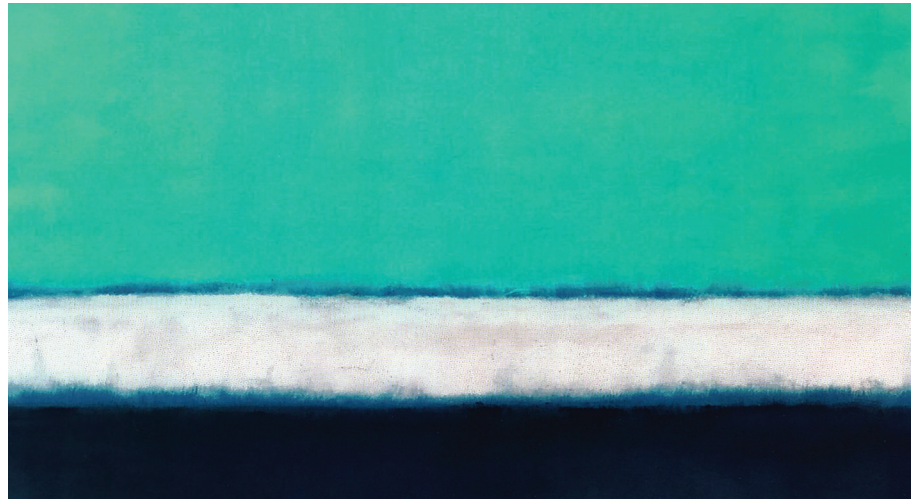


RU PARTICIPATING

MEMBERS | NETWORK PROJECTS | SOLIDARITY

From the Education & Skills Team

- Real Utopia 2:**
 The team is still collecting contributions for RU 2 book. Peter agreed to do a chapter on racial justice and global solidarity through parsoc prism. Sean sent in some very good comics on parsoc.
- Developing Kinship:**
 The team continues with participatory kinship sessions and the next session will take place on the 3rd of August where Urška presents the summary of Commoning Care and Collective Power and also other texts can be up for discussion.
- Upcoming education sessions:**
 The team is preparing three sessions for RU Network in September, Cynthia Peters agreed to do a session on kinship (focus on sexuality) in the beginning of September, in the middle of September Michael Albert will have a session on » Clarifying the "Edges" of Participatory Economics and at the end of September Peter Bohmer will have a session about him traveling in Europe and meeting activists and fellow RU members.
- Handbook for teachers:**
 Matic's handbook on parecon for students and teachers is being (this time properly) translated.



Summer and Solidarity

Mark Evans

The Summer months are always a bit of an unusual time for organising as members take time out for well deserved breaks. Despite this general trend, however, we have had an interesting time since the publication of the last edition of RU Participating. We hope that this edition will give you a bit of a flavour of what is going on inside RU.

Inside you will find an inspiring selection of Members Picks in various formats and genres; books, podcasts, films, music and videos. This month's members interview is with Marcia Bookstein who tells the story of her journey into radical politics and RU. As Marcia explains, it all started "with the death of my wonderful dog, Lady Bird". Marcia definitely has a gift for telling stories so don't miss that one. We also have a great book review by RU member Urska Breznik. The book in question is by author, researcher, cultural worker and facilitator Manuela Zechner. To find out more see Urska's review - The Collective Power of Commoning Care - below. Picking back up on the theme of Summer breaks, we also have a short piece from the one-and-only Peter Bohmer about his recent travels in and around Europe. In it he writes, "I visited Spain, Italy, Greece, Austria, Slovenia, Sweden, the northern part of Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The hospitality and warmth people showed to me was incredible. Many were members of the group Real Utopia. Thank You my friends and comrades. I truly appreciate you". How lovely is that! Two other RU members - Bridget Meehan and Fintan Bradshaw - have also written short accounts of hanging out with Peter in Ireland. We hope that you agree that these all make for interesting and entertaining reads, fostering solidarity between all RU members and beyond.

If you like what you see, then why not consider getting more involved by attending a meeting or one of our social events or apply to join one of our self-managed teams? Another option would be to volunteer to help out with the production of this newsletter. If any of this interests you then please [get in touch](#) - it would be great to have more RU members involved!

From the Membership Team

- **Weekly Welcome Meetings and Informative sessions:**

The team is continuing with its regular weekly online meetings welcoming new members. We are also hosting individually scheduled info sessions for prospective members. If you have a friend you would like to introduce to RU, let us know and we will set up a session with them.

- **1 on 1 meetings:**

The membership team is continuing the facilitation of 1 on 1 meetings between members with the aim of getting to know each other better as the regular meetings are not the most appropriate places for personal interaction. There is the ninth round of meetings going on currently and we invite anyone who is not part of them yet to join them. We have it on good authority that they are fun and that we have a lot of “very interesting people” (TM) in RU who are well worth knowing a bit closer. If you would like to join please just drop Membership team a line in discord or over email and we will work you in.

