

LIBERATORY METHODS

Investigating and Generating

Non-Capitalist / Anti-Colonial
Social Power

Dates: September 28 -
November 23, 2024

ONLINE
WORKSHOP

In English /
Spanish



Workshop on De- / Anti-Colonial Methods for Creating Collectivity, Incorporating Multiple Forms of Valuing and Supporting the Persistence of Our Relationships

This workshop is provided by El Cambalache from its Department of Decolonial Economics.

El Cambalache is a project that works on decolonizing the economy. Located in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas and made by and for women and all those we know. It focuses on the exchange of things, knowledge and mutual aid through workshops, actions, publications and an emerging podcast. Cambalache was started in 2014 and has been created on a foundation of anti-systemic, anti-colonial and anti-capitalist values from local social movements towards a future of well-being for all.

For more information see:

[FB LaCambalache](#) - [IG Elcambalachesancristobal](#) - [X LaCambalachera](#) - [TT cambalacheras](#) -
YT <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCslgLGj8V0LFxSaDnL8iYQg>

Our documentary: Inter-Change Value (2016) <https://vimeo.com/159060233>

Please contact Dr. Erin Araujo at cambalach@autoproduzioni.net with questions.

THIS COURSE FOCUSES ON CONSTRUCTING NON-CAPITALIST / ANTI-COLONIAL SOCIAL POWER

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Capitalism / Coloniality depends upon the normalization of racialized, hetero-patriarchal, binary ideologies forged in the structural violences of hierarchy that limit access to all that is necessary to create well-being as individuals and as collectives. The way that knowledge is created, the categories and compartmentalizations required divide what is considered knowledge from that which is considered myth, gossip, backwards, worthless, cultural anachronism, etc. implies the devaluation of all knowledge and practice that is not euro-capital-colonial-centric has required decades and generations of indoctrination, violence and dispossession to achieve. This workshop is focused on privileging and strengthening the practices and methods used to create, value, and recognize the experience / knowledge that is created through the lives and histories of people whose expression has been undermined by myriad forms of oppression, negation and gaslighting. We will look at how the persistent relationships among people, territory and non-human others have been devalued in Capitalist / Colonial systems and as such the very existence of all life is in peril. On the other hand, the persistence of relationships as relationality, *comunalidad*, and non-capitalist economic systems have also been the first-line of resistance, perseverance and creation of other ways of doing and being life. As scholars and activists we have a responsibility to break away from hierarchical structures of knowledge creation and practice while embracing the many forms of knowing and being that are the majority forms of existence. Let us come together in this seven-week workshop to dignify hidden and untold histories while creating futures that embrace flourishing.

FOR WHOM?

The practice, research and theories of non-capitalist social power included in this course were developed by and for all of us in order to bring about social change. For this reason, it is designed for people interested in creating, practicing and collectively researching noncapitalist and anti-colonial social power to be carried out in their places of residence or research. Everyone is invited to participate – women, people with diasporic heritages, indigenous people and LGBTQ++ are especially invited.

CALENDAR

September 28th
Introductory Session.

All sessions are held on
Saturdays 10am-12pm
Mexico City Time

October 5th
What is non-capitalist / anti-colonial social power?

October 12th
NO SESSION

October 19th
Research without oppression I: research methods for non-hierarchical knowledge creation.

October 26th
Persistent Relationships: collectivity and communality.

November 2nd:
Persistence and knowledge creation within traditional midwifery

November 9th:
Learning from Practice: Techniques for knowledge sharing in/ with cooperatives

November 16th:
Research without oppression II: research methods for non-hierarchical knowledge creation.

November 23rd
Final session of the workshop.





PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION

September 28th:

Welcome and presentation of workshop participants and workshop facilitators.
Explanation of the dynamics of the workshop.

WHAT IS NON-CAPITALIST / ANTI-COLONIAL SOCIAL POWER?

October 5th:

In a capitalist economy it has been noted that money is social power; affording the possessor the possibility of purchasing just about anything including access to governance, markets, territories and the domination of other's bodies. Non-capitalist / anti-colonial social power refers to all of the forms of power that exist beyond the structures, regulations and intersectional oppressions that are inherent in the capitalist / colonial world system. When forms of knowledge, ways of being, genders, racialization, territories and myriad other forms of existence are designated as having no monetary value in a capitalist economic system, they are treated as worthless. However, there are many forms of social power that are at play at any given time in any given geography. These forms of power are obfuscated by capitalist systems of value. In this session we will look at how non-capitalist / anti-colonial social power is manifest and maintained.



RESEARCH WITHOUT OPPRESSION I: RESEARCH METHODS FOR NON-HIERARCHICAL KNOWLEDGE CREATION

October 19th:

Research and knowledge creation do not have to be imbued with extractivism and domination. It is possible to study and create knowledge that benefits social movements and communities. We will talk about examples of different techniques within Participatory Action Research, Decolonial and Indigenous Methodologies and Experiences from within El Cambalache



and beyond for creating knowledge without mistreating or dominating community members, co-investigators and / or research participants.

