

Tufts University Department of Urban & Environmental Policy and Planning

UEP 293-09: Community Practicum Fall 2019

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Thursdays 1:30-4:00pm @ Brown House classroom (97 Talbot Ave)

Office Hours: Wed's 1:30-3:30pm and by appointment

Description

The Community Practicum brings graduate students and community partners together to learn and conduct joint projects on critical issues to advance more just, democratic, and sustainable cities. The Practicum provides opportunities for deeper, longer-term community collaboration through co-learning and co-production of knowledge. The Practicum grew out of UEP's Co-Education/Co-Research (CORE) community partnership with *Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative* (DSNI) (see <https://pennloh.wordpress.com/2017/02/03/tufts-uep-launches-3-year-core-partnership-with-dudley-street-neighborhood-initiative/>). While some of the Practicum sessions will be in the classroom, there will also be sessions in community locations (possibly at alternate times).

Theme and Partners

The Fall 2019 Practicum theme is ***Solidarity Rising in Boston and Beyond***. This course will explore how communities can and are building solidarity economy movements towards post-capitalist futures. The Practicum will help support the Center for Economic Democracy (CED), which is a US social movement building organization, growing capacity in communities to transform American capitalism into a more just, sustainable and democratic economy. One of CED's programs is the Solidarity Economy Initiative (SEI), which brings together a dozen grassroots groups in the Boston area, supporting the development of vision, strategies, and projects to foster a Just Transition towards economic democracy. UEP has been working with these partners over the last five years, including supporting their startup. Projects supported by CED and SEI include the Greater Boston Community Land Trust Network and the Boston Ujima Project.

Solidarity economy (SE) is a set of theories and practices that aspire towards a more democratic, just, and sustainable world. SE frames economy broadly, as all the ways that humans meet our material needs and care for each other. SE is not conceived of as a singular political-economic system meant to replace a unitary capitalism (like theories of state-centered socialism). SE movements exist throughout the world but are most well established in Latin America, Canada, and Europe. SE practices include cooperatives of all kinds, participatory budgeting, fair trade, community land trusts (CLTs), mutual associations, community banks, alternative currencies, time banks, and more.

Practicum participants will learn about SE movements in greater Boston as well as in other parts of the US and abroad. We will explore community land trusts, community financing, food solidarity economy, worker-owned cooperatives, and anchor institution strategies. Student projects will gather information and conduct research on SE movements in other cities in the US. Among the other cities that we may examine include Cincinnati, Oakland, Chicago, New York City, Detroit, Baltimore, and Buffalo.

Course Objectives

- Deepen relationships between UEP and community partners through a joint learning community.
- Provide support to UEP community partners through student research and projects and shared space for learning, visioning, and strategy to advance more just, sustainable, and democratic cities.

Learning Goals:

- **For all students:** Gain knowledge and experience of ways to work with community partners beyond the expert-consultant technical assistance paradigm. Develop appreciation for the expertise of community practitioners.
- **For non-thesis students:** Experience participatory action research and co-learning and build relationships with UEP community partners that may lead to internships and engaged theses.
- **For thesis students:** Develop community-engaged thesis projects related to priorities of CORE partners.
- **For partners:** Develop deeper understanding of critical community issues to inform strategy and action. Gain space and time for reflection and relationship building.

Schedule at a Glance

Sep 5	Overview of Course and University-Community Partnerships
Sep 12	Solidarity Economy 101
Sep 19	Community Land Trusts 101 (Site visit to Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative)
Sep 26	Transition Movements and the Politics of Possibility [guest Boone Shear]
Oct 3	Food Solidarity Economy
Oct 10	Case: Jackson, Mississippi
Oct 17	Global Cases: Quebec, Brazil's MST, Mondragon
Oct 24	Worker Cooperatives and Business Incubation [guests: Amethyst Carey, Luz Zambrano]
Oct 31	Student Project Sharing Session
Nov 7	Community Controlled Finance [guest Aaron Tanaka]
Nov 14	CLTs and Commercial Development: Upham's Corner case
Nov 21	Anchor Institution Strategies [guest Enid Eckstein]
Dec 5	Final Project Presentations

Course Requirements and Assessment

1. Class Preparation and Participation (30%)

All students are expected to read and review the required materials before class and to participate fully in class discussions. All readings will be available through Tufts Canvas, Tisch Library, and web links.

