During this intensive research seminar we will critically examine the politics, theory, and social networks related to solidarity economy movements. The term “solidarity economy” refers to a wide set of initiatives around the world that seek alternatives to mainstream capitalism by organizing economic activity around principles of social solidarity, cooperation, and community-based development. Examples include the fair trade movement, eco-villages, consumer and producer cooperatives, and participatory budgeting, among other related initiatives. Some of these initiatives are conceived as radical alternatives to mainstream capitalism. Others are seen to offer niches of alternative economic practices within a larger capitalist framework. Over the past several years several national, regional, and global networks have been formed around the idea of social and solidarity economy. In this course we will be analyzing the coherence (or incoherence) of these networks and movements. We will situate them in historical context by comparing and contrasting them with earlier movements from the 19th and 20th centuries. We will develop theoretical frameworks for comprehending their significance. And we will use network analysis to analyze the character and extent of these networks. This seminar will involve collaborative research as we generate a database and papers on the state of solidarity economies.

Classroom Etiquette and Protocols:

- Be respectful of other students, but understand that critique can also be a sign of respect. Do not be afraid to challenge other students and the professor, but do so respectfully.
- NO TEXT-MESSAGING in class.
- Any student who misses more than three weeks of class may face dismissal from the course.

Assignments:

1) Weekly response questions
2) 5-7 page essay on the concept solidarity economy
3) Short classroom presentation of solidarity economy initiative
4) Annotated bibliography + 5-page research proposal
5) PowerPoint classroom presentation and discussion leading
6) 25-page Research Paper on solidarity economy movements. Paper topics will be coordinated so as to avoid too much overlap and to ensure a good coverage of the issues for classroom presentations. Students will be encouraged to think of the entire course as a giant collaborative research project.
Evaluation:
- Participation, response questions, short presentation: 20%
- 5-7 page essay: 15%
- PowerPoint presentation: 15%
- Annotated Bibliography and Research Proposal: 10%
- Research Paper: 40%

Books for purchase

All other readings will be available on Moodle or on the internet via web addresses listed on the syllabus. Additionally, a webpage on the solidarity economy has been prepared for this course. The content of this webpage will evolve over the course of the semester.

https://www.haverford.edu/politicalscience/solidarityeconomy/

NOTE: Students who think they may need accommodations in this course because of the impact of a disability are encouraged to meet with me privately early in the semester. Students should also contact Rick Webb, Coordinator, Office of Disabilities Services (rwebb@haverford.edu, 610-896-1290) to verify their eligibility for reasonable accommodations as soon as possible. Early contact will help to avoid unnecessary inconvenience and delays.
COURSE SCHEDULE

Aug 30: First Class. Introductions

SECTION ONE: HISTORICAL AND THEORETICAL CONTEXTS

** Thursday, Sept 9**

Because of LABOR DAY, class will be held Thursday, September 9, 7:30-10:00PM

5-7 page essay due

Social Solidarity Economy: Definitions and Networks
“Économie Solidaire” in Dictionaire de l’Autre Économie
Ethan Miller, “Solidarity Economics: Strategies for Building New Economies from the Bottom-Up and the Inside-Out”
Ethan Miller, “Other Economies are Possible”
J. K. Gibson-Graham, A Post-Capitalist Politics, Chapter Five (53-78)
Jenna Allard and Julie Matthaei, “Solidarity Economy: An Overview”
Frank Moulaert and Oana Ailenei “Social Economy, Third Sector and Solidarity Relations: A Conceptual Synthesis from History to Present” Urban Studies, 42, No. 11, 2037-2053

Sept 13:

Utopian Socialism and Early Co-operative Movements
Heilbroner, “The Visions of the Utopian Socialists”
Marx and Engels, “Manifesto of the Communist Party” (We will focus only on the section titled: “Critical-Utopian Socialism and Communism. “ Review the rest if you have not read it before or to remind yourself about the basic argument)
Sidney Webb and Beatrice Webb, The Consumers’ Co-operative Movement (London: Longmans Green, 1921) (Selections)
Sidney Webb and Beatrice Webb, The History of Trade Unionism (Selections)
GDH Cole, Robert Owen (Selections)
GDH Cole, A Century of Cooperation (Selections)

Sept 20:

Embedded Economies and the Limitations of Capitalism
Karl Polanyi, The Great Transformation, Chapter 4
Karl Polanyi, “The Economy as Instituted Process”
Erik Olin Wright, Envisioning Real Utopias, Chapter 3
Envisioning Real Utopias
Erik Olin Wright, Envisioning Real Utopias, Chapters 2, 4-5, 7, 8, Conclusion. (Especially Chapters 5 and 7)

Recommended
Erik Olin Wright, Envisioning Real Utopias, Chapters 1, 6, 9-11

Proposal and Bibliography due Friday Oct 1

Oct 4: Presentations of Research Proposals

OCTOBER 8 – 17 Fall Break

SECTION TWO: SOLIDARITY ECONOMY IN PRACTICE

Oct 18: Cooperatives
Brett Fairbairn, “History of Cooperatives”
J.K. Gibson-Graham, A Post-Capitalist Politics, Chapter Five, 101-126
José Luis Coraggio and Maria Sol Arroyo, “A path to the social economy in Argentina: worker takeovers of bankrupt companies,” in The Social Economy. International Perspectives on Economic Solidarity
“Economics, Cooperation, and Employee Ownership: The Emilia-Romagna Model”
http://dept.kent.edu/oeoc/publicationsresearch/winter05-06.pdf
“Italy's Emilia Romagna Clustering Co-op Development”
http://www.clcr.org/publications/other/emilia%20romagna%20by%20david%20thompson%20110604.pdf

Oct 25: Forms of Solidarity: Land, Money, Risk
- Chapter 2: Savings, credit and solidarity in developing countries
- Chapter 3: The emergence of a mutual-aid movement in the South
John Emmeus Davis and Alice Stokes, “Community Land Trusts: Developing Permanently Affordable Housing” in Solidarity Economy 1 (157-168)
Rebecca Fletcher, “Protecting Local Food and Farms Through Models of Shared Equity” in Solidarity Economy 1 (227-240)
“Miguel” Yasuyuki Hirota, “Complementary Currencies as a Method to Promote the Solidarity Economy” in Solidarity Economy 1 (75-86)
Cliff Rosenthal, “Credit Unions and the Solidarity Economy” in Solidarity Economy 1 (87-94)
Nov 1: Three Models for Building a Solidarity Economy: Brazil, Europe, Canada

BRAZIL
Paul Singer, “The Recent Rebirth of the Solidarity Economy in Brazil”
Noëlle Lechat, “Organizing for the solidarity economy in south Brazil” in The Social Economy. International Perspectives on Economic Solidarity, 159-175
“Brazilian Forum of Solidarity Economy: The Management and Organization Experience of Solidarity Economy in Brazil”

CANADA
Yvon Poirier, “Another economy is possible! Visions related to building the solidarity economy and related alternatives in North America”

EUROPE

Nov 8: Fair Trade

SECTION THREE: RESEARCH & PRESENTATIONS

Nov 15: Independent Research

Nov 22: Presentations:
Readings to be determined by students in conversation with professor

Nov 29: Presentations:
Readings to be determined by students in conversation with professor

Dec 6: Presentations:
Readings to be determined by students in conversation with professor