- **Bylaws:**

The team discussed issues regarding privacy that arose during the bylaws discussions and has formed amendment proposals.

- **Local Chapters:**

Local chapter in Maribor has been printing and distributing RU Participating. They are preparing to hold two public presentations on participatory society concepts.

When another chapter forms we stand ready to assist.

Visiting Europe

Peter Bohmer

Dear Friends,

I just returned from a two month visit to seven countries in Europe visiting friends, families and activists. It was a very meaningful and enjoyable trip. I visited Spain, Italy, Greece, Austria, Slovenia, Sweden, the northern part of Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The hospitality and warmth people showed to me was incredible. Many were members of the group Real Utopia. Thank You my friends and comrades. I truly appreciate you. Part of the reason for my warm reception is the respect people show to elders, which is much less common in U.S.

A quick summary based on my conversations with people.

The “left” as a social force is currently weak in the seven countries I visited—whether anarchists, radical social movements or socialist organizations. However, there are active left groups doing good work in all the places I visited such as “The City Upside Down” in Salonika, Greece and the Pekarna Cooperatives in Maribor, Slovenia and the Kapsylen Cooperatives in Stockholm. Kapsylen is involved in supporting actively political prisoners and selling olive oil from Palestine and coffee from the EZLN. The isolation caused by the Coronavirus has been a factor as it has limited face to face interactions and meetings and community gatherings.

Probably a greater cause of weakness of the left in the U.S. but also in the countries I visited is the growth of extreme identity politics and the related tendency to cancel people for perceived limitations in their political consciousness, often around transgender issues. Identity of course matters, I am critiquing where identity becomes destiny and the possibility of empathy across identities is denied. This expelling, canceling of people, the turning on each other is exacerbated by social media. To me, this behavior is caused by the weakness of the left, our feelings of powerlessness, and a cause of its further weakness. This problem is probably worse in the U.S. but also widespread in Europe. Transphobia is a continuing problem in the left and wider society; my criticism is how it is being dealt with.

The Authoritarian right is a serious danger in all of the countries I visited, but not growing. Ireland was the one exception, fascism and the authoritarian right except for a few Unionist groups in the north are minuscule. In Greece, Golden Dawn is no longer a force but authoritarian rightists including supporters of the 1967 military coup are in the New Democracy led government. The Social Democrats are declining and pathetic. There is some growth of the Greens but their economic program is mainly neoliberal and they increasingly accept the growing militarism of Europe. I was surprised at the public support in Sweden for joining NATO.

I see the possibilities of the growth of a left in the countries I visited based on climate and housing justice whose base is precarious workers. Immigrant justice must be combined with anti-austerity programs and provide serious alternatives to neoliberalism and militarism. I heard much support for an anti-militarist and global Green New Deal.

Many people I was with asked me what is going on in the United States, that the repeal of Roe vs Wade, the voter suppression, the amount and worship

From the Outreach and Events Team

- RU, Z and PEP meeting:**
 The team discussed the Joint meeting and are awaiting to hear back from PEP regarding the proposal that Z, PEP and RU freely share each others content.
- Labor Network for Sustainability:**
 The team will look into setting up a meeting between RU and Labor Network for Sustainability. More at: www.labor4sustainability.org/.
- Monthly and annual events:**
 The team is discussing setting up monthly events and an annual event. They are working on a proposal and will discuss this further with the broader membership at network meetings.
- Motivational letter:**
 The team send out an email to encourage members to spread the word of RU in their circles in order to get from 80 to 100 members.
- Teams goals:**
 There are continuing discussions about reworking and reaching team goals.
- Content generation 2.0:**
 Lonnie has been working on an updated concept for content generation for the organization. The team has discussed the idea and Lonnie has presented it at the business meeting.
- Weekend socializing:**
 The team also talked about the RU Weekend event idea and continues developing the proposal that will be shared with the broader membership when ready.

of guns, mass killings, the support for QAnon, and the continued support for Trump and Trumpism is beyond understanding and worse than anything occurring in Europe. I sadly agreed. I pointed out at the same time, tens of millions participated in Black Lives Matter protests, the growing support for universal health care , the high support for the right to abortion and for socialism. We need to get more organized.

Thanks again for your time and hospitality. In solidarity, Peter

Peter's in Ireland: Derry leg of the visit

Bridget Meehan

Peter's epic visit to Europe ended with a visit to Ireland. He arrived in Belfast on the morning of Thursday 30th June. I (RU member Bridget Meehan) picked him up from the airport and drove him to Derry. Derry is a small city with a population of 110,000 situated in the north west of Ireland, right on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean (next stop Boston). The 30-year conflict against the British in the north of Ireland began in Derry in 1969 with the Battle of the Bogside. Then, three years later, the city was witness to Bloody Sunday, the name given to the civil rights march at which the terrorist British army shot 26 unarmed marchers, killing 14 of them.