2. Reflective Journals (20%)

This Journal will consist of two Canvas postings (each 500-750 words or 2-3 pages double spaced):

- Course Beginning (due Sep 26): What are your learning goals for this course? How would you like to contribute to the work of community partners through the Practicum project?
- Course End (due Dec 4): What have you learned in this course in relation to your learning goals and beyond?

3. Student Projects/Case Studies (50%)

Projects will be designed to help thesis writers advance their thesis projects and for non-thesis students to work individually or in small teams on case studies of solidarity economy movement in US cities. These cases will support a CED-university research project on the development and articulation of SE movement theories and practices across the US. Projects will be assigned by Oct 3 and a proposal due Oct 17. Final projects are due Dec 11. Case study cities include Cincinnati, Oakland, Chicago, New York City, Detroit, Baltimore, and Buffalo.

Schedule

Week 1: Sep 5 Overview of Course and University-Community Partnerships

Course overview. Introduction to Just Transition and Diverse Economies. Review frameworks for university-community partnerships, including participatory action research and UEP's CORE co-learning partnership model. Overview of Center for Economic Democracy and Solidarity Economy Initiative.

Video: How We Live: Journey Towards A Just Transition, by [Movement Generation](#) and [EDGE Funders Alliance](#). https://youtu.be/elzV_r398dU (7 min) 7/10/14

Readings & Resources

- Loh, Penn. 2016. Community-University Collaborations for Environmental Justice: Towards a Transformative Co-Learning Model. *New Solutions Journal*, 26(3): 412-428.
- Movement Generation. A Strategic Framework for a Just Transition: From Banks and Tanks to Cooperation and Caring. 30 pgs. Available at: <https://movementgeneration.org/justtransition/>
- Center for Economic Democracy website: <https://www.economicdemocracy.us/>
- Solidarity Economy Initiative website: <https://www.solidaritymass.com/>

Week 2: Sep 12 Solidarity Economy 101

Introduction to solidarity economy movement and economic democracy.

Readings & Resources (~70 pgs)

- Loh, Penn and Sarah Jimenez. 2017. Solidarity Rising in Massachusetts. Read Executive Summary and What is Solidarity Economy? At <https://www.solidaritymass.com/sei-report>.

- Wright, Erik Olin. 2012. Transforming Capitalism through Real Utopias. *American Sociological Review* 78(1): 1-25.
- Lewis, Michael and Dan Swinney. 2008. "Social Economy & Solidarity Economy: Transformative Concepts for Unprecedented Times?" in Allard, Jenna, Carl Davidson, and Julie Matthaedi editors. *Solidarity Economy: Building Alternatives for People and Planet*. Chicago: ChangeMaker Publications. pp 28-41.
- Loh, Penn and Boone Shear. 2015. Solidarity economy and community development: emerging cases in three Massachusetts cities. *Community Development* 46(3): 244-260.
- Gordon Nembhard, Jessica. 2017. "A Long and Strong History with Southern Roots" in Akuno, Kali and Ajamu Nangwaya (eds), *Jackson Rising*. Daraja Press. Pp 171-181. Available at: <https://jacksonrising.pressbooks.com/chapter/a-long-and-strong-history-with-southern-roots/>
- [optional] Next System Project. New Systems: Possibilities and Proposals. Collection of essays @ <https://thenextsystem.org/learn/collections/new-systems-possibilities-and-proposals>

Week 3: Sep 19 Community Land Trusts 101. Site Visit: Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative

Origins, history, theory, and practice of Community Land Trusts.

Site visit to Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, 2-3:30pm (meet at 550 Dudley St, Roxbury). Led by Joceline Fidalgo and Minnie McMahon.

Readings & Resources (~63 pgs)

- Loh, Penn. 2014. Urban Farming, One Vacant Lot at a Time. *YES! Magazine*, Issue 72, Winter 2015, pp. 34-39. Also posted January 28, 2015 at <http://www.yesmagazine.org/issues/cities-are-now/how-one-boston-neighborhood-stopped-gentrification-in-its-tracks>
- Institute for Community Economics. 2010. An Interview with Charles Sherrod. In *Community Land Trust Reader* edited by John Emmeus Davis. Cambridge, MA: Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. pp 194-201.
- Institute for Community Economics. 2010. Community Land Trust Handbook. In *Community Land Trust Reader* edited by John Emmeus Davis. Cambridge, MA: Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. pp 228-256.
- George, Henry. 2010. From Social Problems. In *Community Land Trust Reader* edited by John Emmeus Davis. Cambridge, MA: Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. pp 66-75.
- James DeFilippis, Brian Stromberg & Olivia R. Williams. 2018. W(h)ither the community in community land trusts? *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 40:6, 755-769.
- [optional] Loh, Penn. 2015. Land Trusts Offer Houses That People With Lower Incomes Can Afford—And a Stepping Stone to Lasting Wealth. *YES! Magazine*, posted September 17, 2015. <http://www.yesmagazine.org/commonomics/land-trusts-offer-houses-low-income-people-can-afford-and-a-stepping-stone-to-lasting-wealth-20150917>
- [optional] Film: *Holding Ground: The Rebirth of Dudley Street*. By Mark Lipman and Leah Mahan. Holding Ground Productions. 1 hour. Available from Tisch Library. Stream at <http://tufts.kanopystreaming.com/video/holding-ground-rebirth-dudley-street>.
- [optional] Film: *Gaining Ground*, a sequel to *Holding Ground*. Available at <http://tufts.kanopystreaming.com/video/gaining-ground-building-community-dudley-street>

