

# Worker Co-operatives and Spaces of Possibility: An investigation of subject space at Collective Copies

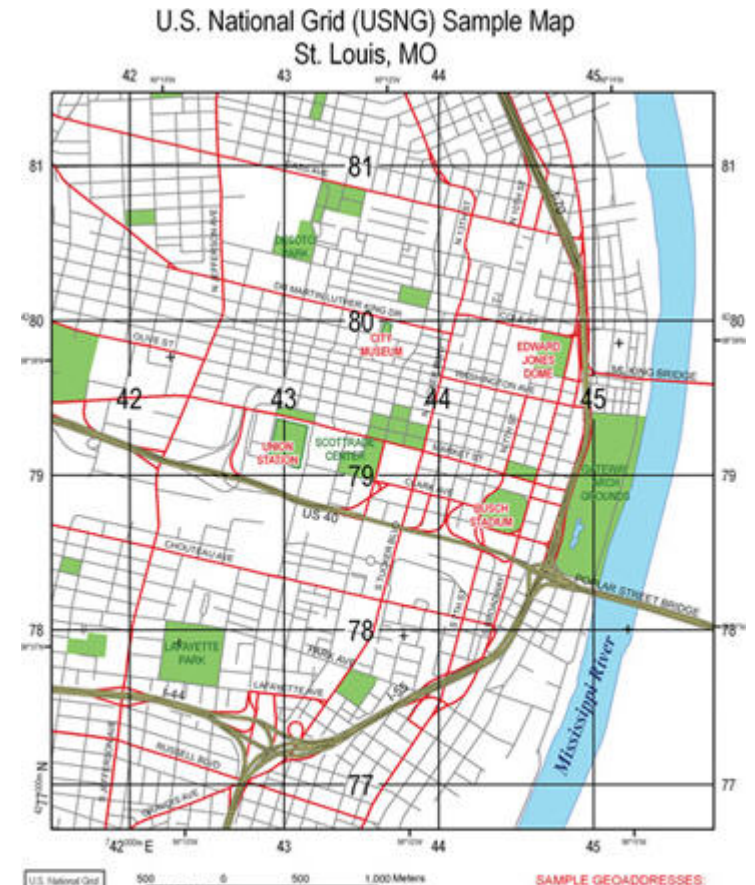
*Janelle Cornwell, University of Massachusetts Department  
of Geosciences*

*...concepts of space and time and the practices associated with them are far from socially neutral in human affairs.*

*David Harvey*

# “Production of space”

*Enclosures represent a remarkable historical creation of absolute space* Neil Smith



# “Production of space”

*Enclosures represent a remarkable historical creation of absolute space.*

*As capital extends its sway, the entire globe is partitioned into legally distinct parcels divided by great white fences, real or imaginary.*

