

Economic Geography: Capitalism and Its Others

Economic Geography 16:450:513

Formerly titled: *Rethinking Economy*

Meeting Time: TBD

Room: TBD

Instructor: Kevin St. Martin, kevin.st.martin@rutgers.edu

Course Introduction

This course will begin from the proposition that how we think about the economy matters. Economic theory does more than describe the economy, it constitutes and actively shapes it. Dominant economic theories represent the economy as homogenous and singularly capitalist thus precluding imagining and enacting economic difference and experimentation. The course will engage with a variety of research currents across several disciplines that are rethinking economy as a diverse and decentered field rather than a single entity or dominant force. For example, economic geographers and other scholars have recently turned their attention toward “alternative economic spaces” and practices, and have done so by drawing on feminist understandings of the economy, anthropological investigations into non-capitalist economies, sociological re-workings of “the market” as a site of contingency rather than law, and post-structural critiques of “development” which posit that “another production is possible.” These are all endeavors that are working to decenter the economy as a single form or identity, and thereby reveal economic spaces and landscapes as decidedly more diverse, differentiated, and open to intervention.

In addition to new representations of economy, the course will explore the variety of experiments and alternative economic practices in motion today. It will integrate examples from the solidarity economy, fair trade, alternative food networks, cooperative production, cooperative and co-housing, reclaiming commons, and bartering and informal markets as cases of organizations, institutions, or movements that are enacting alternatives to the current economic “system.” It will read these cases for their economic difference, relationship to place, implications for community and environmental wellbeing, and transformative potential across spatial scales.

Course Themes

- Representing and Performing Economy
- Alternative and Diverse Economies
- Poststructural Marxian and Feminist Approaches to Economy
- Subjectivity, Space, and Economy
- Economic Diversity and Intersections with Race, Ethnicity, and Indigeneity
- Economies of Community and Environmental Wellbeing
- Commons and Commoning

Learning Goals

- Explore the implications of various social theory perspectives (e.g. poststructuralism, feminism, intersectional theory, performativity, new materialisms) relative to representations and understandings of economy.
- Develop an understanding of economy that foregrounds the diversity of economic practices (past and present) that constitute livelihoods, households, and communities.
- Critically explore a range of case studies that detail instances of economic difference aligned with social and environmental justice.
- Rethink economy as site of ethical decision making, post-capitalist politics, and diverse possibility.

Course Format and Requirements

The format for the course is a seminar that meets once per week to discuss readings, make presentations, and generally learn from each other. The importance of participation cannot be stressed enough. Regular attendance is essential given the nature of the topics and the importance of discussion and the sharing of insights, opinions, references, etc.

Common Readings

There will be weekly readings that will be common to all students. These are designed to anchor classroom discussions but they will not limit possible discussion topics.

Presentation Teams

Each week two students will present their reactions to the readings and will offer points for discussion. Students are expected to produce short presentations based on the week's readings. Presentations may incorporate a variety of media and students are encouraged to experiment (e.g. try MS Powerpoint or Prezi, use maps and graphics, practice oral presentation).

Reaction/reflection papers

1-2 page reaction papers (300-450 words only) will be required each week by those students who are not presenting. They must be type written, double spaced, and 12pt font. They should also include a bibliography and use a standard academic citation method.

Class Discussion

Each week students will be required to come to class with questions from the readings. These questions will be further developed collectively and listed on the board. Questions will form the basis for class discussion. Questions and discussion should touch upon and summarize the major themes from the readings.

Midterm assignment and Final assignment

There will be written (take-home) mid-term and final exams. Exams will be an essay format and will be based on the discussion questions developed in class.

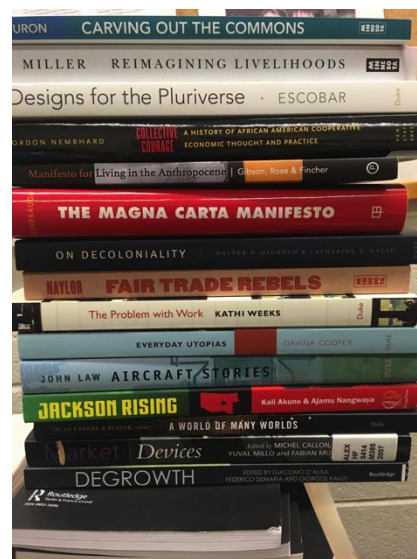
Students will be assessed according to the following scheme:

Reaction papers and presentations	25%
Mid-term exam	25%
Final exam	25%
Classroom participation	25%
Total	100%

Readings

Key texts for the course will include the following manuscripts:

- Akuno, K. and A. Nangwaya. *Jackson Rising: The Struggle for Economic Democracy and Black Self-Determination in Jackson, Mississippi* <https://jacksonrising.pressbooks.com/>.
- Escobar, A. 2018 *Designs for the Pluriverse: Radical Interdependence, Autonomy, and the Making of Worlds*. Duke University Press.
- Gibson-Graham, J. K. 2006. *A Post-Capitalist Politics*. University of Minnesota Press.
- Gordon Nembhard, J. 2014. *Collective Courage: A History of African American Cooperative Economic Thought and Practice*. Pennsylvania State University Press.
- Hossein, C.S. (ed). *The Black Social Economy in the Americas: Exploring Diverse Community-Based Markets*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan US, 2017.
- Miller, E. 2019. *Reimagining Livelihoods: Life Beyond Economy, Society, Environment*. University of Minnesota Press.
- Naylor, L. 2019. *Fair Trade Rebels: Coffee Production and Struggles for Autonomy in Chiapas*. University of Minnesota Press.
- Robinson, Cedric J. *An Anthropology of Marxism*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2019.



Other reading will include articles as well as selections from the following edited volumes:

- D'Alisa, G., F. Demaria, and G. Kallis. Eds. 2015. *Degrowth: A Vocabulary for a New Era*. Routledge.
- De Sousa Santos, B. Ed. 2006. *Another Production is Possible: Beyond the Capitalist Canon*. Verso.
- Fuller, D., A.E.G. Jonas, and R. Lee. Eds. 2010. *Interrogating Alterity: Alternative Economic and Political Spaces*. Ashgate.
- Gibson-Graham, J.K., S.A. Resnick, and R.D. Wolff. Eds. 2000. *Class and Its Others*. University of Minnesota Press.
- Kirwan, S., L. Dawney, and J. Brigstocke. Eds. 2016. *Space, Power, and the Commons: The Struggle for Alternative Futures*. Routledge.
- Klein, E. and Morreo, C.E. eds., 2019. *Postdevelopment in Practice: Alternatives, Economies, Ontologies*. Routledge.
- Kothari, A., Salleh, A., Escobar, A., Demaria, F. and Acosta, A., 2018. *Pluriverse: A Post-Development Dictionary*. Delhi: Authors Up Front.
- MacKenzie, D., F. Muniesa, and L. Siu. Eds. 2007. *Do Economists Make Markets?: On the Performativity of Economics*. Princeton University Press.
- Roelvink, G., K. St. Martin, and J. K. Gibson-Graham. Eds. 2015. *Making Other Worlds Possible: Performing Diverse Economies*. University of Minnesota Press.
- Zademach, H.M. and S. Hillebrand Eds. 2014. *Alternative Economies and Spaces: New Perspectives for a Sustainable Economy*. Verlag.
- Zein-Elabdin, Eiman O., and S. Charusheela, eds. *Postcolonialism Meets Economics*. London: Routledge, 2004.

Students will be given the opportunity to choose course readings of interest that fit into course themes throughout the course.

Course Readings by Week (**selections** from the following, subject to change)

Week 1: Reframing Economy

Lewis, Avi., Naomi Klein, Barna-Alper Productions., Klein Lewis Productions., National Film Board of Canada., Canadian Broadcasting Corporation., First-Run Features (Firm), and First Run/Icarus Films., eds. *The Take* . Video. Brooklyn, NY: First Run/Icarus Films, 2006.

Mitchell, Timothy. “Rethinking Economy.” *Geoforum* 39, no. 3 (2008): 1116–1121.

Klein, E. and C.E. Morreo eds. “Introduction” in *Postdevelopment in Practice: Alternatives, Economies, Ontologies*, n.d.

Hossein, Caroline Shenaz. “A Black Epistemology for the Social and Solidarity Economy: The Black Social Economy.” *The Review of Black political economy* 46, no. 3 (2019): 209–229.

William Monteith, Dora-Olivia Vicol. *Beyond the Wage : Ordinary Work in Diverse Economies* . Edited by William Montieth, Dora-Olivia Vicol, and Philippa Williams. Bristol: Bristol University Press, 2021.

