

# Agenda #6, March 13, 2008

## Session 7. Social Empowerment and the Economy

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### 1. Equal-Asset Market Socialism

- Corruption of managers (Edo) Insider trading (Molly)
- Will this really change anything – perhaps it will be even worse in terms of exploitation, hierarchy, etc. (Rodolfo)
- Skeptical of reduction of “public bads” argument (Edo, Rodolfo)
- Necessity for a strong state, powerful central bank, etc. (Edo)
- Importance of the market in market socialism (Wes)
- Problem of black market (Julian)
- The governance of firms: workers power? Bureaucratic management? (Julian) Separation of ownership & control when ownership is diffuse (Molly)
- Is the method for distributing assets fair across time? (Guillaume)
- Exploitation and labor market inequality in market socialism (Tod)

### 2. Social Economy

- The problem of values: can the social economy work with capitalist values? (Julian)
- Social economy & social capitalism – how do cooperatives fit in? (Rodrigo)
- Markets and the social economy: how are these linked? (Rodrigo)
- Social economy & statism: idea of *state ownership+ workers control*: what does this mean institutionally? (Rodrigo)
- Underlying normative principle of social economy: benevolence or common needs? (Sung Ik)
- Role of the state in a social economy/social market: does this limit the scale? (Sung-Ik) How central is the state in sustaining social economy (Pablo, Santiago) Does the state control the social economy? (Catherine)
- State planning and the social economy – how can this work? (Catherine)
- What is the range of economic activities that can be organized through the social economy? (Ruth)
- How can solidarity/cohesion exist within a social economy? (Santiago)
- How should we understand the meaning of “social empowerment” in the social economy and in cooperatives, non-profits? (Guillaume)
- Social economy, privatization and the state abdicating responsibilities (Molly)

### 3. Unconditional Basic Income

- Capital flight (Julian)
- UBI would reduce incentive for unions and thus weaken them (Molly). Strengthening unions might not be good for social power (Charity)

### 4. General considerations

- What precisely is meant by “markets” in the model, since markets are seen as essential for socialism? (Rodolfo)
- Markets and socialism are fundamentally incompatible. Why not have comprehensive planning? (Ricardo)
- Can socialism really co-exist with capitalism – is the idea of socialist hybrids legitimate? (Pablo)
- Do these proposals really challenge the core institutions of capitalism? (Pablo)
- How do these proposals fit into the overall pathways to social empowerment idea? (Edo)
- What are the ideological and cultural processes for diffusing these ideas? (Eduardo)
- Does the state have to be radically democratized before any of these initiatives can be carried out? (Charity)