I took Peter to visit the Bloody Sunday museum which is located in the Bogside area of the city, and we met with the Director of the museum, the chair



From the Site Team

- **Updating website content:**
The team identified some new content to add to the website and uploaded it.
- **Submissions form:**
The team discussed adding a content submissions form to the site which would allow members to easily submit their material for publication on the website.
- **Resources page:**
The team will create a resources page to the site.
- **Expanding solidarity:**
Labor 4 sustainability was added to the solidarity section of the website as the fourth organisation involved in Green New Deal organising.
- **Map Updates:**
Website map has been updated with new members.

Revolution Z podcast



REVOLUTION Z
LIFE AFTER CAPITALISM

WITH MICHAEL ALBERT

Our own Michael Albert runs a longstanding weekly podcast on issues related to participatory theory, vision and strategy. He shares his thoughts and also has interesting guests. Definitely a podcast to follow at:

<https://zcomm.org/revolutionz/>

of the museum's Board and a brother of one of the Bloody Sunday victims. The conversation was an interesting one and we heard about the decades-long struggle the Bloody Sunday families had to get justice for their loved ones. Justice finally came in 2010 when the Saville Report was published and formally acknowledged that British paratroopers had fired the first shot and had fired on unarmed civilians. In 2010, the British prime minister apologised on behalf of the British government and called Bloody Sunday unjustified and unjustifiable.

After visiting the museum, we took a stroll around the Bogside and along the old city walls (originally built by the guilds of London in the 1600s). One of the photos below shows Peter in front of a mural in the Bogside depicting a civil rights march. The second photo is of Free Derry Corner, which marks the location of the Battle of the Bogside. I think the phrase "you are now entering free..." was borrowed from the black civil rights movement in the US, though I can't find the reference confirming that. These days, the Free Derry Corner is used as a sort of public notice board of solidarity against oppression. The Corner always has the Free Derry message but it might be painted in different colours (e.g. pink in support of LGBT Pride) and might have additional messages like the one here which is in support of Palestinians.

On Thursday night, fellow RU member Fintan Bradshaw arrived in Derry with his partner Lizzie and beautiful little daughter, Maya. The next day, Peter and I drove some miles away to Monaghan to meet ex-IRA prisoner, blanket man and hunger striker, Tommy McKearney. Tommy spent 53 days on hunger strike in 1980, and according to a doctor had only a few hours left to live when the strike was called off. Prior to commencing his hunger strike, Tommy told his mother and father "if I die, never let the family be ashamed. If I die, I'll die in the knowledge that my life was for the cause. If at my funeral the press say, »see how the IRA let your son die«, just say, »my son died as an Irish soldier, not a British criminal.«" Today, Tommy describes himself as a socialist [Irish] republican and organiser. He co-founded the Independent Workers' Union of Ireland, is a freelance journalist, and edits the publication Fourthwrite. Peter and I spent about three hours talking to Tommy, hearing about his activism, past and present.



Saturday was a lazy day that all of us spent together, walking around the city, enjoying each other's company. On Sunday, we went to nearby Donegal and visited a 6th century stone ringfort which was a royal site in Ireland long before the English invaded. The original fort is gone but the restoration which was carried out in the 1800s looks very authentic. The fort is on top of a hill that has a decent view of the surrounding sea and landscape. Although, being on top of a hill also meant it was seriously windy – I'd recommend it as a cure for a hangover.

And so came the end of Peter's visit to Derry. Sadly, I had to say goodbye to him, Fintan, Lizzie and Maya on Sunday when they set off for Dublin for the final part of Peter's European travels.

Bohmer Does Dublin

Fintan Bradshaw

Monday

The next morning, Real Utopia legend Mark Evans arrived from Birmingham to join the party. Then, following lunch, Mark, Fintan and Peter met in Dublin city centre with the renowned Ferdia O'Brien for a chinwag about various topics such as the value of pragmatism in political organising, participatory economics, Irish political history, current state of Irish politics and other general musings. This lasted well in to the evening and built on previously established relationships. Before returning home that evening, Peter took time to visit the statue of Daniel O'Connell known as 'The Liberator' for his efforts to secure greater freedoms for Ireland's poor tenant farmers in 1800s.

Tuesday

The day began with a relaxing morning, deep in debate over the merits and demerits of participatory markets (ask Mark Evans for more information). After lunch, Tuesday involved a trip to Glasnevin Cemetery to make a pilgrimage to see the graves of the 1916 martyrs and, the union organiser Jim Larkin. Following the trip to Glasnevin, was a trip to Howth summit to get a panoramic view of the city.