Cameron, Jenny, Stephen Healy, and J. K Gibson-Graham. *Take Back the Economy: An Ethical Guide for Transforming Our Communities*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2013.

Week 2: Alternative Economies and Spaces

Zademach, Hans-Martin, and Sebastian Hillebrand. *Alternative Economies and Spaces*. Bielefeld, Germany: transcript Verlag, 2013.

Week 3: Marxist and Polanyian Approaches

Wolff, Richard D. *Contending Economic Theories : Neoclassical, Keynesian, and Marxian* . Edited by Stephen A. Resnick and Richard D. Wolff. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 2012.

Harvey, D. *Marx, Capital and the Madness of Economic Reason* New York, New York: Oxford University Press, 2018.

Harvey, D. *Spaces of Hope*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2000.

Karl Polanyi. “The Economy as Instituted Process.” In *Primitive, Archaic, and Modern Economies: Essays of Karl Polanyi*, edited by G. Dalton, 139–174.

Peck, Jamie. “For Polanyian Economic Geographies.” *Environment and planning. A* 45, no. 7 (2013): 1545–1568.

Adaman, Fikret. "Scaling in Polanyi: Reconsidering the Local in the Age of Neoliberalism." *Partecipazione e conflitto* 10, no. 2 (2017): 589–612.

Week 4: Postdevelopment in Practice

Zein-Elabdin, Eiman O., and S. Charusheela, eds. *Postcolonialism Meets Economics*. London: Routledge, 2004.

Elise Klein, and Carlos Eduardo Morreo. *Postdevelopment in Practice: Alternatives, Economies, Ontologies*. Taylor and Francis, 2019.

Week 5: (Post) Socialism as Praxis

Robinson, Cedric J. *An Anthropology of Marxism*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2019.

Quan, H.L.T., 2013. Emancipatory social inquiry: Democratic anarchism and the Robinsonian method. *African Identities*, 11(2), pp.117-132.

Atanasoski, N. and Vora, K., 2018. Postsocialist Politics and the Ends of Revolution. *Social Identities*, 24(2), pp.139-154.

Lykke, N., 2018. Rethinking socialist and Marxist legacies in feminist imaginaries of protest from postsocialist perspectives. *Social Identities*, 24(2), pp.173-188.

Week 6: Feminist Readings, Feminist Interventions

Gibson-Graham, J. K. *The End of Capitalism (as We Knew It) a Feminist Critique of Political Economy*. 1st University of Minnesota Press ed., 2006. Minneapolis :: University of Minnesota Press, 2006.

Agenjo-Calderón, Astrid, and Lina Gálvez-Muñoz. "Feminist Economics: Theoretical and Political Dimensions: Feminist Economics." *The American journal of economics and sociology* 78, no. 1 (January 2019): 137–166.

Cameron, J. and J.K. Gibson-Graham. "Feminising the Economy: Metaphors, Strategies, Politics." *Gender, place and culture : a journal of feminist geography* 10, no. 2 (2003): 145–157.

Harcourt, W. "The Future of Capitalism: a Consideration of Alternatives." *Cambridge journal of economics* 38, no. 6 (2014): 1307–1328.

Bauhardt, C. "Solutions to the Crisis? The Green New Deal, Degrowth, and the Solidarity Economy: Alternatives to the Capitalist Growth Economy from an Ecofeminist Economics Perspective." *Ecological economics* 102 (2014): 60–68.

Federici, S. "Women, Land Struggles, and the Reconstruction of the Commons." *Working USA* 14, no. 1 (2011): 41–56.

Bauhardt, C. and W. Harcourt. *Feminist Political Ecology and the Economics of Care: In Search of Economic Alternatives*. 1st ed. Milton: Routledge, 2019.

Sato, C, and Jozelin Soto Alarcon. "Toward a Postcapitalist Feminist Political Ecology's Approach to the Commons and Commoning." *International journal of the commons* 13, no. 1 (2019): 36–61.

Tummers, Lidewij, and Sherilyn MacGregor. "Beyond Wishful Thinking: a FPE Perspective on Commoning, Care, and the Promise of Co-Housing." *International journal of the commons* 13, no. 1 (2019): 62–83.

