

Anarchist Economies and the needs of all*

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More Than Human Anarchism

Why Economics?

The current economic system plays a huge part in ecosystem destruction, humans and non-human animals not getting what they need, injustices.

Not the only or most important aspect that needs changing but quite unclear.

Utopian ideas but getting concrete as a way of prefiguration.

Today focus:

More-than-human perspective

See Anarchist Economics FAQ on transform-social.org for general ideas.

The needs of all* - *Who are all?

Anarchist economics too human-centered?

„more-than-human“ includes non-human animals and ecosystems. Complex networks of relations instead of human-centered view.

Careful not to lose focus on domination and responsibility.
Future entities – careful with longtermism
Careful with including right-wing AI algorithms

World of many Worlds

Decentralization and diversity:
Coexisting ways of living and doing economics.

Is it enough to say there is no single answer?
The following is just one example.

Goals

A good life for all*

Absence of existential fears or fears of the future

Is it enough to have goals?

Worldview

Humans/societies are part of nature

Network of relations between entities

- But: Responsibilities
- Not all entities are able bodied eloquent white men with free time

Is it enough to think ecosystems as relations instead of resources?

Values

Balance of Freedom and Solidarity

Freedom: to know that the needs of all* will be met in the future

And/Or: Responsibility without domination

Is this enough? Do we get ecological responsibility via values?

Social Organization

Bottom up: Consumer councils, Production collectives, Coordination Committees

How does this help?

- local insights into needs of more-than-human entities and pragmatic solutions (better for complex systems)
- diverse relations to nature are stronger motivators than central moral guidelines to preserve ecosystems

Is this enough? Do we get ecological production and distribution?

Economic Arrangements

Markets: require active actors and disregard all others

Producers own means of production and decide: position of power, unlikely to consider all*

To consider all*:

- No one owns resources, means of production, products
- Needs based economies
 - Distribute based on need
 - Needs are subjective, collect locally
 - Those affected decide about production and distribution

Is it enough to agree on needs based (anarcho-communist) economies?

Economic Arrangements

- If there is enough: everyone can take
- If not:
 - Transparency
 - Key figures about the use of scarce resources, environmental impact, working conditions, ...
 - Decisions

How do decide about scarce resources?

Decision Making - 5 Challenges

Overcoming these challenges can also help with daily anarchist praxis. (Prefiguration!)

1. Needs are abstract
2. Needs without clear representation
3. Emotions
4. Uncertain Future
5. Needs are interconnected

Decision Process Ideas

Accessibility of Discussions: Easy language, subscribe to topics

Preparation

Discuss acceptable risk levels and not fitting risk related lifestyles/philosophy. Separate if needed. Cooperate in solidarity.

Process Ideas

Step 1: Topic and affected entities (re C1: abstract)

- Make subject clear/transparent: what is discussed?
- Who is affected and who is representing what? (Transparency)
Identify entities. Open call who wants to represent/talk for them.

Step 2: Representation (re C2: indirect representation)

Who is representing whom? Transparency on other interests.

If more-than-human entities are affected, humans should be able to listen to and emotionally connect to their ways of communication and their needs.

Process Ideas

Step 3: Gathering Information

- Transdisciplinary research, various prediction models, various viewpoints (re C4: uncertain future)
- Art related to the topic in various forms and social events
- Collect related feelings, listen sessions. (re C3: emotions)

Step 4: Moderated discussion about needs.

Step 5: Structured argumentation for multiple options (Kialo)

Step 6: Deliberation. Develop proposals from options

Iterate step 3-6. Recall representatives if needed (re C2: indirect representation)

Process Ideas

Step 7: Decision (that can be changed by a future decision)

- guarantee to meet needs. Scandalize if this does not work as it is important not to break trust. Only undo with another decision.

Step 8: Iterate (re C5: interconnected)

Final Thoughts

Up to you how much to
get involved.

We have all the tools
we just need to get
organized.

<https://transform-social.org>

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