Week 4: Sep 26 Transition Movements and the Politics of Possibility

Many movements aspire to “change everything”. Yet, how can they go beyond the intellectual constraints of capitalism and modern rational thought. This class will delve into some of the schools of thought that are challenging capitalocentrism, the idea that there is only one world, and the sustainable development trio of economy-society-environment.

Guest: Boone Shear, UMass Amherst Department of Anthropology

Due: Reflective Journal 1.

Readings & Resources (67 pgs)

- Gibson-Graham, J. K. 2006. A Post-Capitalist Politics. Introduction: A Politics of Economic Possibility. University of Minnesota Press. Pp. xix-xxxvii. 18pgs
- Escobar, Arturo. 2017. *Designs for the Pluriverse*. Chapter 3: In the Background of Our Culture: Rationalism, Ontological Dualism, and Relationality. Duke University Press. Pp. 79-104
- Miller, Ethan. 2019. Reimagining Livelihoods. University of Minnesota Press. Chapter 1 pp 1-24.

Week 5: Oct 3 Food Solidarity Economy

Explore how solidarity economy is emerging in the food system in Boston.

Due: Projects assigned.

Readings & Resources (~60 pgs)

- Loh, Penn. 2014. Land, Co-ops, Compost: A Local Food Economy Emerges in Boston's Poorest Neighborhoods. *YES! Magazine*, posted November 7, 2014. ~6 pgs.
<http://www.yesmagazine.org/commonomics/boston-s-emerging-food-economy>
- Loh, Penn and Julian Agyeman. 2019. Urban food sharing and the emerging Boston food solidarity economy. *Geoforum* 99: 213-222.
- Loh, Penn and Laura Flagg. 2018. Will Work for Food: How Boston is Building a Just Food Economy. Practical Visionaries blog. <https://pennloh-practical.vision/2018/11/18/will-work-for-food-how-boston-is-building-a-just-food-economy/>
- Loh, Penn and Sarah Jimenez. 2017. Solidarity Rising in Massachusetts. Case Study: CERO Coop. <https://www.solidaritymass.com/cero-coop>
- Cox, Kate. March 14, 2016. “Incubator (r)evolution,” *The New Food Economy*. <https://newfoodeconomy.com/incubator-revolution/>
- McLeod, Danae. March 17, 2016. “No two incubators think alike,” *The New Food Economy*. <https://newfoodeconomy.com/incubator-roundup/>
- Anderson, C. R., Brushett, L., Gray, T. W., & Renting, H. (2014). Working together to build cooperative food systems [Editorial]. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 4(3), 3–9. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2014.043.017>
- PolicyLink. 2015. Transforming West Oakland: A Case Study Series on Mandela MarketPlace. https://www.policylink.org/sites/default/files/Mandela%20Case%20Study_FINAL%20%28003%29_0.pdf

Week 6: Oct 10 Case: Jackson, Mississippi

Solidarity economy and black liberation in Jackson Mississippi.

Readings & Resources (~86 pgs)

- Akuno, Kali and Ajamu Nangwaya (eds), *Jackson Rising*. Daraja Press. Accessible at <https://jacksonrising.pressbooks.com/>
 - Kali Akuno, 1: Build and Fight: The Program and Strategy of Cooperation Jackson, pp 3-42
 - [optional] Kali Akuno, 4: The Jackson-Kush Plan, pp 73-86
 - Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, 5: People's Assembly Overview, pp 87-98
 - Elandria Williams and Jazmine Walker, 15: Challenge of Building Urban Cooperatives in the South, pp 183-196
- Gilbert, Katie. 2017. The Socialist Experiment. *Oxford American* 98, Fall 2017. <http://www.oxfordamerican.org/magazine/item/1296-the-socialist-experiment>

Week 7: Oct 17 Global Cases: Quebec, Brazil's MST, Mondragon

Explore social and solidarity economy movements in Quebec, Brazil's landless workers movement, and Mondragon Spain.