Wednesday

Was another day in Dublin city centre. Stepping off the bus, we visited the statue of James Connolly who was executed for his participation in the 1916 rising, he is often quoted as saying . 'Our demands most moderate are: we only want the earth'. Subsequently we took a trip to the 1916 museum at the GPO the site of the first public reading of Ireland's proclamation of independence at Easter 1916. Following that was a short walk to Henrietta St. museum on Georgian housing and tenement living. After a traditional Irish lunch of falafel, a visit was paid to Dublin's famous radical book store Connolly Books, the site of a talk given by Michael Albert in 2018.

The day continued with a wander up Grafton Street, around by Stephen's Green park where we stopped to gather evidence of Mark Evans swotting up on Karl Marx under the tutelage of Peter at the duck pond in the park. and on to the Irish Parliament where Peter met, quite by chance, a compatriot and fellow activist originally hailing from Boston but now resident in Donegal, Terry McIarney.

Despite having spent time over the border in Derry, Bridget's political blindness meant she never alerted Peter to the plight of many suffering from the effects of lax regulation of Ireland's building industry and the consequential crumbling housing stock as a result of mica and pyrite contamination in building blocks. As a result, Peter had to travel to Dublin to discover this and he expressed his solidarity with his compatriot.



Moving on from the current parliament, we passed by the site of the first British parliament on College Green. This is not a picture of Peter with Countess Markievicz who was the first woman to be elected to the British parliament in Westminster outside the site of the first parliament in Ireland. It has since been taken over by a bank which is emblematic of the relationship between finance and government!

A photo by the James Joyce statue followed, including our very own photo bomber, a quote of Joyce's is,

'Writing in English is the most ingenious torture ever devised for sins committed in previous lives. The English reading public explains the reason why'

Writing this has substantiated that claim.

The next statue we visited was that of Jim Larkin, organiser of the largest workers dispute in Ireland in 1913 known as 'the lock-out' and founding the Irish Citizen Army lock-out to protect striking workers from police violence. He is credited with coining the slogan, 'A fair day's work, for a fair day's pay'.

The day ended with a swift viewing of the Guinness brewery and Christ Church Cathedral.

Thursday ended Peter's trip to Europe. After breakfast and a promised reading of Dr Seuss to Maya Peter departed for the airport, unaware that he was about to test positive for Covid within the next 36 hours. I'm sure all on the trip hope it is only a limited absence before he returns to this side of the Atlantic. Mark Evans sought to encourage Peter to lead an RU expedition to Cuba at some point in the future.

Why RU Participating, Marcia?

Marcia Bookstein

OK. Well, my name is Marcia Bookstein, nee Zeavin. I kept the last name of the father of my children so nobody would be confused. Namely me. Also, I was so sick and tired of having to spell my last name, constantly, on the phone: Z as in zebra, e, a, V as in Victor, i, n as in Nancy. Over and over. I'm done with that. Now, of course, people add an R in Bookstein because I live on Cranbrook Court, so of course, it's Brookstein, right? Oh, well.

And, of course, I love expounding on my first name: Marcia (pronounced Marsha) with the CIA. Yeah, fun.

I was born and grew up in LA, Westchester, specifically, then Inglewood when I was 13 years old. 70 years ago we burned our garbage in the backyard. That's right, we had an incinerator, our own private one, like everyone else. I can't believe it now. I had asthma as a kid, and all this time I thought it was the leaded gasoline filling people's cars. That, plus the airplanes overhead, and the literal garbage being incinerated. LA air still smells foul to me, like sulphur. But lots of people seem to have good lives there.

I went to UCLA and started in pre-med, but nearly flunked Chemistry r-A. I can do math but can't do word problems. Absolutely stymied. Basically, I lack a logical mind. I can recognize logic in other people but can't seem to generate it. I'm still alive, so I can't really call it a handicap, but it certainly kept me out of the sciences!

So I tried psychology next, and that was a bore except for "Abnormal Psych", which probably doesn't exist anymore. Things we thought were abnormal at that time have become mainstream and embraced, thank goodness.

After that was Folklore and Mythology, which I loved. The only thing was, I believed everything I learned. So here's something fun: Do you want to know the name of the man you're going to marry? Face a mirror with a wide bowl of water behind you. Peel an orange and throw the peel behind you into the bowl. When you are done, turn around, and the peel will form the letters of the fellow you will someday marry! Don't you love it?

Then I transferred to Cal State Northridge because of their superior music performance department.

