hours or decreasing the pay of labourers.



Rammelt, Crelis. (2019).  
The Spiralling Economy:  
Connecting Marxian  
Theory with Ecological  
Economics.  
Environmental Values.  
29.

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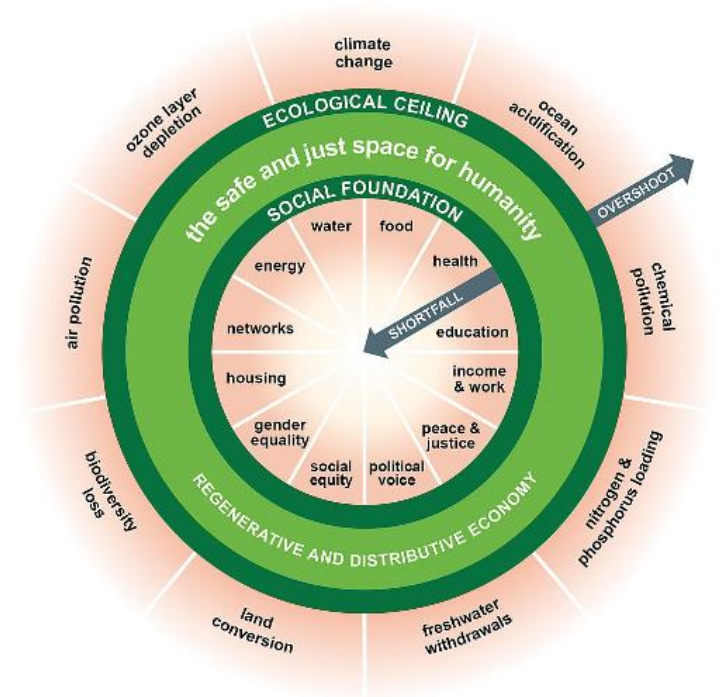
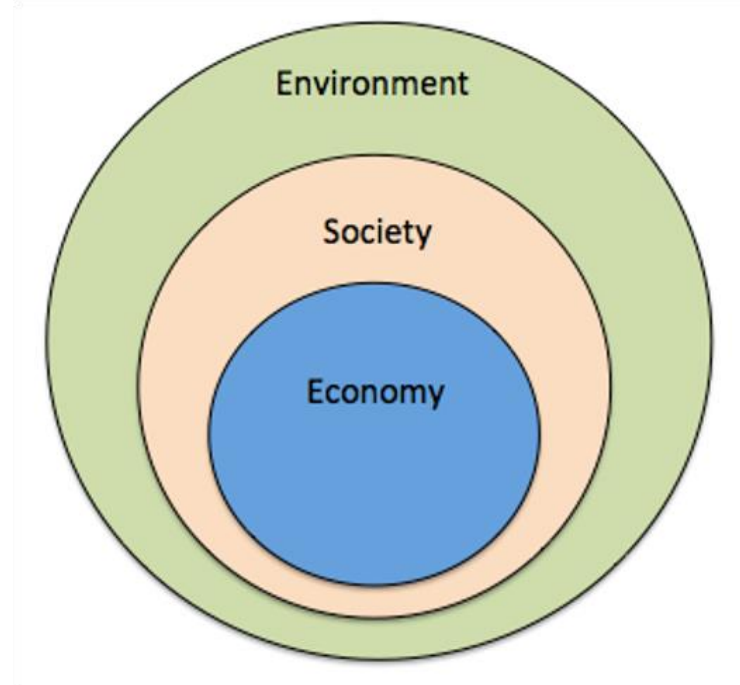
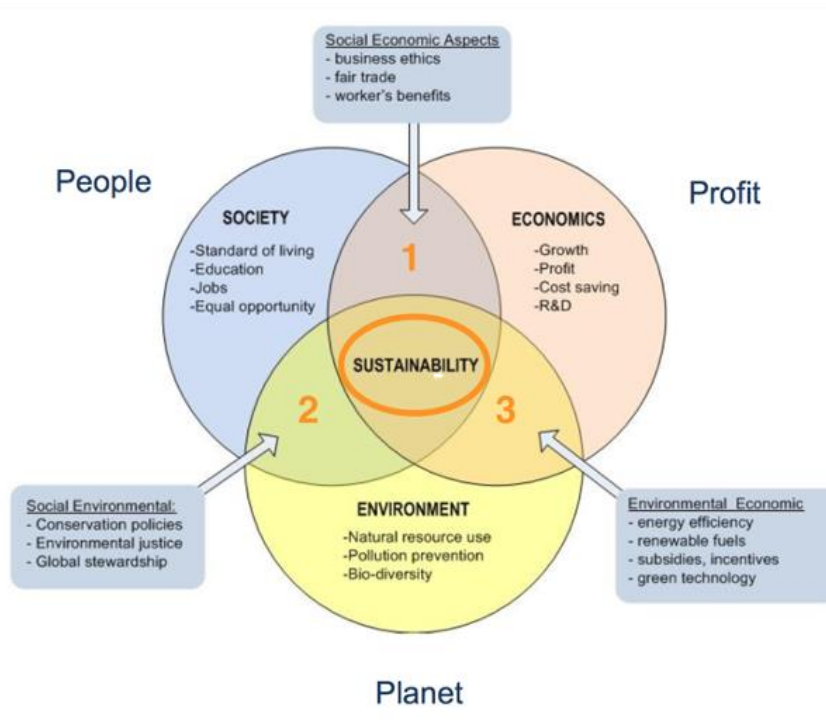
# Many Types of Value

