



The
Others

Introduction

We believe that imagining a radical and positive future for government is futile without reconsidering the economic system that underpins and shapes its priorities.

We need an alternative to the existing economic ideology that no longer produces overall positive outcomes for most of us, rather than simply suggesting fixes to government as is.

As evidenced by social and environmental issues like climate breakdown, global inequality, the sixth mass extinction, surveillance capitalism, migration and war, governments bound by this system are unable to care for us now, or in the long-term.

Pursuit of financial growth requires exploitation and commodification of both people and planet. It makes us pollute our air, erode our soil, poison our water and unravel our social fabric.

These outcomes affect all of us in one way or another, regardless of our personal ideologies or worldviews. But we are largely left to grapple with the consequences, as well as our own complicity, as individuals or nuclear units.

What could happen if a large enough number of us began to question the agreed upon fiction we inhabit?
What if we could find each other and imagine a new way to organise life?

This contribution imagines The Others, a movement that could emerge to do this. The Others is made up of people seeking change, who are tired of waiting for it. They construct a society within society and an economy within the economy, which both place care for and maintenance of life at their core.





The Others

The Others creates a 'third space' within society. It is a place for anyone disenfranchised, seeking change or simply looking for connection.

Joining together enables a new, shared reality to emerge; one that carves previously unimaginable avenues of possibility into capitalist reality.



Inside the word 'emergency' is 'emerge'; from an emergency new things come forth.
— Rebecca Solnit



2020

Manifesto

We are...

Hidden in plain sight; the strangers you don't yet speak to.

The majority; the flowers in the dustbins of the few.

Ready to unite; the voices assembling to break the silence.

Your kin; the social fabric you need to thrive.

We are The Others.

We seek to...

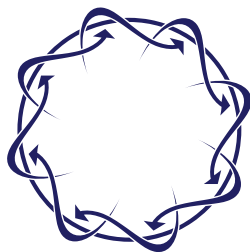
Pause to think, feel and wonder.

Dissent in solidarity with each other.

Subvert the system that divides.

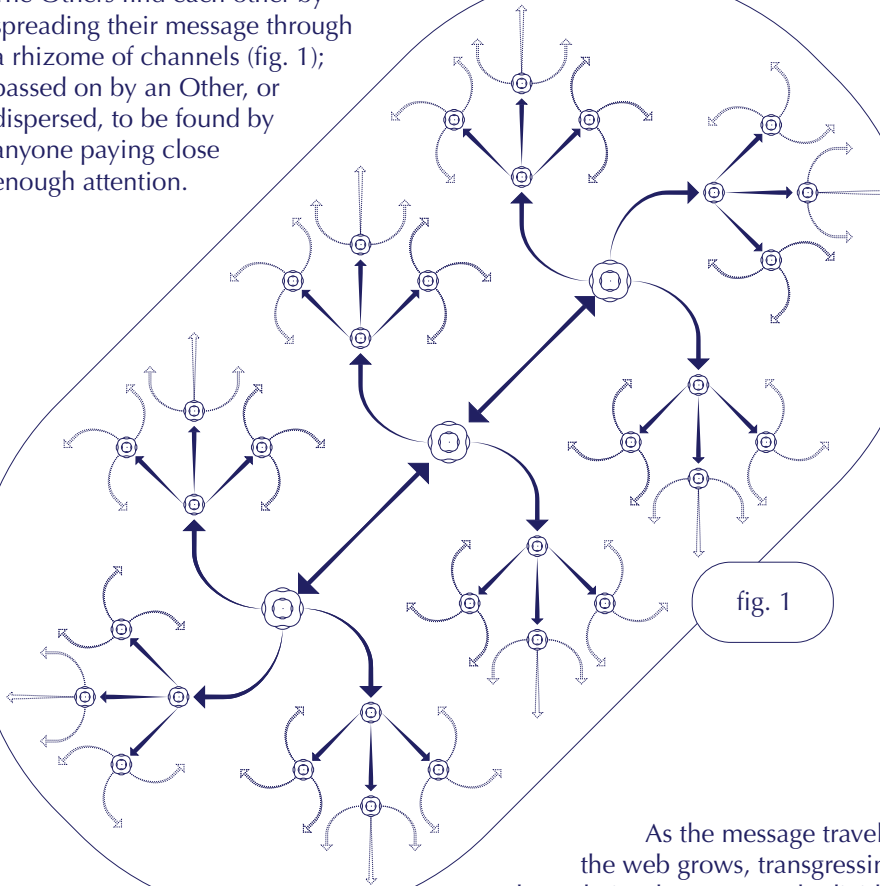
Organise around a logic that gives life.