Oh, did I mention that I started cello lessons at age nine? With Doris Savery? Nobody ever mentions their first teacher, but that would be the most important one, right? Miss Savery never, ever played the cello to demonstrate. Why was this? She was "middle aged", with enormous breasts, and in between nestled a Chihuahua under her

Hawaiian shirt. When she gave instruction I wouldn't look at her face, I'd look at these bugged-out eyes staring at me from between her breasts. The dog never moved the entire 30 minutes of the lesson.

She also taught some of my current colleagues in the San Diego Symphony. I credit the dog as the inspiration for the impeccable and highly useful instruction.

You've probably figured that while I was at UCLA the Vietnam war was raging. My sister had a philosophy class with Angela Davis, who was arrested just before finals. The students were told to give themselves a grade, and my sister gave herself a B, when pretty much everyone else gave themselves A's. I hid from the horrors of that war in the practice room, but it hit me hard when one of my colleagues got a r-A designation. He went on a diet of bananas and water for a month and came in underweight. Better that than coming back in a body bag.

It took me seven years to get a Bachelor's degree. I was playing in the Pasadena Symphony, doing all sorts of other musical jobs (on the soundtrack to Attack of the Killer Tomatoes) and practicing like crazy. I was also attending Gregor Piatigorsky's master class at USC as an auditor, and played around twice a month for the master. I never knew when he'd call on me, so I was a nervous wreck for the four years I was there. I also studied with his assistants, Jeffrey Solow and Nathaniel Rosen. So basically I never partied, practiced and studied the whole time.

And went to Israel to play with the Jerusalem Symphony (Kol Yisrael) for ten months, 1975-76, between several senior years. They made me principal cellist, which was awful. The section hated me, being young, American, and female.

OK, so here's a fun story: I changed a bowing. A bowing they had been doing for years and years. Silly me. Rina, who sat behind me, stood up, while we were playing, and in her nasal-toned voice, in four different languages (Russian, Yiddish, Hebrew, English), spoke loudly about what an imbecile I was. Gradually people stopped playing. The conductor finally put his baton down, eyes wide, mouth agape, and called an intermission. I could barely keep from bursting into tears. What was fascinating is, each nationality had a different reaction. The Russians: You poor thing! I'm so sorry this happened to you. You certainly don't deserve it! (With an arm around my shoulders.) The Israelis: Buck up! You're strong! Pay no mind to her. You can do this! And the Americans: . That's right. Zilch. I was shunned. We don't know you,

and you don't exist. Stunning. To a man and woman.

While I was part of the orchestra, we did a tour of the US and Canada. Around 30 cities. Also, while there, I went with their Protection of Nature group on a six day tour of the Sinai Desert. That was incredible, something I'll never forget. We are reminded that the Hebrews of 4,000 years ago had to move around as there were lots of them, lots of animals, and lots of poop. The air is so dry that nothing disintegrates.

I was fairly a-political until my kids went to college. Em was first. I realized that they had friends who had family who had friends, and on. So, basically we are all connected. I was listening to Randi Rhodes on the radio (Air America) while driving one day and someone asked, "You keep saying, 'get involved'. What do you mean, 'get involved'?" "You know, get involved!" "No, I don't know." "Yes! Just get involved!" "But what does that mean?" "You go to your telephone book, look up the name of your city and "Democratic Party," call them up and say, 'How can I help.'" So that's what I did. This was in 2006. In six years I made around 4,000 phone calls getting 61 people to walk in their precincts to get out the vote, trained them, and walked many precincts each election year after that. One time I got into it with someone on the phone. Yes, I allowed it to escalate until he told me that he had a gun and would find me and kill me. I had his name and address on my list, so I called the police and they found a gun in the home and confiscated it. I'm still alive, but that scared me. It did not prevent me from making more phone calls and knocking on doors.

Up until the very, very last minute did I realize that Obama wasn't playing three-dimensional chess, that he was who he showed himself to be, and I was gravely disappointed. (Although I did write to him four times on very nice stationery and got what I wanted, including, on his last day in office, Chelsea Manning's sentence

commutation.) This last election I walked for Bernie in neighborhoods of immigrants and working class people, and learned that they were tired of voting for people who were not going to do squat for them. Which makes me very pessimistic about 2022 and the rest of my life's elections. The veil has been pulled away by the people who gave me the gift of presence, listening, and giving of their own hearts. I will never forget some of the experiences I had talking with people, trying to give them hope. California voted for Bernie, and then we saw what happened after that. We are a corrupt country, filled with good-hearted, well-meaning, hard working people. I also made calls with Sunrise for candidates all around this country, having many unforgettable conversations. I will tell you sometime of my favorite ones, if you are interested.