- Social capital
  - Financial capital
  - Living capital
  - Intellectual capital
  - Experiential capital
  - Spiritual capital
  - Cultural capital
- 
- Roland, E.C., Lanuda, G. (2013) Regenerative Enterprise. Optimizing for Multi-Capital Abundance

# What Economic Values Are Important?

- [OECD Data of Canada](#)
  - [Article about OECD Well-Being Measurements](#)
- Here are some other well-known measures of social well-being:
- [Human Development Index](#),
- [Happiness Index](#)
- [Life Expectancy](#)
- [Democracy Index](#)
- [Ecological Footprint](#)

# Doughnut Economics



# Fictitious Commodities

Polanyi, K. (2001) The Great Transformation; The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time, Beacon Press



Land

Labour

Money

Food?

# Diverse Economies

[KATHERINE GIBSON](#)  
[INTERVIEW PLAYLIST](#)

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# Diverse Economies Frameworks

*Gibson-Graham, J.K., Cameron, J., Healy, S. (2013) Take Back the Economy: An Ethical Guide for Transforming Communities, University of Minnesota Press*

LABOR	TRANSACTIONS	PROPERTY	ENTERPRISE	FINANCE
Wage	Market	Private	Capitalist	Mainstream Markets
<b>ALTERNATIVE PAID</b> Self-employed Reciprocal labor In-kind Work for welfare	<b>ALTERNATIVE MARKET</b> Fair trade Alternative currencies Underground market Barter	<b>ALTERNATIVE PRIVATE</b> State-managed assets Customary (clan) land Community land trusts Indigenous knowledge (Intellectual Property)	<b>ALTERNATIVE CAPITALIST</b> State owned Environmentally responsible Socially responsible Non-profit	<b>ALTERNATIVE MARKET</b> Cooperative Banks Credit unions Community-based financial institutions Micro-finance
<b>UNPAID</b> Housework Volunteer Self-provisioning Slave labor	<b>NON-MARKET</b> Household sharing Gift giving Hunting, fishing, gathering Theft, piracy, poaching	<b>OPEN ACCESS</b> Atmosphere International Waters Open source IP Outer Space	<b>NON-CAPITALIST</b> Worker cooperatives Sole proprietorships Community enterprise Feudal Slave	<b>NON-MARKET</b> Sweat equity Family lending Donations Interest-free loans

# Market Farm Practices

- Direct sales
  - CSA
  - Farmers market
  - Other markets
- Wholesale
  - Distributers
  - Restaurants
- Other sales
  - Transformed goods
  - Compost and other values
  - Education
- Contradictions
  - Labour vs food price
  - Soil regeneration time vs market readiness
  - Growing time vs productivity
  - Food donations vs sales
  - Farmers markets vs increased labour
  - Food waste!
- Market Secrets
  - Cash crops
  - Reduce inputs
  - Reduce labour necessities
  - Holistic approach

# Non-Market Farm Practices

- Volunteer labour
  - Community involvement
  - Foraging
  - Soil building
  - Incorporating animals
  - Funding sources
- Contradictions
    - Free labour vs viability
    - Free food vs revenue
    - Community involvement vs community interest
    - Soil building vs time
    - Animals vs care
    - Funding sources vs stability
  - Non-Market Secrets
    - Sweat equity
    - Stable funding
    - Improved community space
    - Building a sense of community