*Neil Smith*



# “Production of space”



*As capital extends its sway, the entire globe...*

# Theoretical Space

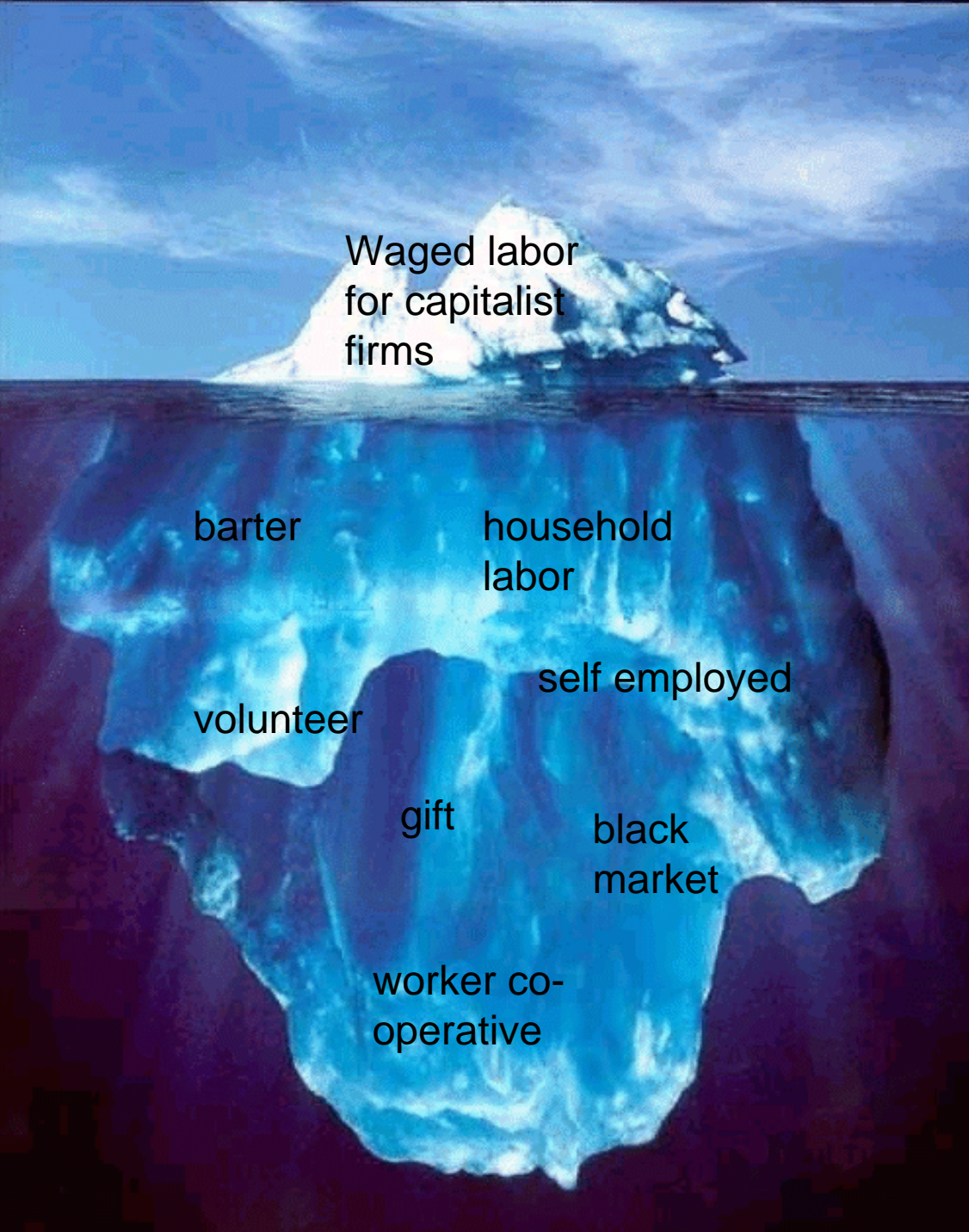
## Capitalocentrism

## Diverse Economy



This is the economy  
most people  
recognize.