How did I find Real Utopia? It began with the death of my wonderful dog, Lady Bird. Without telling you about this dog and the circumstances of my "owning" her, her premature death brought me into a state where I could do nothing but take our old walks, crying my eyes out, and search for "dog" on the computer. I was already a fan of Noam Chomsky's and had noticed that, during an interview, he did something with his hand that looked like he might have been stroking a dog's head. So I Googled, What kind of dog does Noam Chomsky have? I found nothing but an interview of him talking about his bilingual parrot. Disappointed, I scrolled down to the comments. The second comment was someone mentioning his class through the University of Arizona. I quickly signed up for it, and that's where Michael Albert entered. "There's got to be a better way," is my thinking, and he has apparently been thinking along the same lines. Thus, Real Utopia. It's good to find my peeps here, listen to people way smarter than I talking about the issues, and feeling respected when I pipe up with my own out-of-the-box thoughts.

Meeting between RU, ZNet and PEP

At the meeting between RU, Z and Participatory Economics Project (PEP) the groups discussed protocol for sharing content between the three organisations. RU proposed that all three organisations share content freely and may republish each others content. Mitchell will put this idea to PEP and report their decision at future meeting.

Meetings are decided to be continued on a monthly basis with, besides whatever other agenda items are to be discussed, each party's delegate laying out a short update of their organizations activities and future agenda item to the meetings to try to find common projects to work on.

Next meeting is scheduled for 17th of August at 16:00 hrs (UK time).

The collective power of commoning care

Urška Breznik

Some thoughts on Commoning care and Collective power: Childcare Commons and the Micropolitics of Municipalism in Barcelona (Manuela Zechner, transversal texts 2021)

I first heard about the book *Commoning care and Collective power: Childcare Commons and the Micropolitics of Municipalism in Barcelona* by Manuela Zechner when I came across an event taking place in Graz, Austria, called *Activist urbanism for a solidary city*. Although taking place close to where I live, I was at that time not able to attend the event despite having a huge interest in municipalist movements being a part of one myself here in Maribor. Also, I was somewhat familiar with the *Barcelona en Comú*, which is a citizens' movement in Barcelona, Spain, established in 2014 focused on social justice and community rights and promoting participatory democracy. As many municipalist movements in Europe it has been developed in an aftermath of the economic crisis and the realisation that capitalism and representative democracy not only impoverish people and trample on their basic rights such as the rights to housing, food, healthcare and education, but also destroy the communities and neighbourhoods through gentrification and exclusion of various groups of people.

The outrage people felt and still feel is thus constructively canalised in researching and finding new forms of solidarities in the cities and getting politically educated through the processes they are involved in on the daily level, either being members of groups that fight for the housing rights, making their neighbourhoods greener, implementing participatory mechanisms (for example participatory budgeting), fighting for the commons (keeping the water or gas companies public, fighting against turistifications of the cities etc.) or establishing new networks of care for children, elderly, refugees.

Within the context of participatory society my interests lay in understanding how kinship and community spheres could be developed further, therefore I was happy to discover that there is a book based on research of existing communities that try to form new networks and institutions (mostly feminist) based on mutual aid and care. The author Manuela Zechner is a researcher, cultural worker and facilitator working on micropolitics, care, migration and municipalism. She did her Phd on the intersection between care and precarity in Spanish and UK social movements. In her research care and micropolitics are anchoring terms. Zechner states that: "To grasp care in its proper political



Reclaiming the commons

and ethical dimensions, we have to differentiate between its many different modalities and expressions.« (Zechner, 2021, p.20) She introduces us to Joan Tronto's (Tronto,1993), a professor of political science and women's studies, five phases of care that flow into each other:

1. 'Caring about' as the dimension of attention, worry and concern (in terms of childcare, often also referred to as 'the mental load').
2. 'Taking care of' as the dimension of caring gestures and tasks.
3. 'Care-giving' as the continuous, dedicated and labourious activity of looking after someone.
4. 'Care-receiving' as the being on the receiving end, a role largely mystified as exceptional and 'weak' yet crucial and inevitable to all life
5. And, finally, as Tronto added later on, 'caring-with', which is more akin to solidarity and indeed probably also with commoning care (Tronto 2009a; 2013).

Zechner writes that in our society these five phases of care tend to be increasingly segregated and she is right too, what we all can witness in our every day lives either as primary carers of our elderly or sick, as nurses in hospitals or elderly people's homes, as mothers, housewives, maids, nannies, cleaners, cooks etc. Even more so if we are poor or migrant workers. Zechner continues:» Stuck at opposite ends of care chains, women are often alienated from one another, and

from caring where they might most like to, if they could do it with autonomy: with their communities and families, their homes and territories.« (Zechner, 2021, p.22) But the question of care is a very political question and stratified along lines of gender, class, race, ability, age etc. Many people are stuck with care-giving and care-receiving only, as they are objectified as care-workers or people in- need. In this context, struggling for care means to fight for dignified conditions, infrastructures, visibility and rights: struggles for care. (Zechner, 2021, p.24).

