

Political Science 287/487: Theories of Political Economy
Instructor: James Johnson (jd.johnson@rochester.edu)
Fall 2015 ~ T-Th 9:40-10:55 * Bausch & Lomb 270
Office Hours Th 3:30-5:00 * Harkness Hall 312 (x5-0622)

“There is little discussion either of the feasibility or desirability of workplace democracy today. ... [Y]et the institution of employment, one of the most central institutions of our society, remains undemocratic.” ~ Carole Pateman (2010)

This class is an intellectual experiment prompted by an actual political-economic experiment. Several American cities, including Rochester, are exploring the use of worker cooperatives – firms that are owned and democratically controlled by the people who work in them – both as a remedy for both economic hardship and in hopes of

Policy on Electronic Devices: My policy on electronic devices in class (meaning *any*

Thinking About Political-Economic Development

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Doherty, Edward. 2013. *Poverty and the Concentration of Poverty in the Nine-County Greater Rochester Area*. Rochester Area Community Foundation.
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<http://www.racf.org/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Poverty%20Report%20Update%202015-0108.pdf>

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Rogers, Joel. 2012. "Productive Democracy." In *Renewing Democratic Deliberation in Europe*. Edited by J. De Munck, et. al. Peter Lang.

Worker Cooperatives: A Potential Partial Remedy to Pressing Problems?

Riley, David. 2015. "To Fight Poverty, City Eyes Co-op Businesses," *Democrat & Chronicle* (8 February).
<http://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2015/02/08/rochester-democracy-collaborative-cooperative-businesses-worker-poverty/23090949/>

Palmer, Tim. 2015. *US Worker Cooperatives: A State of the Sector*

Mazzucato, Mariana. 2015. "The Innovative State," *Foreign Affairs* 94:61-8.

Governing the Firm

* Dow, Gregory. 2003. *Governing the Firm: Workers Control in Theory & Practice*. Cambridge University Press.

Problems of Implementation & Transition

Bowles, Samuel and Herbert Gintis. 1993. "A Political and Economic Case for the Democratic Enterprise," *Economics & Philosophy* 9:75-100.

Elster, Jon. 1989. "From Here to There; or, If Cooperative Ownership Is So Desirable, Why are There So Few Cooperatives?" *Social Philosophy and Policy* 6: 93-111.

Fleurbaey, Marc. 2008. "Workplace Democracy as a Public Good," *Revue de Philosophie Économique* 9:110

Dal Bó, Pedro, et. al. 2010. "Institutions & Behavior: Experimental Evidence on the Effects of Democracy," *American Economic Review* 100:2205-2229.

Elster, Jon. 1986. "The Market and the Forum: Three Varieties of Political Theory." In *Foundations of Social Choice Theory*. Edited by J. Elster & A. Hylland. Cambridge University Press.

Chan, Joseph & David Miller. 1991. "Elster on Self-Realization in Work & Politics," *Ethics* 102:96-102.

Precedent? American and African American

* Blasi, Joseph, Richard Freeman and Douglas Kruse. 2014. *The Citizen's Share: Putting Ownership Back Into Democracy*

Possible Subjects for Case Study Assignment

Arizmendi Association of Coops (San Francisco, CA) ~ <http://arizmendi.coop/>

Beyond Care (Brooklyn, NY) ~ <http://beyondcare.coop/>

Cincinnati Union Co-op Initiative (Cincinnati, OH) ~ <http://www.cincinnatiunioncoop.org/>

Cooperative Home Care Associates (Bronx, NY) ~ <http://www.chcany.org/>

Democracy at Work Institute (Oakland, CA) ~ <http://institute.usworker.coop/>

Democracy Collaborative (Washington, DC – Cleveland, OH) ~ <http://democracycollaborative.org/>

Equal Exchange (Massachusetts-Minnesota-Oregon) ~ <http://equalexchange.coop/>

Evergreen Cooperatives (Cleveland, OH) ~ <http://evergreencooperatives.com/>

Federation of Southern Cooperatives ~ <http://www.federationsoutherncoop.com/>

Green Worker Cooperatives