Due: Project proposal.

Readings & Resources (~97 pgs)

- Nancy Neamtan. 2007. "Chantier de l'Économie Sociale: Building the Solidarity Economy in Quebec," in Allard, Jenna, Carl Davidson, and Julie Matthaei editors. *Solidarity Economy: Building Alternatives for People and Planet*. Papers and Reports from the U.S. Social Forum 2007. Chicago: ChangeMaker Publications. Pp. 268-276. Book available: <https://institute.coop/resources/solidarity-economy-building-alternatives-people-and-planet-papers-and-reports-us-social>
- Mendell, M. (2009). The three pillars of the social economy: The Quebec experience. In A. Amin (Ed.), *The social economy: International perspectives on economic solidarity* (pp. 176–207). London: Zed Books.
- Lopes, João Marcos de Almeida. 2007. The "Back of the City": The Landless and the Conception of Another City. In *Another Production is Possible: Beyond the Capitalist Canon* edited by Boaventura de Sousa Santos. New York: Verso. 202-239. [http://www.boaventuradesousasantos.pt/media/Chapter%208\(3\).pdf](http://www.boaventuradesousasantos.pt/media/Chapter%208(3).pdf)
- Alessandra Azevedo and Leda Gitahy. March 2010. "The Cooperative Movement, Self-Management, and Competitiveness: The Case of Mondragón Corporación Cooperativa," *WorkingUSA: The Journal of Labor and Society* Vol 13, pp. 5-29.
- Mondragon website: <https://www.mondragon-corporation.com/en/about-us/>, browse presentation slides.
- Whyte, William F. and Kathleen King Whyte. 1991. Making Mondragon. ILR Press. Chapter 8: The Central Role of the Cooperative Bank, pp 49-52, 68-87.
- [optional] Yvon Poirer. 2009. "Labor Unions and the Solidarity Economy: The Quebec Experience," in Emily Kawano, Thomas Neal Masterson, and Jonathan Teller-Elsberg, editors. 2009. *Solidarity Economy I: Building Alternatives for People and Planet: Papers and Reports from the 2009 U.S. Forum on the Solidarity Economy*. Center for Popular Economics, Amherst, MA. Pp. 99-113. Book available: <https://epdf.pub/solidarity-economy-i-building-alternatives-for-people-and-planet.html>
- [optional] Carter, Miguel. 2010. The Landless Rural Workers Movement and Democracy in Brazil. *Latin American Research Review*, 186-217.
- [optional] Videos: Story of MST parts I, II, III. <http://www.mstbrazil.org/videos>

Week 8: Oct 24 Worker Cooperatives and Business Incubation

What are worker coops and how can they be incubated? Cases include Evergreen Cooperatives (Cleveland), Wellspring (Springfield, MA), and Center for Cooperative Development and Solidarity (East Boston).

Guests: Amethyst Carey (Center for Economic Democracy), Luz Zambrano (Center for Solidarity and Cooperative Development)

Readings & Resources (~50 pgs)

- Janaki Blum. May 2017. Masters Thesis for Tufts UEP. Read Literature Review on Worker Cooperatives, pp. 9-19.
- Iuviene, Nicholas, Amy Stitely, and Lorlene Hoyt. October 2010. "Sustainable Economic Democracy: Worker Cooperatives for the 21st Century." MIT Community Innovators Lab. Accessible at: <http://colabradio.mit.edu/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Coops-CoLabOct2010.pdf>
- Wellspring Cooperative website: <http://wellspring.coop/>
- Rose, Fred. 2014. Bringing Wealth Creation Closer to Low-Income Communities. *Communities & Banking*, 25(1), 17-21.
- Loh, Penn and Sarah Jimenez. 2017. Solidarity Rising in Massachusetts. Case Study: Wellspring. <https://www.solidaritymass.com/wellspring>
- Loh, Penn and Sarah Jimenez. 2017. Solidarity Rising in Massachusetts. Case Study: Center for Cooperative Development and Solidarity. <https://www.solidaritymass.com/center-for-cooperative-development->
- Evergreen Cooperatives website: <http://evergreencooperatives.com/>
- Matt Hancock. 2007. "Competing by Cooperating in Italy: The Cooperative District of Imola." In Allard, Jenna, Carl Davidson, and Julie Matthaei editors. *Solidarity Economy: Building Alternatives for People and Planet*. Papers and Reports from the U.S. Social Forum 2007. Chicago: ChangeMaker Publications. Pp. 228-238. Book available: <https://institute.coop/resources/solidarity-economy-building-alternatives-people-and-planet-papers-and-reports-us-social>

Week 9: Oct 31 Student Project Sharing Session

Presentations and feedback on student projects.

