

## DESIGNING ALTERNATIVES FOR DEVELOPMENT

**Tutor:** Dr. Demet Dinler, Lecturer in International Development

**Research expertise:** Supply chains and markets, labour, alternative solidarity economies, activism and social change

**Professional expertise:** Practitioner and trainer for feminist development NGOs, cooperatives, global trade unions

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Arts C 302

# Background questions

- Are development projects always bound to fail or can we still **make a difference** by working within development organisations?
- Should alternative development initiatives seeking **social justice and sustainability** be always **small and local**? Can they be **scaled up** to challenge broader power relations and structural inequalities?
- Are we too naïve and idealist for the realities of this world?
- How can we **live up to our ideals** and **implement realistic solutions to global development challenges**?
- What kind of critical perspectives, skills and knowledge do we need in order to **design alternatives within and beyond development organisations** once we graduate?

# Purpose of module

This module aims to equip students with **skills to design development projects** of sustainability and social justice within and beyond development institutions.

First, the module examines **drivers of change within past and current development agendas, institutions and policies.**

Second, by deploying decolonial, feminist, queer, and diverse economies approaches, it explores multiple alternatives to **transform relations of production, finance, social reproduction, care and common resource management** with **case studies** from the Global South and North.

# Module structure

**Weeks 1-5:** 1 hour Lecture and 2 hour Seminar

**Weeks 6-11:** 1 hour Lecture and 2 hour Design Workshops

## ➤ PART 1: Alternatives from above:

- How to enact change within international organisations & NGOs?
- How to change state development policy?
- How to enforce regulations for global economy and business?

## ➤ PART 2: Alternatives from below:

- Transforming Production and Exchange
- Transforming Money and Finance
- Transforming Social Reproduction and Care
- Transforming Work and Leisure
- Transforming Ecologies and Common resource management

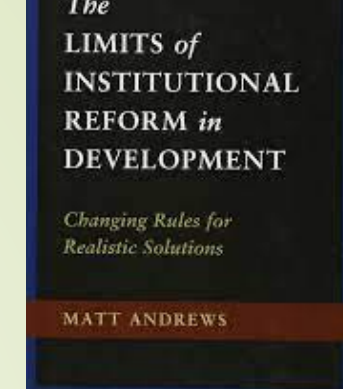
## ➤ PART 3: Overcoming barriers to alternatives:

- Implementing change: Ideals, interests, incentives
- Institutionalising change: Rules, rituals, sanctions

**Conclusion: Merging alternatives from below and above**

### **Assessment:**

20 per cent group work  
based on design workshops  
80 per cent individual essay

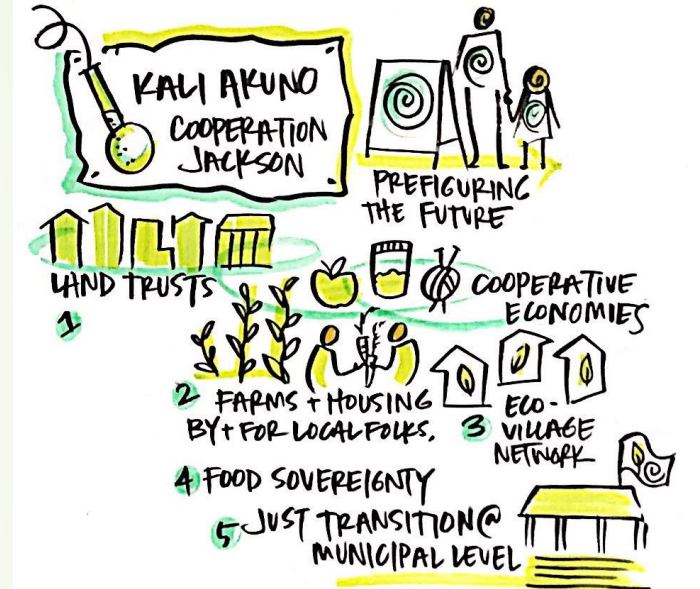


# Theoretical approaches & case studies

Theoretical perspectives/insights are embedded in the discussion on alternatives.

Example cases will include:

- Solidarity/Community/Cooperative economies
- Fair and transparent commodity auctions
- Complementary Currencies
- Peer to peer lending schemes
- Universal Basic Income
- International Clearing Union
- Participatory budget planning by municipalities
- Global framework agreements by labour unions



# DESIGN WORKSHOPS

## TASK:

- Designing, implementing and sustaining an **alternative network of sustainable cooperative economies** to achieve social justice and tackle inequalities of class, gender and race
- Turning the network into a broader social movement **working with state and other development institutions.**

From Week 6 to Week 10 the tutor will give **new constraints, challenges and tasks** (as in a playstation or video game) **faced by the cooperatives** and groups of 5 students will develop solutions in the light of the knowledge and skills taught.

Week 11: **Group presentation** based on design workshop