Reveal the world that we know can be real.



Find The Others

The Others find each other by spreading their message through a rhizome of channels (fig. 1); passed on by an Other, or dispersed, to be found by anyone paying close enough attention.



As the message travels,
the web grows, transgressing
boundaries that commonly divide.

— Seek and learn to recognize who and what, in the midst of the inferno, are not inferno, then make them endure, give them space. —
— Italo Calvino

2022



We refuse
to be unmade
by what surrounds us

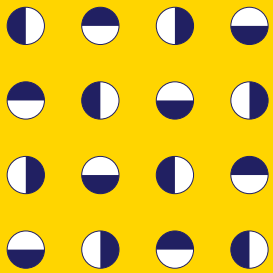
We choose
to make
the world anew

We are
joyous that
you found us

Will you
pass the word
to Others too?

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The
Others

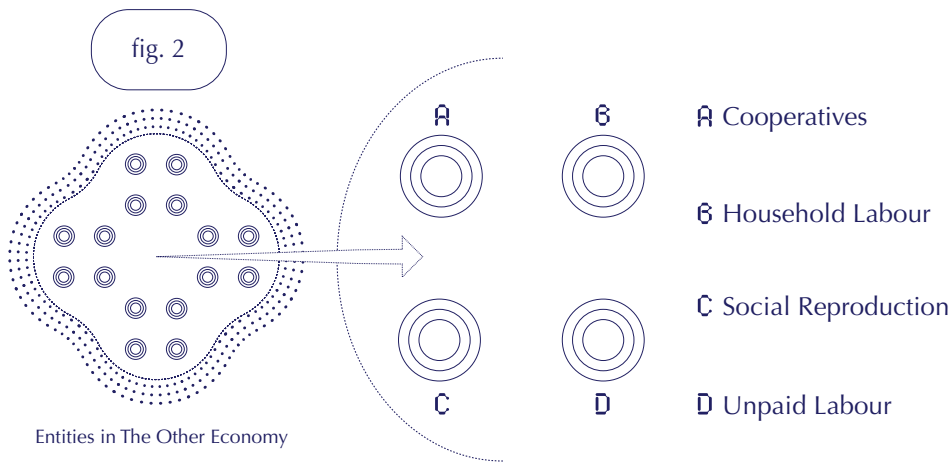
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An Other Economy

The Other Economy is not centered on the growth of financial capital. It runs on a new type of currency and generates value by maintaining and sustaining life.

It is made up of non-extractive entities and activities that share a common purpose and values, such as maintenance, care and other social reproduction work, different types of co-operatives, and grassroots and community initiatives. It networks and amplifies existing pockets of resistance and activism (fig. 2).



All production, exchange and consumption of goods and services in The Other Economy inherently contributes to generative or regenerative outcomes for natural and/or social systems.

2025 - 2030

A New Currency

The Other Economy is federated by a new currency: Moments (fig. 3). It uses time as the basic unit of exchange and account because it is equitable – the one asset we all hold in equal amounts, the one investment everyone has to make and the one resource impossible to reproduce.

Time lived functions as a form of natural capital, a basic income. It is available to anyone alive. Every second, minute, hour, day, week, month, year, [...] lived adds credit in Moments to your account (fig. 4). They can be spent or saved, but expire when the life they are coupled to does.

fig. 3

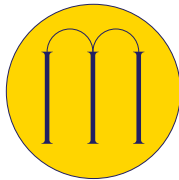
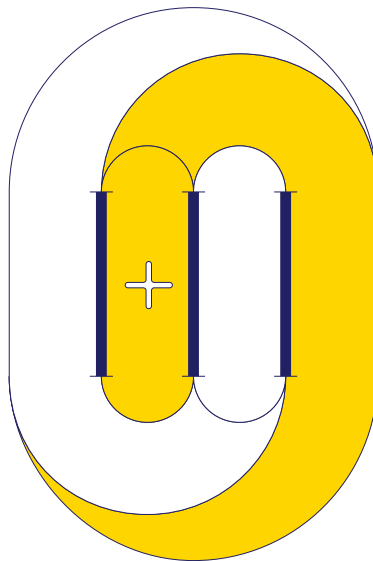