Week 7: Performing Markets, Performing Economy

Callon, M. "What Does It Mean to Say That Economics Is Performative?" In *Do Economists Make Markets?*, edited by Fabian Muniesa, Donald MacKenzie, and Lucia Siu, by M Callon, 311–357. Princeton University Press, 2020.

Holm, Petter, and Kåre Nolde Nielsen. "Framing Fish, Making Markets: The Construction of Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQs)." *The Sociological review (Keele)* 55, no. s2 (2007): 173–195.

Cardwell, Emma. "Power and Performativity in the Creation of the UK Fishing-Rights Market." *Journal of cultural economy* 8, no. 6 (November 2, 2015): 705–720.

Snyder, Robert, and Kevin St Martin. "A Fishery for the future:The Midcoast Fishermen's Association and the Work of Economic Being-in-Common." In *Making Other Worlds Possible: Performing Diverse Economies*, by Robert Snyder and Kevin St Martin, 26–52, 2015.

Boucquey, Noëlle, Luke Fairbanks, Kevin St. Martin, Lisa M Campbell, and Bonnie McCay. "The Ontological Politics of Marine Spatial Planning: Assembling the Ocean and Shaping the Capacities of 'Community' and 'Environment.'" *Geoforum* 75 (2016): 1–11.

Week 8: Race, Economy, and Spaces of Economic Difference

McKittrick, Katherine. "On Plantations, Prisons, and a Black Sense of Place." *Social & cultural geography* 12, no. 8 (2011): 947–963.

Winston, Celeste. "Maroon Geographies." *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* 111, no. 7 (November 10, 2021): 2185–2199.

Wright, Willie Jamaal. "The Morphology of Marronage." *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* 110, no. 4 (July 3, 2020): 1134–1149.

Bledsoe, Adam, and Willie Jamaal Wright. "The Anti-Blackness of Global Capital." *Environment and planning. D, Society & space* 37, no. 1 (2019): 8–26.

Hawthorne, Camilla. "Black Matters Are Spatial Matters: Black Geographies for the Twenty-

first Century.” *Geography compass* 13, no. 11 (2019).

Bonds, Anne. “Racing Economic Geography: The Place of Race in Economic Geography: Racing Economic Geography.” *Geography compass* 7, no. 6 (2013): 398–411.

Robinson, Cedric J, H. L. T Quan, and Avery F Gordon. *An Anthropology of Marxism*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2019.

Bledsoe, Adam, Tyler McCreary, and Willie Wright. “Theorizing Diverse Economies in the Context of Racial Capitalism.” *Geoforum* (2019).

Ferreira, Priscilla. “Racial Capitalism and Epistemic Injustice: Blindspots in the Theory and Practice of Solidarity Economy in Brazil.” *Geoforum* (2021).

Johnson, Melissa. “Creole Becoming and the Commons: Black Freedom in Belize.” *Environment and planning. E, Nature and space (Print)* (2019): 251484861989116–.

Week 9: A Postcapitalist Politics

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

Gibson-Graham, J. K, and Kelly Dombroski. *The Handbook of Diverse Economies*. Edited by J. K. Gibson-Graham and Kelly Dombroski. Cheltenham, Gloucestershire: Edward Elgar

Week 10: African American Cooperative Histories

Hossein, C.S. (ed). *The Black Social Economy in the Americas: Exploring Diverse Community-Based Markets*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan US, 2017.

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

Akuno, K. and A. Nangwaya. *Jackson Rising" The Struggle for Economic Democracy and Black Self-Determination in Jackson, Mississippi*, n.d. <https://jacksonrising.pressbooks.com/>. Publishing, 2020.

Week 11: Community Economies in Majority/Minority World Contexts

Hossein, C.S. and Christabell, P.J. eds., 2022. *Community Economies in the Global South: Case Studies of Rotating Savings and Credit Associations and Economic Cooperation*. Oxford University Press.

Eskelinen, T., Hirvilammi, T., Venäläinen, J. (eds). 2020. *Enacting Community Economies within a Welfare State*. MayFly.

Week 12: Community and Commons Futures

Hardin, Garrett. "The Tragedy of the Commons." *Science (American Association for the Advancement of Science)* 162, no. 3859 (1968): 1243–1248.

Mildenberger, M. "The Tragedy of the Tragedy of the Commons." <https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/voices/the-tragedy-of-the-tragedy-of-the-commons/>.