Waged labor  
for capitalist  
firms

barter

household  
labor

volunteer

self employed

gift

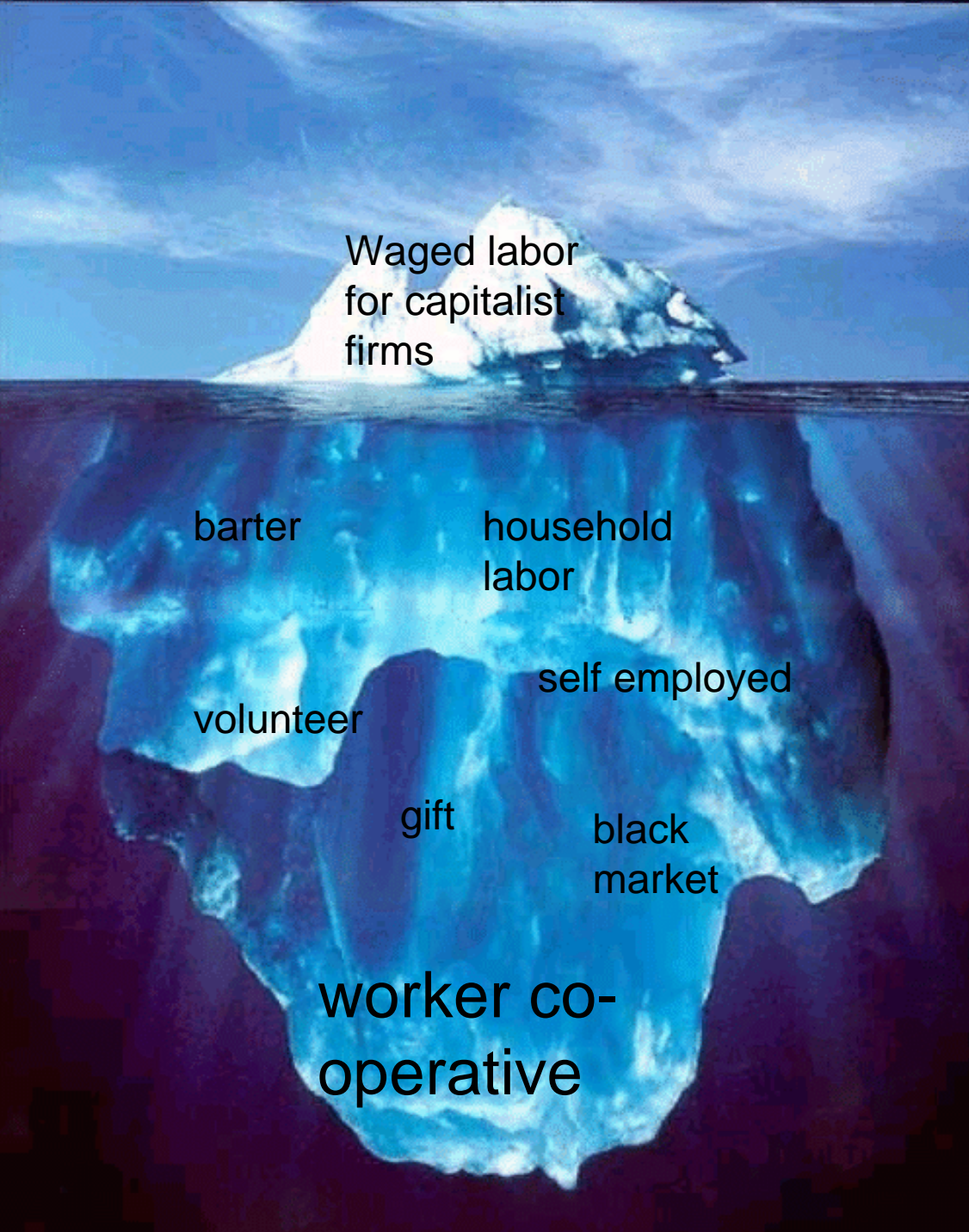
black  
market

worker co-  
operative

This is the economy  
most people  
recognize.

This is a more  
inclusive view  
of the  
economy.





This is the economy most people recognize.

This is a more inclusive view of the economy.

If capitalism can be seen to produce capitalist space, how are non-capitalisms (re)producing non-capitalist space?