In the first chapter of the book *Common struggles*. From *Autonomy to Interdependence* and back again the author discusses the importance of the commons and the relationship between the commons and the community with the focus on the role of women in struggles around social reproduction, their strategies, practices and alternative infrastructures in order to politicise care.

In the second chapter *Childcare commons: Mother's symposium*, the neighbourhood politics of care and municipal policy the reader is introduced to various self-organised groups that combine pedagogy, care and organisation to build sustainable alternatives to public and private nurseries for bringing up children and creating communities in the neighbourhood of Poble Sec in Barcelona with 40.3358 inhabitants in 2017.

What I found extremely poignant in these chapters is that children should be included in the political-organisational spaces, which Barcelona en Comú as a municipalist movement does admirably well and creates interdependence between different age groups, bodies, neighbourhoods, social movements... Zechner states that childcare is usually considered as an aspect of feminist politics often taken to be unrelated – or worse, irrelevant – to social movements or indeed institutional politics. As a concrete instance of care, childcare here emerges as a kaleidoscope that allows us to see dynamics of collective power, commons and micropolitics in new colours and from new angles. (Zechner, 2021, p. 24).

In the third chapter *Commoning power: The micropolitics of municipalism* the author discusses the relationship between pathways of municipalist social movements. The author and her co-researcher developed a diagram that shows that often movements stay in one area of it for years, either focusing mostly on social media and networked campaigns, or engaging mostly in squatting and neighbourhood politics, or focusing on union and organisational politics or looking into electoral politics mostly (Zechner, 2021, p.136). The chapter then goes on to analyse how part of the Barcelona municipalism went on to build electoral power mobilising the power from the streets, neighbourhoods and squares. As the author states, collective power has many dimensions: embodiment, relation, inhabitation, organisation, representation, mediation... and there's not one way of articulating those, but many. Building



Neighbours in Barcelona celebrating a birthday

power transversally always means building singular pathways and connections (Zechner, 2021, p.26).

In the fourth chapter *By the way, on concluding: Struggles for care*, struggling to care the author asks herself how do we think and practice interdependence and autonomy together? How to build autonomy from corporate-financial markets and the states that defend them, to rebuild ways of depending on one another carefully (Zechner, 2021, p.205)? Throughout the book and at the end the author makes a case for what she calls »a transversal approach« in order to build social power in inclusive and sustainable ways. Transversal means cutting across different spheres of power:

1. The non-organised social of informal relations: the extended family, friendships, informal communities, loose networks;
2. The inhabiting social, where the organising principle is space: neighbourhood, homes, social centres, assembly spaces, distribution points;
3. The organised social, with protocols and formal divisions of work: unions, associations, institutions, clubs, cooperatives, organised networks;
4. The representational, whose organising principles are governance and mediations: institutions, welfare and legal systems, parties, the media (Zechner and Rübner Hansen, 2015).

The book concludes with an excellent practical mapping exercise to be used as a tool that helps to visualise and politicise care and reproductions from the personal to the collective, institutional and ecological.

Commoning care and collective power is at the same time a book of concepts, practical experiences and inspirations that we can draw from in planning the transition to participatory society.

Member's Picks

Books

[A Psalm for the Wild-Built \(Tordotcom, 2021\)](#)
by Betty Chambers

Centuries before, robots of Panga gained self-awareness, laid down their tools, wandered, en masse into the wilderness, never to be seen again. They faded into myth and urban legend.

Now the life of the tea monk who tells this story is upended by the arrival of a robot, there to honor the old promise of checking in. The robot cannot go back until the question of "what do people need?" is answered.

[Less is More \(Windmill Books, 2021\)](#)
by Jason Hickel

The world has finally awoken to the reality of climate breakdown and ecological collapse. Now we must face up to its primary cause: capitalism. Our economic system is based on perpetual expansion, which is devastating the living world. There is only one solution that will lead to meaningful and immediate change: degrowth.

[Radical reproductive justice \(The Feminist Press at CUNY, 2017\)](#)
by Loretta Ross et al

Radical Reproductive Justice assembles two decades' of work initiated by SisterSong Women of Color Health Collective, creators of the human rights-based "reproductive justice" framework to move beyond polarized pro-choice/pro-life debates. Rooted in Black feminism and built on intersecting identities, this revolutionary framework asserts a woman's right to have children, to not have children, and to parent and provide for the children they have.

[Men Explain Things to Me \(Haymarket Books, 2014\)](#)
by Rebecca Solnit

In her comic, scathing essay "Men Explain Things to Me," Rebecca Solnit took on what often goes wrong in conversations between men and women. She wrote about men who wrongly assume they know things and wrongly assume women don't, about why this arises, and how this aspect of the gender wars works, airing some of her own hilariously awful encounters.

