

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 dominant 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.)