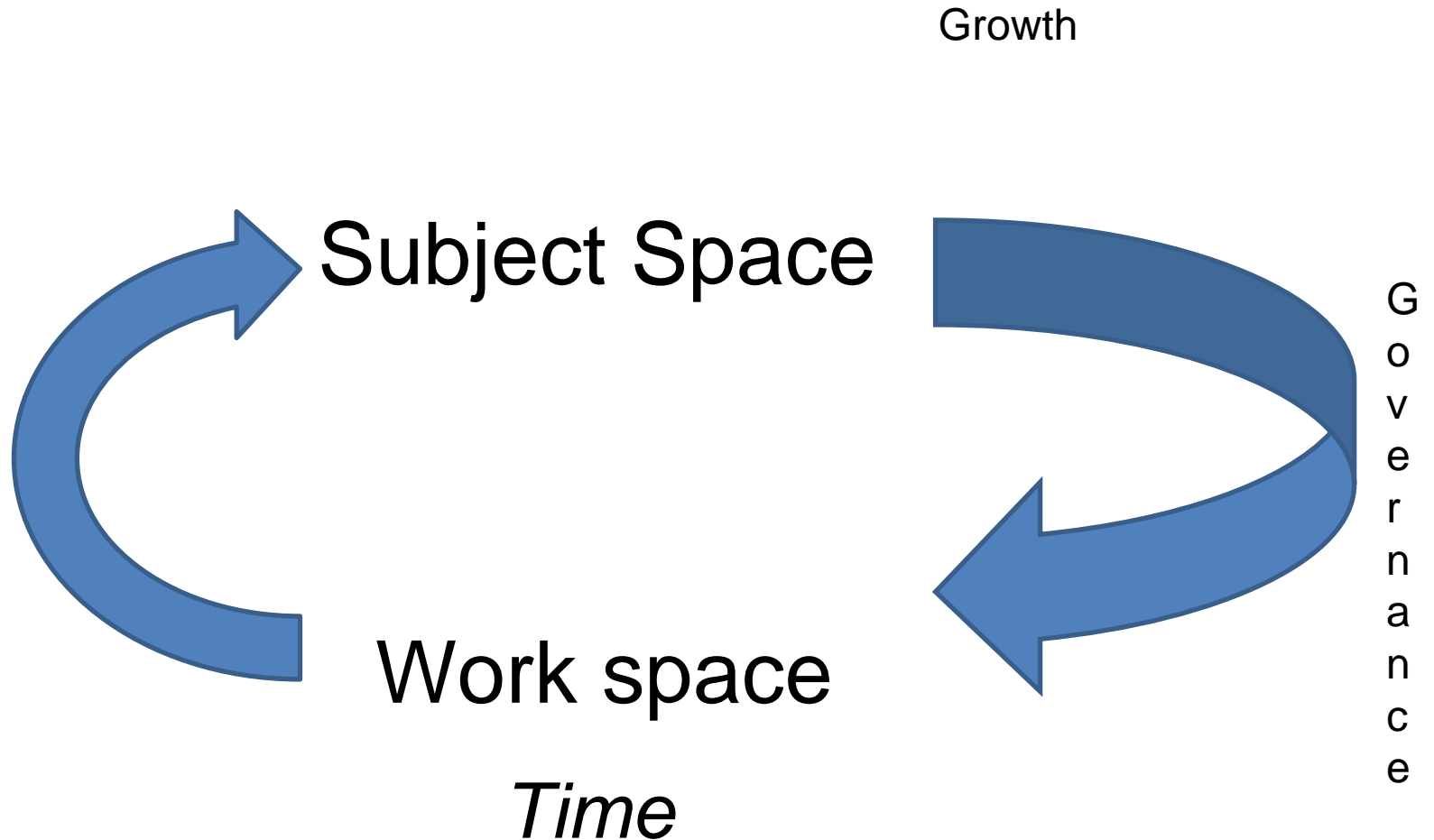


# Subject space





# Spaces of possibility



# Space



Collective Copies compared to a local capitalist shop:

*“...look at the floor layout, it is hyper stratified. The designers are physically above and away from the production workers... younger, less trained workforce, more skilled designer, sort of top down flow of work...”*

*Caleb Wetmore, collective member since 2000*

*“I get my way all the time here.”*

*Carol McCall, sole proprietor of Paradise Copies  
(former member of Collective Copies)*

