

South Korea Redrawing the Economy Workshops

Katherine Gibson and Binna Choi

Introduction

This document provides an overview of the workshops that were held in South Korea as part of the Antipode Scholar-Activist Project Award “Redrawing the Economy: Creating Place-Based Images That Can Travel”. It has been prepared by Katherine Gibson (Western Sydney University) and Binna Choi (CASCO-Office for Art, Design and Theory, Utrecht) who conducted the three workshops reported on.

Three separate one day workshops were held: 1) at University of Seoul attended by 22 representatives of 11 different Seoul based initiatives, 2) at Jeonnam University in Gwangju attended by 10 representatives of social economy organizations, and 3) in Mapo community, in Seoul community, attended by 18 people most of whom were associated with the Mapo Community House. All Workshops were facilitated by Binna Choi and Katherine Gibson with the assistance of translators.



Korea Redrawing the Economy Workshop 1

Saturday April 15 2017

University of Seoul

This event was organized by the Institute for Humanities, where Hyun-Jae Lee, translator of *The End of Capitalism* is a Professor.

Morning spent in conference hall. KG's talk translated sequentially. Followed by a talk by Hyun-Jae where she reviewed the back ground to JKGG's work, going through the argument of TEOC and then adding in her analysis of the Salim Health Cooperative as a community economy business. This was followed by a wonderful talk by activist Seong-II Yoon about his work on setting up the MORE community currency on Mapo community where Workshop 3 will be held. He has studied TBTE and used it in his activist work.



Rich session in a new local context = the overall picture of community economies by Katherine that also included the thought provoking case (adopting the universal basic income) + two local examples.

Workshop took place in a rather staid and hierarchical conference room:



After a brief introduction by Binna and then me we had a warm up exercise with everyone portraying their neighbour on a balloon and then we went around and people introduced themselves and their organization.

Workshop guide

- Spatial agency: Important to reconfigure the space
- Balloon exercise (reference to artist Bern Krauss): this works in different levels as a way of introducing each other, of loosening up the distance and hierarchy, and also exercising drawing and working with images and materials, instead of pure words and mouths



This exercise involved physicality and a lot of laughter and started to change the emotional climate.



Binna, Kath and Translator Sehyun Lee (who is also member of translator cooperative set up in 2013)

List of organizations:

- It's OK Coop x 2 people
- Seong-Il Yoon, MAO (MORE) community currency and Community Economies Network Mapo
- Hyeonju Ohkim, People's House Mapo (People's Houses are like Neighbourhood Houses but at set up by social movements not Municipal Governments)
- Hope and Solidarity Trade Union (based on communities, not single enterprises, and hosts the Hope Seed Foundation)
- Local Community Radio
- Imagination Network (including coop, welfare institutions, community orgs)
- Member of the Salim Health Cooperative and also a worker in Local government
- Green Trust
- Pingo Community bank x 2 people
- Artist/social worker
- Eunshil Kim, Ewha Women's Studies academic
- Artist x 2 people
- Research Institute researcher interested in 'civil economy'
- Green Imagination
- Time Bank Korea x 2 people
- Journalist, feminist
- People's House
- People's House

The organizations/activists clustered into the following sectors:

Community activism including green activism
 Housing
 Media
 Banking/Money
 Art

Main Exercise

workshop guide

The participants arranged themselves into these 5 sectoral clusters and the workshop exercise was to

1. identify all the transactions, issues, actors that typified their activities 'below the waterline'
2. identify aspects of the mainstream in their sector (which might overlap with part of the activities within their own work)
3. portray these elements of the visible/hidden on an image that seemed appropriate to their 'sector'
4. create a collage using cut outs from magazines and drawn images

Groups worked on this for about 40-50 minutes—at first rather tentatively and then they really got into it. Binna visited each group to encourage and give examples. KG spent a lot of time cutting out images from magazines and spreading them around the room.

All the groups put their images up on the wall at the end of the room and then members of each group spoke to each image. This generated a wider discussion around commonalities, shared and specific challenges some of which are indicated by lines, and ways they might support each other. The following is what I can remember from each report back.