Week 10: Nov 7 Community Controlled Finance

How can communities create and control their own capital? Case study Boston Ujima Project.

Guest: Aaron Tanaka, Center for Economic Democracy.

Readings & Resources (~67 pgs)

- Browse website: <https://www.ujimaboston.com/>
- Browse website: <http://www.berkshares.org/>
- Boston Ujima Project concept paper. 5 pgs. Available at https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/40c717_f16102d86a644584af4c47c72ea2794b.pdf
- Ly, Jennifer. 2014. Boston Community Finance Working Group: Report & Findings. Center for Economic Democracy. 3-14.
- Shuman, Michael. 2013. Creating a Community Investment Fund: A Local Food Approach. A Project of Cutting Edge Capital. 3-42.

- Rangan, V. Kasturi, Sarah Appleby, and Laura Moon. 2011. The Promise of Impact investing. Harvard Business School N9-512-045, Nov 4, 2011. 12 pgs.

Week 11: Nov 14 CLTs and Commercial Development: Upham's Corner case

How are CLTs adding value to commercial development that provides long-term community benefits? Explore cases on how CLTs can provide affordable commercial space, conduct community planning and visioning, and facilitate resident participation in ownership, investment, and job opportunities. Explore

Readings & Resources (~50 pgs)

- Upham's Corner Implementation process readings to be assigned.
- AxelLute, Miriam. Shelterforce. CLTs Go Commercial. July 25, 2011. ~9 pgs.
https://shelterforce.org/2011/07/25/clts_go_commercial/3/
- Rick Jacobus and Karen Chapple. June 2010. What difference can a few stores make? Retail and neighborhood revitalization. Center for Community Innovation at UC Berkeley. ~12 pgs.
https://communityinnovation.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/what_difference_can_a_few_stores_make_retail_and_neighborhood_revitalization.pdf?width=1200&height=800&iframe=true
- Educate and Empower: Tools for Building Community Wealth. Democracy Collaborative. Pgs 63-73.
<http://community-wealth.org/sites/clone.community-wealth.org/files/downloads/EducateAndEmpower.pdf>
- Abello, Oscar Perry. Aug 30, 2016. "These Neighbors Got Tired of Waiting for Traditional Developers," Next City. <https://nextcity.org/daily/entry/cooperative-commercial-real-estate-development-minneapolis>

Week 12: Nov 21 Anchor Institution Strategies

Cooperative anchor institution strategies. Explore Massachusetts hospital sector.

Guest: Enid Eckstein

Readings & Resources (~50 pgs)

- Justine Porter, Danny Fisher-Bruns, and Bich Ha Pham. 2019. Anchor Collaboratives: Building Bridges With Place-Based Partnerships and Anchor Institutions Community Wealth on Anchors. Democracy Collaborative. 26 pgs. Available at: <https://democracycollaborative.org/content/anchor-collaboratives-building-bridges-place-based-partnerships-and-anchor-institutions>
- MIT CoLab. Development Study for the Bronx Cooperative Development Initiative: A Model for Economic Transformation. pp 10-44.
http://colab.mit.edu/sites/default/files/MITCoLab_BCDI_Development_Study.pdf
- [optional] Video (~3 min): Introduction to the Bronx Cooperative Development Initiative:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLf2qEQFTk4>

Week 13: Dec 5 Final Project Presentations

Presentations by students. Reflections on Practicum.

Due: Reflective Journal 2.

Students with Disabilities

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Academic Integrity

Tufts holds its students strictly accountable for adherence to academic integrity. The consequences for violations can be severe. It is critical that you understand the requirements of ethical behavior and academic work as described in Tufts' Academic Integrity handbook. If you ever have a question about the expectations concerning a particular assignment or project in this course, be sure to ask me for clarification. The Faculty of the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering are required to report suspected cases of academic integrity violations to the Dean of Student Affairs Office. If I suspect that you have cheated or plagiarized in this class, I must report the situation to the dean.