# Time

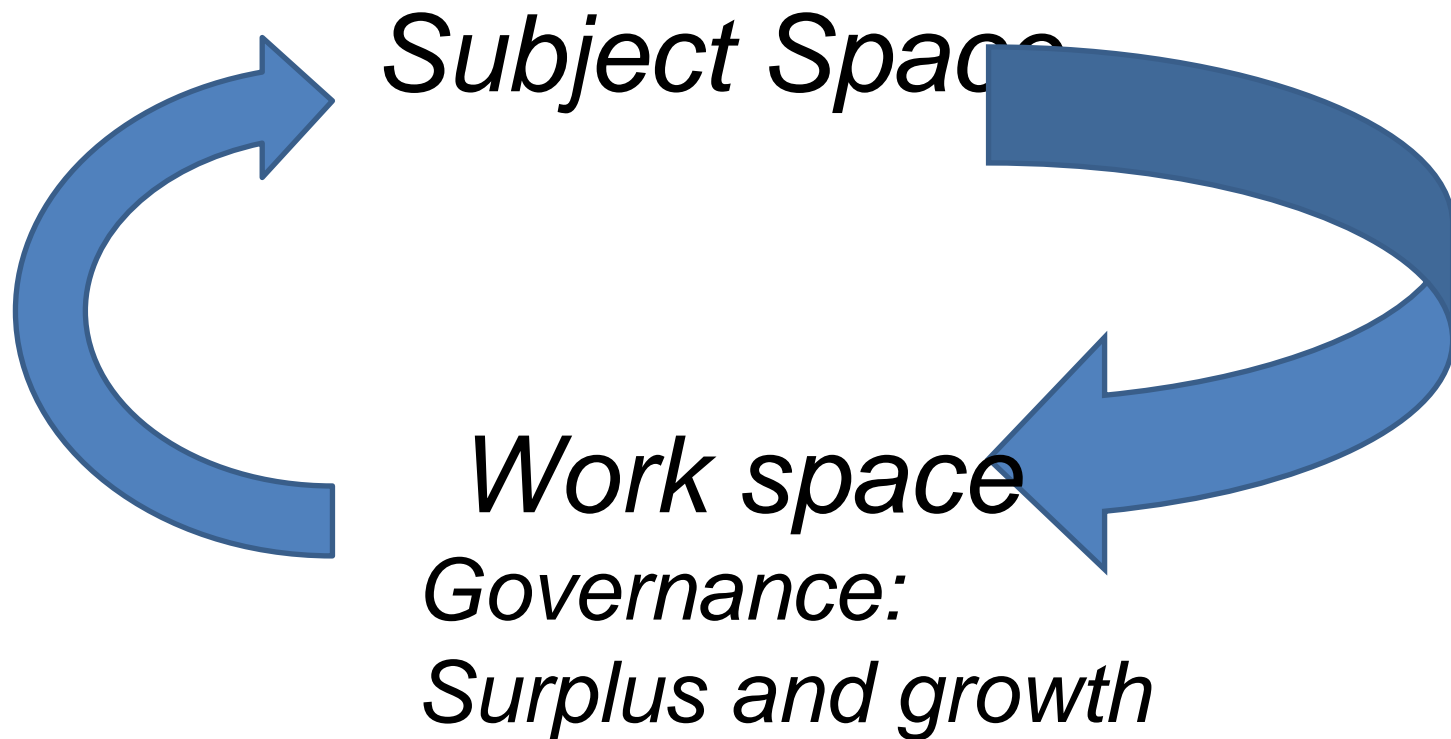


*“Today Randy had to pick up his kid; he left, went and picked up his kid. It’s like you do what you need to do. You live your life.”*

*Jen Gallant, collective member since 1996*



# Spaces of possibility



# Governance



*Adam Trott, collective member  
since 2004*

*“...we have control over that  
together.”*

**Surplus**

# Transformations



*“In a philosophical way, it helped transform that idea into a concrete solution. Like when I go to work, it’s like I feel like I’m changing the world”*

*Randy Zucco, collective member since 1998*

# The Movement

## (Growing more spaces)

*“We’re all worker cooperatives, we cooperate inside out businesses, maybe we can cooperate among our businesses...”*