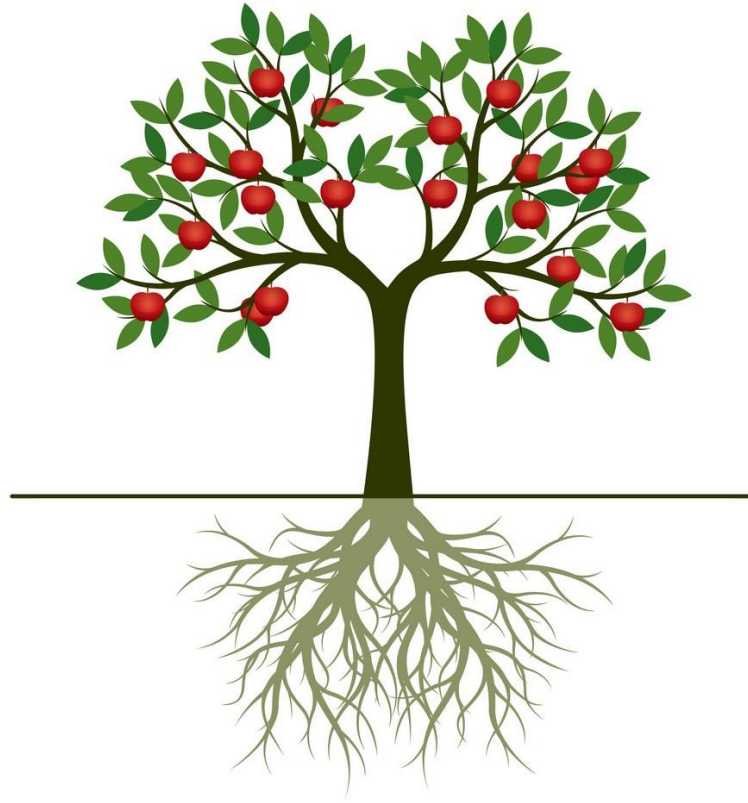
# Alternative Market Farm Practices

- Cooperative ownership
- Different types of membership
- Hybrid of markets and non markets
- Ethical principles (social economy)
- Fair treatment of employees
- Rooted in community
- Market viability and non-market advantages
- Contradictions
  - Community value vs profit
  - Volunteers and paid workers
  - Markets vs donations
  - Internal conflicts
- Alternative Market Secrets
  - Community support
  - Can take positive elements of both
  - More resilient to market failures
  - Provides community benefits

# Diverse Economic Practices

Please identify diverse economic food practices in and around Concordia, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, or globally.