Group 1 Local Civic Activism

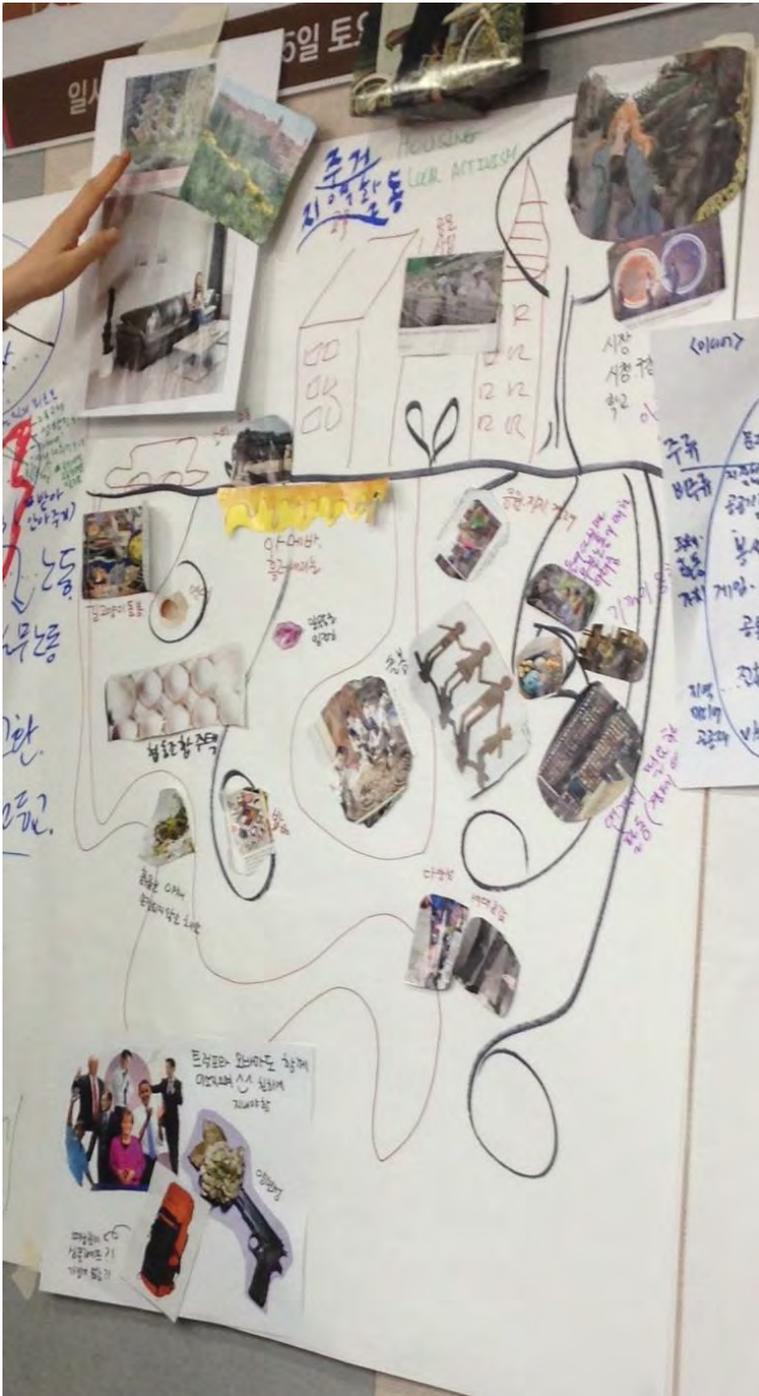
Eg in People's Houses

Above the water

Performing activities as occupation as the landlord, counsellor, politicians, event planners etc.