Kirwan, Samuel, Leila Dawney, and Julian Brigstocke. "Introduction: The Promise of the Commons." In *Space, Power and the Commons: The Struggle for Alternative Futures*, by Samuel Kirwan, Leila Dawney, and Julian Brigstocke, 1–27, 2016.

Caffentzis, George, and Silvia Federici. "Commons Against and Beyond Capitalism." *Community development journal* 49, no. 1 (2014): i92–i105.

Neera Singh. "Becoming a Commoner: The Commons as Sites for Affective Socio-Nature Encounters and Cobecomings." *Ephemera* 17, no. 4 (2017): 751–776.

Nightingale, Andrea J. "Commoning for Inclusion? Commons, Exclusion, Property and Socio-Natural Becomings." *International journal of the commons* 13, no. 1 (2019): 16–35.

García López, Gustavo A, Irina Velicu, and Giacomo D'Alisa. "Performing Counter-Hegemonic Common(s) Senses: Rearticulating Democracy, Community and Forests in Puerto Rico." *Capitalism, nature, socialism* 28, no. 3 (July 3, 2017): 88–107.

Balaguer Rasillo, Xavier. "Alternative Economies, Digital Innovation and Commoning in Grassroots Organisations: Analysing Degrowth Currencies in the Spanish Region of Catalonia." *Environmental policy and governance* 31, no. 3 (2021): 175–185.

St. Martin, Kevin. "Toward a Cartography of the Commons: Constituting the Political and Economic Possibilities of Place." *The Professional geographer* 61, no. 4 (2009): 493–507.

Week 13: Case: Fair Trade Rebels

Naylor, Lindsay. *Fair Trade Rebels: Coffee Production and Struggles for Autonomy in Chiapas*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2019.

Week 14: Case: Reimagining Livelihoods

Miller, Ethan. *Reimagining Livelihoods: Life Beyond Economy, Society, and Environment*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2019.

Policies and Support

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please let me know as soon as possible.

Academic Honesty: Students are expected to understand and act in accordance with the Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers/>. Violations include: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, having someone else complete your course work, and facilitating violations of academic integrity by others. Below are some resources to explore about academic integrity, but please also ask me if you have any doubts.

- Resources for Students: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/resources-for-students/>
- General Academic Integrity Link: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>
- The Camden Plagiarism Tutorial (Interactive):
<http://library.camden.rutgers.edu/EducationalModules/Plagiarism/>
- Consult Don't Plagiarize: Document Your Research! For tips about how to take notes so that you don't plagiarize by accident. http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/avoid_plagiarism

Library/Learning Support: Online Learning Tools from Rutgers University Libraries include Rutgers RIOT, Searchpath and RefWorks – you can find them at <http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/tutorials>. You may also consider visiting the Learning Centers (<https://rlc.rutgers.edu/>) or Academic Advising for SAS students: <https://sasundergrad.rutgers.edu/advising/advising>

Student Wellness Services:

- **Bias Incident Reporting and Support (DICE):** <https://diversity.rutgers.edu>
The Division of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement works to advance, promote and advocate for inclusiveness, diversity, and equity at Rutgers University. If you believe you are the victim of or a witness to an alleged bias incident, you may report the incident, in person or by phone, to the Dean of Students Office, Residence Life staff, or another member of the Student Affairs staff <https://diversity.rutgers.edu/resources/bias-and-crisis-support>. Individuals may also report an alleged bias incident online at: <http://studentaffairs.rutgers.edu/for-students/bias/bias-incident-reporting/>
- **Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS):** (848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ <http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/>. University is stressful, particularly when you are juggling many courses, jobs, and family responsibilities – and everything has been dramatically compounded by COVID-19. CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.
- **Crisis Intervention:** <http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/crisis-intervention/>
- **Report a Concern:** <http://health.rutgers.edu/do-something-to-help/>

- **Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA):** (848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/. The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.
- **Disability Services:** (848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>. Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation. The documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.
- **Sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, and/or stalking** may be reported using any of the following options:
 - o Report to a Title IX Coordinator directly (a list of each campus's Title IX Coordinator is provided below). Such a report may be made at any time (including during non-business hours) via telephone or email, or by mail to the address listed for the Title IX Coordinator.
 - o Report online, using the reporting form at <http://endsexualviolence.rutgers.edu/report-an-incident/>
 - o Individuals may also report crimes of sexual violence to the Rutgers University Police Department.