Closing Plenary

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How to Answer the Question of the Conference?

- **The Question?**
  - What are the potential and limits of the SSE?

- **3 Discussions (Discourses)**
  - **The Positive Discourse**
    - Social Sciences
  - **The Normative Discourse**
    - Ethics, Political Philosophy
  - **The Strategic Discourse**
    - Professions, Public Policy, Applied Sciences
Positive Questions - What?

- **Definitional Question** – What is the Social and Solidarity Economy?
  - **Externalist** perspectives
    - What is done under the name of SSE
  - **Internalist** perspectives
    - How do people understand the SSE
    - What do people mean by “solidarity”?
      - Kinship/ethical bonds (good life/identity)
      - Mutual interest
      - Commitment to procedural norms (rights, etc.)
Positive Questions - How?

The Empirical Question - How does the SSE function?
- The processes, practices policies, institutions of the SSE
- The impact of the SSE
- Its role in society?
  - Production
    - Complement/compete with IOFs
  - Social Reproduction
    - Complement/substitute for state?
  - Political Engagement
    - Relationship to the state?
Positive Question - Why?

- Theoretical Question – Why does the SSE function the way it does?
  - “Structure”
    - Conceptions
      - institutions, ideology and resource/power distributions
    - Types - production, forms of state, int’l state systems
    - Function – favours/constrains different projects
      - Structural power moves across realms (pol, econ, social)
  - “Agency”
    - the conditions for collective action
      - Especially among marginalized groups
    - The role of “solidarity”
The Normative Questions

• **Ethical Questions (Good Life)**
  - Do the dominant structures negatively impinge on our pursuit of the good life (in unjustifiable ways)?
  - Are understandings of the good life in the SSE justifiable? Are their limits on how should they be promoted?

• **Questions of Fairness (Procedural)**
  - Are the dominants structures fair (eg, capitalist markets)
    - In principle, in practice (immanent critique)
  - Are the practices/structures of the SSE more fair?
    - E.g. more transparent (decommodification, etc.),

• **Questions of legitimacy (democratic procedure)**
  - Are existing structures legitimate?
    - Ability of capital to distort markets through state structures
  - Are SSE institutions and practices legitimate?
Questions of Strategy – Basis/Scope

- **Basis of Strategy**
  - How is strategy rooted in normative analysis?
    - Do we have shared, justifiable norms?
  - How is strategy rooted in positive analysis?
    - How does it inform conditions and prospects for change?

- **Scope of Strategy**
  - Complementary to existing structures
    - Poverty reduction
  - Structural Change - Altering/Replacing
    - “another world is possible” (production, state, int’ system, etc)
    - Local control over work, environment
Questions of Strategy – Methods

**Methods**
- Production
  - Innovation/Learning in organizational design, processes, strategy
  - Action Research
    - *Social inclusion* – Enterprises of women, indigenous groups, etc.
    - *Scaling* – SSE value chains, producer networks, etc.
    - Sustainable Production
- States
  - Public policy, planning, service delivery, etc.
    - Co-construction of public policy *(in the UN system?)*
    - Decentralized planning and implementation
      - Social welfare, employment generation, etc.
- Ideology
  - Consistent approach to presenting the SSE
  - Pedagogical materials and programs (formal, extension, etc.)