# What Can We Do to Fix the Problem?

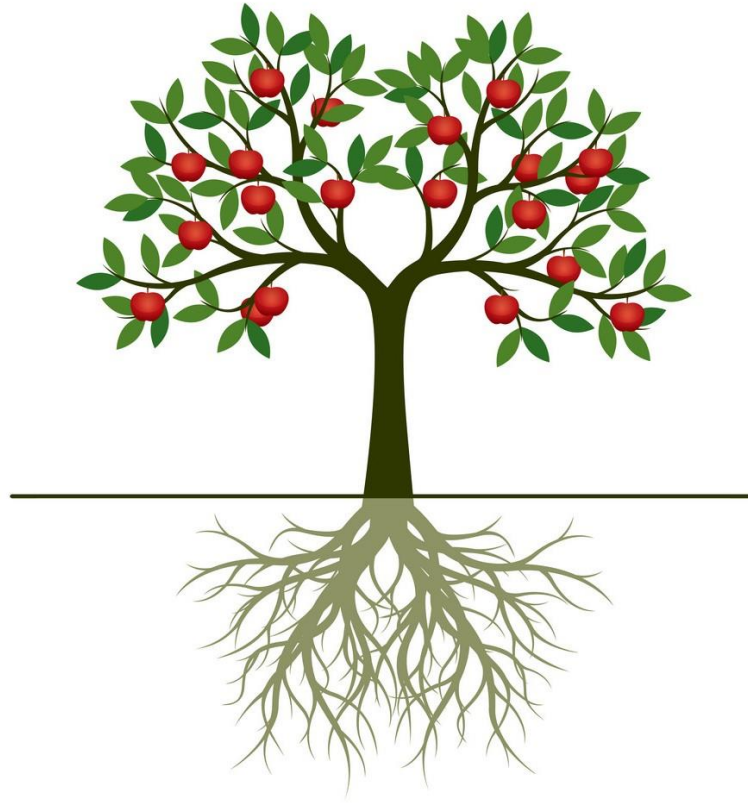


# We Need To Transform Our Food System

- Calls to “fix a broken food system” assume that the capitalist food system used to work well. This assumption ignores the food systems long, racialized history of mistreatment of people of colour. The food system is unjust and unsustainable, but it is not broken. It functions precisely as the capitalist food system has always worked, concentrating power in the hands of the privileged minority and passing off the social and environmental “externalities” disproportionately to racially stigmatized groups.
- Holt-Gimenez, E. (2017) A Foodie’s Guide to Capitalism: Understanding the Political Economy of What We Eat, Monthly Review Press, New York.

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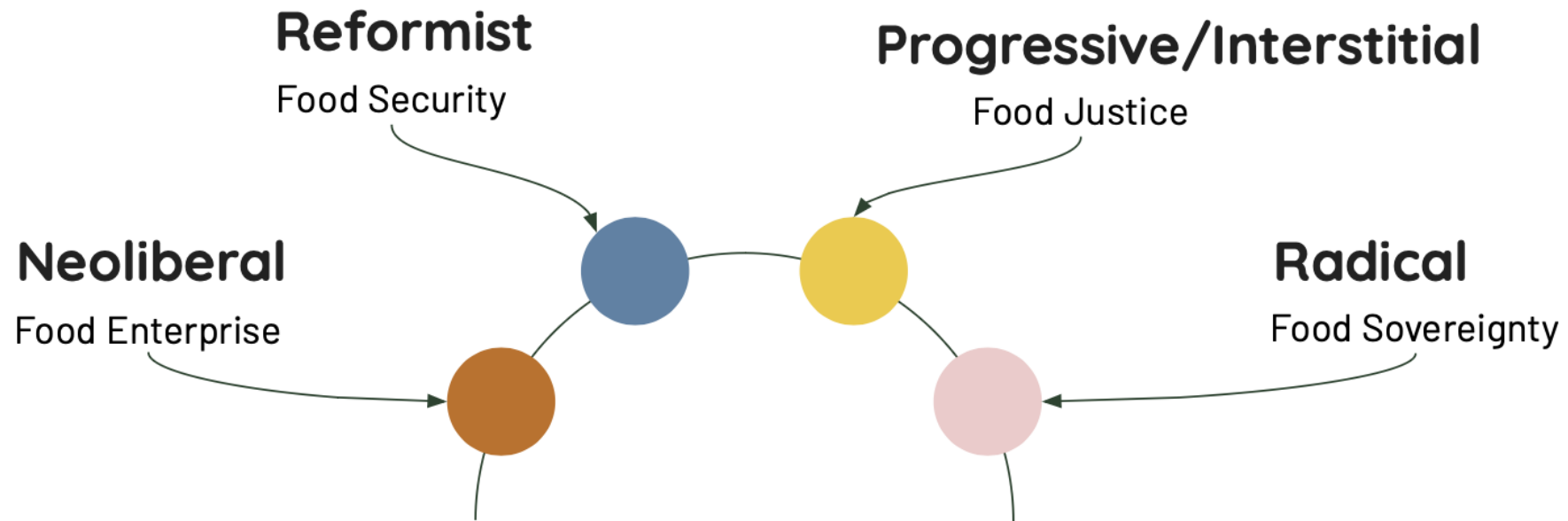
# What Can We Do to Fix the Problem?



# Food System Change

**CORPORATE FOOD REGIME**

**FOOD MOVEMENTS**



Holt-Gimenez, E. (2017) A Foodie's Guide to Capitalism: Understanding the Political Economy of What We Eat, Monthly Review Press, New York.

# Food System Change

What neoliberal, reformist, progressive and radical regimes/movements can you identify in and around Concordia, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, or globally.

# Chapter Discussions

- Get into groups of 3 – 5.

Summarize the chapter.

How does the information in the chapter relate to the information from the presentation today?

How can the chapter be used in your blog post?

Why should other students in the class also read the chapter?



Thanks!

Questions, Concerns, Comments?