*Adam Trott, collective member since 2004*



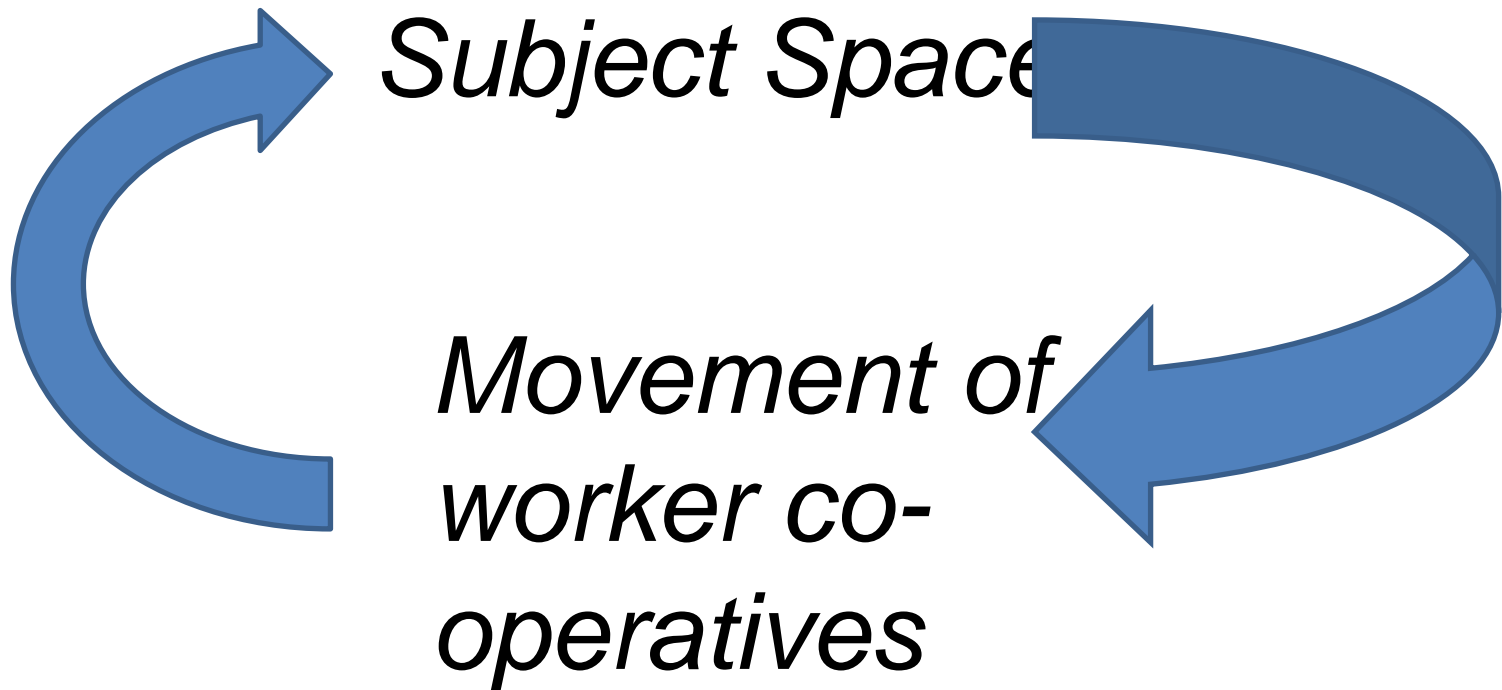
# Inter-co-op co-operation



ONCE AGAIN NUT BUTTER



# Spaces of possibility



# VAWC

1 **Brattleboro Tech Collective**  
 a worker-owned and operated website development company  
[www.brattcollective.com](http://www.brattcollective.com)

We are a worker-owned and operated tech collective, focused on workplace democracy and promoting a democratic society while supporting like-minded businesses and non-profit organizations by providing website and open-source custom application development, database work and consulting services.

2 **(PV)<sup>2</sup>**  
 Pioneer Valley Producers  
 A WORKER-OWNED COOPERATIVE

Formed in 2002, PV Squared is a worker-owned electrical contractor providing turnkey renewable energy system installations at homes, businesses, municipalities and institutions. PV Squared custom designs and installs:

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4 **CollectiveVoice Inc.** 5

Working to further economic and social justice through advocacy, fundraising and education.

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## Members of the Valley Alliance of Worker Cooperatives

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Reliable Internet hosting services from a socially and environmentally concerned worker-owned collective. Give us a call 1-800-672-8000. Check out our site: [www.gaiahost.coop](http://www.gaiahost.coop)

9 **FOOD FOR THOUGHT BOOKS**

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8 **Pelham Industrial Group** is a worker-owned collective that has been selling parts for and repairing European and Asian vehicles since 1972.

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7 **Collective Copies**

Worker-owned and run union copy shop, since 1983. [www.collectivecopies.com](http://www.collectivecopies.com)

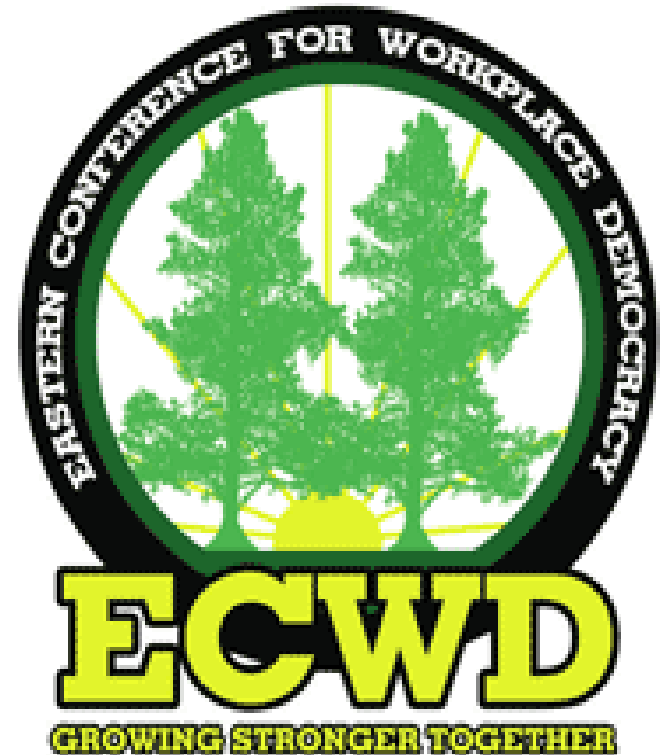
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alliance



Regional  
alliances



BAY AREA WORKER OWNED COOPERATIVE CONFERENCE 2007

*“It’s really just important to see that we can do this. There’s a myth you need a boss. There’s a myth you need management. There’s a myth you need the profit motive. ...these things are just myths. They’re proven wrong all the time and we can work together much better without them.”*

*Adam Trott, collective member since 2004.*