Under the water

- Tiny images at top show various forms of reciprocity, helping out, giving, sharing that take place in this place, which is about circular and reciprocal economy
- Green image of networks
- Image of time and Beach image to express the issue of never having enough, feeling pressured to perform unpaid labour and especially **emotional labour** for a broad range of concerns within communities
- Image of robot—Do provide whatever needed (superwo/man)
- Image of colours to indicate diversity



Group 2 DE of Cooperative Housing (and et al) as Ant-house

Above the ground

- Above ground are clean, spacious houses, with very few people in each unit; glamorous people; alienated and individuated workers; open call from government or institutions

Below the ground in a complex network of tunnels are the cooperative housing groups

- Eggs in carton: Many people living together in rather small space and fragile conditions
- Free to adopt stray cats and other animals
- Yucky green vegies---the image of coop housing as untidy or messy but fresh, directly from the ground
- Trump, Merkel etc: the attitude of having to tolerate difficult people and of being willing to negotiate are important.
- Back-pack: Needing to live without too much stuff, as the space is small and arrow
- Lips: need to curb gossip
- Legs and fashionable jeans: living with difference ie ages, races, no ability to avoid difference and thus the need to work out ways of living together
- People hand in hand: greater fellowship, companionship, less alienation and individuation
- Reliant on local municipality so needing to work with mainstream housing providers
- Meal: having meals together



Group 4a DE of Money as a Cage and the Outside World

Top

- At the top is the cage of the mainstream money and finance world. Here there is the glamour of wealth, the romance and allure of loans.
- Note some criticism of the sexism of the images here by Women's Studies academic
- Here are the glossy clean tall bank buildings conveying permanence, security, the future.
- But in the cage there is also the rule of the clock—the imperative to keep working to pay back loans; the drudgery of working for the bank to maintain its wealth

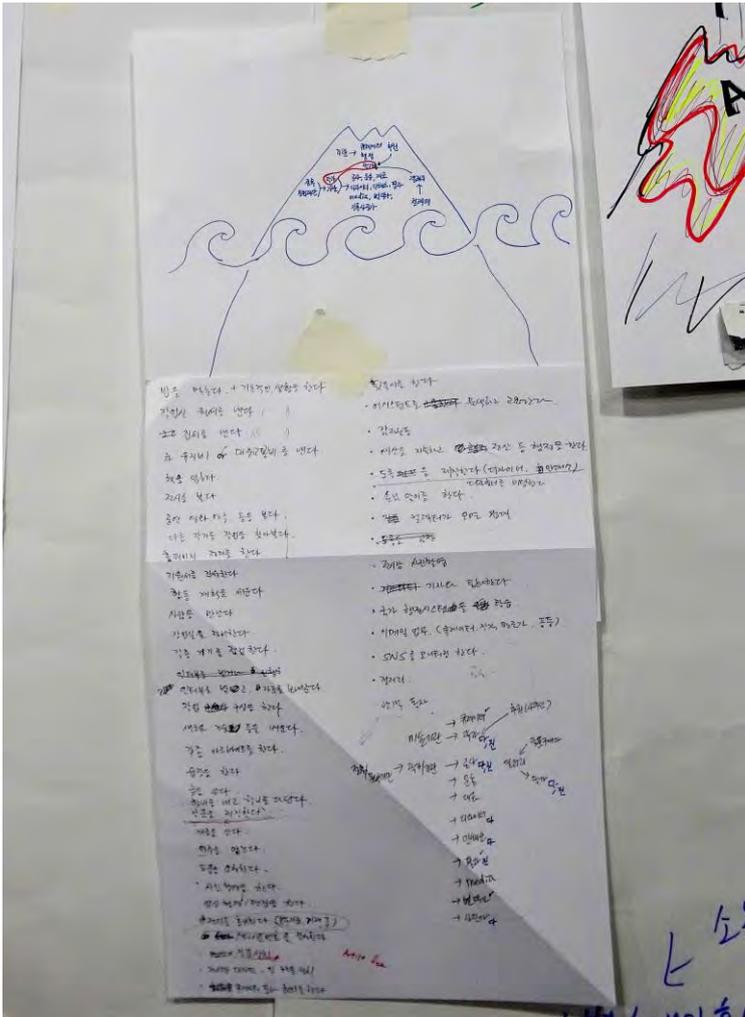
Below – grass & flower field (garden, or nature)