PERSISTENT RELATIONSHIPS: COLLECTIVITY AND COMMUNALITY

October 26th:

One of the essential building blocks of non-capitalist social power is the persistence of relationships- among people through both intergenerational and contemporary relationships but also with the land, non-human others and the knowledge necessary to allow those persistent relationships to continue. We will look at how both practices in collectivity and communality support persistent relationships and relationality as forms of non-capitalist knowledge and social power.

PERSISTENCE AND KNOWLEDGE CREATION WITHIN TRADITIONAL MIDWIFERY

November 2nd:

In this session we will examine how the knowledge and practices of midwifery persist and are recreated today despite the fact that they have been historically persecuted, invisibilized and devalued by the dominant powers. This is due to the fact that the activities are not directed to the capitalist consumer market, but rather, their persistence challenges the medical system while strengthening community economies. Midwifery energizes values such as reciprocity, mutual support, relationality, solidarity, and the creation of knowledge that, in a long and complex process, is transmitted from generation to generation, almost always through the maternal line.

LEARNING FROM PRACTICE: TECHNIQUES FOR KNOWLEDGE SHARING WITH COOPERATIVES

November 9th:

From Jujuy, Argentina we will talk about an experience called Minka de Saberes, which seeks to share academic knowledge in a non-hierarchical way, contribute to strengthen the processes that are carried out within a cooperative, and revalue the existing knowledge, which is based on the practices and the transmission of the knowledge they have.

RESEARCH WITHOUT OPPRESSION II: RESEARCH METHODS FOR NON-HIERARCHICAL KNOWLEDGE CREATION

November 16th:

In our final pedagogical session we will take a look at the different forms of research practice and knowledge creation that we have discussed throughout the workshop and deepen the conversation around the options within PAR, Decolonial and Indigenous Methodologies, our multiple shared experiences from course participants and El Cambalache around creating and dignifying non-capitalist, anti-colonial knowledge and social power.

FINAL SESSION

November 23rd:

We will say goodbye and share for one last time.



IMPORTANT DATES

Deadline: Until all spaces are filled.

Payment Deadline: September 27th, 2024

Sessions: September 28th, 2024 - November 23rd, 2024,
10am to 12am, Mexico City Time

****SPACE IS LIMITED****

COSTS

Cost for participants from countries with a high or moderate access to money (in US dollars)

\$500 - \$350 Solidarity price for well employed participants or collectives who want to participate with a single contribution. This price is suggested for people who have some kind of funding for their professional development or can afford it because of their high salary level. This price contributes some support to other people, with less economic possibilities of work, so that they can pay less.

\$350 - \$200 Students and participants who can afford it because they have access to some type of financing or are collectives that want to participate through a single contribution.

\$200 - \$80 Students, grassroots activists and participants who have little access to money.

Cost for participants from countries with low access to money (in Mexican pesos):

\$5,000-\$3,500 Solidarity price for well-employed participants or collectives who want to participate with a single contribution. This price is suggested for people who have some kind of funding for their professional development or can afford it because of their high salary level. By paying this price, you will contribute in supporting other people who lack economic resources or whose access is very limited, and who want to participate in the workshop, so that they can pay less.

\$3,500-\$2,000 Students and participants who can afford it because they have access to some type of financing or are collectives who want to participate through a single contribution.

\$2,000 - \$800 Students, grassroots activists and participants who have little access to money.

If for any reason you are unable to cover the fees, please ask for moneyless exchange options to cover costs.

All proceeds from this workshop will go to support El Cambalache's research, community and decolonial work.

HOW TO APPLY

Please fill out this online form:

<https://share.mayfirst.org/apps/forms/djHNjkK9gRNBeYgB>

In the form you will be asked to include a 1,000-word letter of motivation to explaining why you would like to participate in the workshop and what types of research or community projects that will benefit from your participation. It is recommended that you write the letter beforehand and then past it into the form.

If you have any questions please contact:

Dr. Erin Araujo, cambalach@autoproduzioni.net

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WORKSHOP ORGANIZERS:

Belkis Rojas Trejo. A Venezuelan Andean woman, with a degree in History and a Master's degree in Ethnology. Diploma in Advanced Studies in Social Anthropology. Retired Professor and Researcher at the University of Los Andes, Venezuela. Currently belongs to the group of women generators of the collective El Cambalache, San Cristobal de Las Casas, Mexico.

Carla L Wayar, studied Economics at the National University of Jujuy, National Public Accountant and University Professor, with professional development and specialization in economic development, in the area of Rural Economies and Socioeconomic Inequalities, with experience working in socio-economic processes with peasant-indigenous organizations, cooperatives and associations and in programs, public projects and non-governmental organizations aimed at vulnerable agricultural and artisanal economies.

Erin Araujo PhD. Economic geographer with a focus on feminist, decolonial and anarchist economies. Originally from New York, USA. She has been living in San Cristobal de las Casas since 2007. Erin is one of the founders and generators of El Cambalache. She studies, practices and writes about moneyless economies in the majority world of the Americas.