[Platform Socialism \(Pluto Press, 2022\)](#)
by James Muldoon

Whoever controls the platforms, controls the future. Platform Socialism sets out an alternative vision and concrete proposals for a digital economy that expands our freedom.

[The Dawn of Everything \(Penguin books, 2021\)](#)
by David Graeber, David Wengrow



Podcast

[The Detroit Socialist Podcast](#)
Michael Albert Interview March 2022

Films

[Mother!](#)

Jennifer Lawrence and Javier Bardem star as a couple whose lives are disrupted when mysterious strangers come to their country home. It doesn't seem political at first, but it all makes sense at the end. A very powerful movie.

[Good luck to you, Leo Grande](#)

Emma Thompson plays a 60-something woman who's never experienced sexual pleasure, so she hires a sex worker (Daryl McCormack) to help her figure it out. Aside from the dramatically unusual (though they shouldn't be) sex scenes and the centering of female pleasure, which almost never happens in movies, there is also a very interesting discussion of sex work.

Music

[*When the President Talks to God*](#)
by Bright Eyes

Video

[Honest Government Ad](#)

Still I Rise

Maya Angelou

You may write me down in history
 With your bitter, twisted lies,
 You may trod me in the very dirt
 But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?
 Why are you beset with gloom?
 'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
 Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,
 With the certainty of tides,
 Just like hopes springing high,
 Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?
 Bowed head and lowered eyes?
 Shoulders falling down like teardrops,
 Weakened by my soulful cries?

Does my haughtiness offend you?
 Don't you take it awful hard
 'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines
 Diggin' in my own backyard.

You may shoot me with your words,
 You may cut me with your eyes,

You may kill me with your hatefulness,
 But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?
 Does it come as a surprise
 That I dance like I've got diamonds
 At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history's shame
 I rise
 Up from a past that's rooted in pain
 I rise
 I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
 Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
 I rise
 Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
 I rise
 Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
 I am the dream and the hope of the slave.

I rise

I rise

I rise.

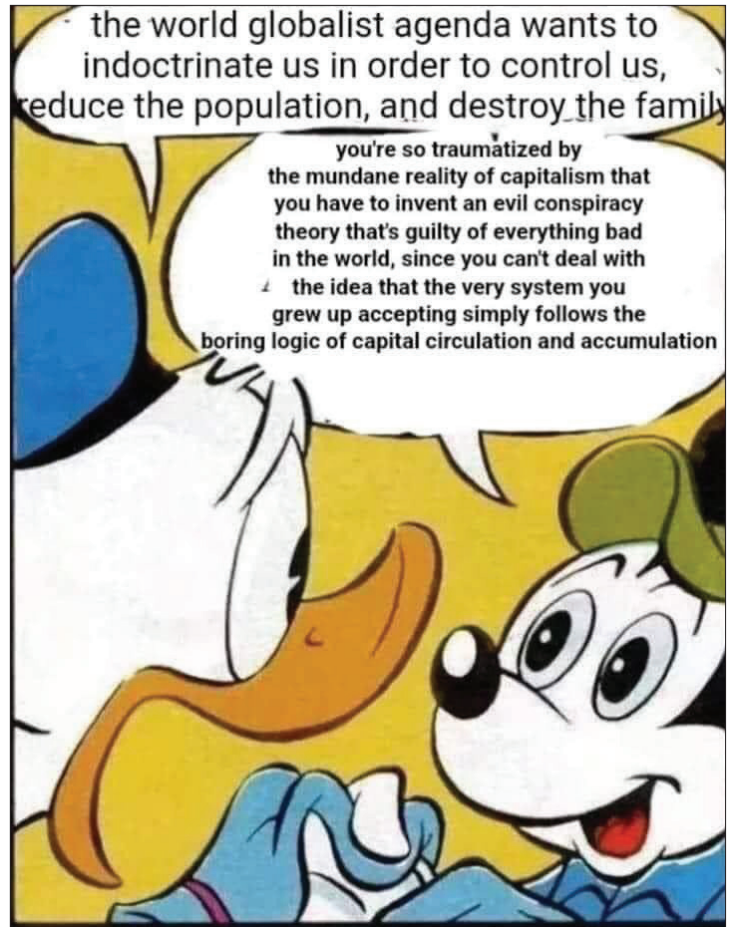
RU Serious?

... it's memeing time.



Don't know who that guy Simon de Boliva is, but if your interested in philosophy, I really recommend Jordan Peterson

- Courtesy of Sve su to vještice.



Meme unavailable
due to supply
chain issues.

Thanks for your
understanding.