Co-Creating Urban Food Commons Through Collaborative Research

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Ontological Basis for Co-Creation

- Other economies are possible, but not always imaginable (Gibson-Graham)
- Research has a practical and performative dimension
- Knowledge is partial, co-constructed, and political.

Co-creating research

• How can we use our research practices to co-create commons, and make them more real and imaginable?
Mapping as a mode of Co-Creation

Toward a Cartography of the Commons: Constituting the Political and Economic Possibilities of Place

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Competing with the cartography of capitalism, undermining its power to fix resources as open to capitalistic appropriation and space as enclosures, will require a cartography of the commons that makes visible community and commons processes; it will require a shift in strategy from explicating and defending existing commons to mapping spaces into which a commons future might be projected. The "Buffalo Commons" and a map-based project in New England fisheries link new spatial imaginaries with desire for and negotiations of alternative economic initiatives. Each project re-concepts economic and environmental processes relative to the potential of the commons rather than the potential of capitalism. Key Words: cartography, commons, diverse economies, economic geography, subjectivity and space.

資本主義制圖術的相互競爭，以及在其框架和地區開放的界定下，解決資源分配與資本主義權力的破壞，將需要一種公民制圖學，以使得理內的公地可視化；這將需要改變策略，從闡述和捍衛現存的公地向預測未來轉移，將空間映射成一個具有可預測的未來的公地。 "布法羅公地"，以及一個在新英格蘭漁業的圖書項目。將新的空間想象力與其他經濟活動的期望和法規相連接，每個項目重新賦予了與公地的潛力而不是資本主義的潛力相關的經濟和環境的進程。關鍵詞：制圖學，公地，多樣化的經濟，經濟地理，主觀性和空間。

Storytelling and analysis must be generated around the commons in order to replace the language of efficiency with that of sufficiency, the cultural visibility of the individual with that of community.

—Eschobar (1995, 198)

Place-based policies and struggles around resources that counter neoliberal dispositions of what had been common require an ontological ground on which such policies and struggles might be enacted. A host of contemporary movements, from indigenous rights to resources to anti-colonial movements, rely on a vision of community territory or local commons through which alternative forms of environmental knowledge, productive utilization of resources, and local identities can be imagined (e.g., Eschobar 2001; Stens 2002; Mackenzie 2006). These spaces of difference contest hegemonic understandings of nature as an inventory of discrete resources open to individual appropriation, and they are increasingly represented using mapping and related technologies that fall under the rubric of "counter-mapping" (Peluso 1995).

Counter-maps work against the displacement, valorization, abstraction, individuation, privatization, and alienability of resources that
Mapping urban food commons

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League of Urban Canners
Community-based Food Production

The League of Urban Canners (LUrC) oversees an urban orchard of more than 100 fruit trees, mostly in Cambridge and Somerville. While most trees are located in private yards, some are in parks and public spaces. Each year, with the consent of owners, we prune trees and arbors, harvest fruit, and process the product of our harvest into jams, preserves, and other preserves.
SHARECITY: Investigating the Sustainability Potential of Urban Food Sharing Economies


(http://sharecity.ie/research/sharecity100-database/)
SHARECITY

- SHARECITY100 database – crowdsourcing for collaborative research, making visible and performing food sharing economies that are diverse, and more-than-capitalist
- Ethnographic Research – by team members with food sharing enterprises in nine cities
- Ongoing research by Anna Davies, Stephen MacKenzie, Monika Rut, and Marion Weymes to Co-Design Sustainability Impact Assessment Tool Kits

Davies, A. et al. (2018) SHARECITY Briefing Note 3: Goals & Impacts, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland. ERC Grant No: 646883
Conclusions

• Co-creating commons goes far beyond co-creating research
• Making visible - only a starting point, not an end in itself
• Attend to governance in sharing access, care, and benefits of a resource
• Mapping as ongoing dynamic process vs. fixed representation
Questions?

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