fig. 4



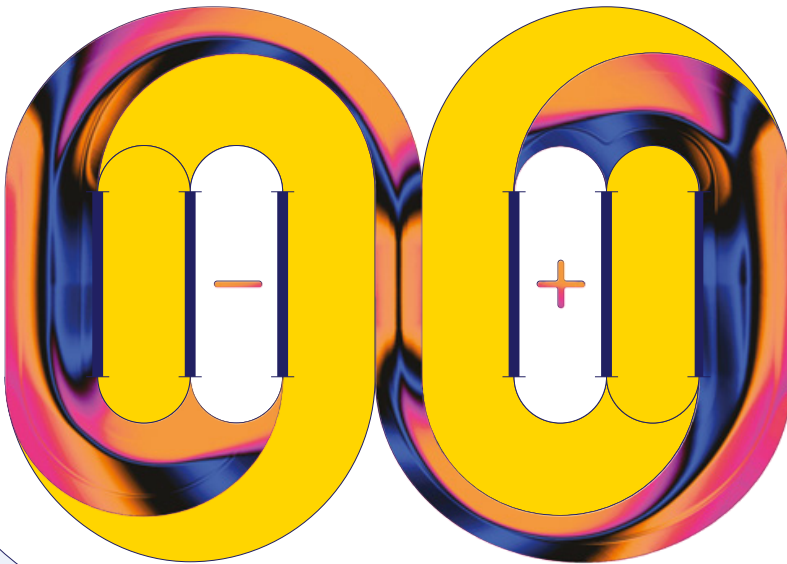
The master's tools will never dismantle the master's house.
– Audre Lorde

A Basis for Everyone

Moments can be used by account holders to purchase goods or services produced in The Other Economy. In this way anyone who wants to make use of their basic income will help it grow, regardless of their personal values.

Anyone wanting to earn Moments can lend time to activities in The Other Economy. Beneficiaries transfer the according amount to reflect time spent and value created (fig. 5).

fig. 5

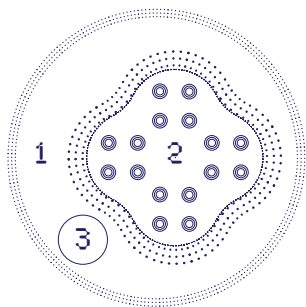


Free your mind of the idea of earning, and you will begin to be able to think.
– Ursula K. Le Guin

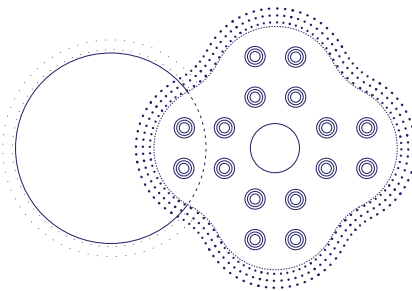
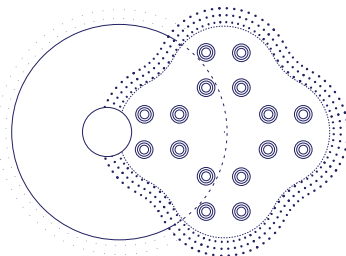
Shifting Power

The Other Economy is symbiotic within itself, whilst parasitic to the capitalist market economy (fig. 6)
As The Other Economy grows, it saps capital's power, slowly liberating itself, the state and the public imagination.

fig. 6



- 1 Capitalist Market Economy
- 2 The Other Economy
- 3 The State



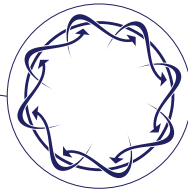


Governance

The Other Economy provides opportunities for the state, no longer instrumentalised by an extractive economic model, to make choices that truly serve its citizens.

The Others do not seek to exist outside of society or democratic governance; they believe in a democracy that empowers the majority.

They support political equality by expanding democracy to the economic realm. Providing basic economic egalitarianism frees up time and space for everyone to participate in political processes.

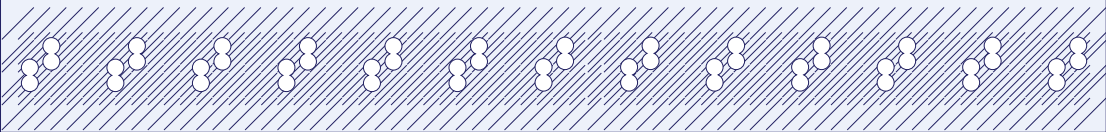


Charting Progress

To chart progress, The Others measure the quality and quantity of time spent on maintenance, care and other types of work that make us thrive.

They foreground and value the often invisible work that that upholds natural and social systems. Vitality, not growth is the core metric.

We ought to imagine the wildest possibilities and then wonder why they don't happen.
— Howard Becker





The Others

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There is another world, but it is in this one.
– William Butler Yeats