- Outside the cage is another world of freedom; freedom to set up a community currency and money circulating in the local businesses
- Freedom to exchange and barter or reciprocate, either unmeasured, or in a time bank
- There are more possibilities to play music, be an artist, spend time in nature, share food together



Group 4b Under the waterline with Time Banking

- “Being together open a new path”
- Local currency
- Reclaim the credit: decide on the amount of consumption as you did: work as you need.
- Good Buy is a network for ethical consumption
- Candle Assembly = Community Economy “We are the presidents”
- People working for time credits that can be used to get other services or products
- Whoever one hour has the same value
- There's no useless person: volunteers activities (= labor) “No to



Group 5 DE iceberg of the Art World

Above

- Above the waterline are the exhibitions, artists being paid for their work, small number of highly recognized and praised artists, art represented as all about inspiration and creativity
- Circle of institution and curators, administrators, sponsorship, gallery and collectors, and government: and transports, designers, authors, printers, materials, construction, media, translators, photographers (for documentation)

Below the waterline

- art needs time in which to reflect and create—it looks like leisure, but it is not. A lot of what artists do is research and then experimentation
- But in order to get some time for artistic pursuits, artists have to do all these things listed---get part time work, keep networked, write grants etc (need translation of this list)
- Also they need to work on communication and publicity, including monitoring SNS.
- They also need to eat.
- Emotional labor
- Main insight was that all this work is individuated and is rarely collectivised
- It leads to a lot of competition between artists
- There was discussion of and interest in how artists might participate in community economies more: to be more situated within communities?



Group 5 Art as the Volcano that Blows up Society

- Art isn't just a leisure activity it is work that moves society in some way
- Art does not create new but rather intend to blow out the existing society

End discussion

Binna led a discussion of what was put up---looking to the themes of connection and also areas where new connections – be positive or negative - could be built. Some of the themes:

- the lack of recognition of the emotional labour involved in all the CE activities, especially the work of women
- the need to hire in psychologists from the corporate world to resolve issues sometimes
- people dropping out of organizations because of personal conflicts and inability of governance structures to deal
- interesting discussion around gender difference in the Money group (mainly men) and the rest
- some concern by feminists about why caring labour were not addressed much in the image of time banks and community currencies
- discussion of all the voluntary service that goes into community activities, eg doing the clean-up and rubbish pickup.
- KG talked about new opportunities (of the second order) for enterprises that might service the CE sector eg counselling services, conflict resolution, governance workshop facilitation.
- Green group member said that their group could offer clean up services in return for recycling the rubbish.

Re-drawing the economy

Guide for new (Community) Economy image:

Cactus which grows from a densely networked root that socks water, **ant house** whose busy and committed work take place underground were suggested as the general image of the economy. **Cage** to refer the capitalist, **garden/nature** the community economies.

Images of **beach, fashion worlds, robots** are ambivalent.

Image of **clock** is also ambivalent but most of case used to address the question of time. Perhaps there's a need to draw a different imagination of time cf. Life-Work balance clock in TBEC.

How to express diversity, and how to draw a connection well, is something that could be addressed in thinking of a new image.

Togetherness and well-being were often expressed via the image of meal: having a good meal together.

Other images: Candle in the candle assemblies, egg roll, organic veggie, volcano etc.

Korea Redrawing the Economy Workshop 2

Gwangju, Jeonnam University

16 April 2017

Workshop hosted by Jeonnam University where there is a strong research interest in social economy and enterprise. See the top banner advertising the KG lecture (using the banner is very popular).



The workshop was held first from 1-5.30pm and then the lecture 6.30-8pm.

The participants of this workshop were very different from those at Workshop 1—many were working for the government in some way either directly or indirectly but fully funded by public funds. This region has a strong social economy often linked with the City Government's support, especially since the GFC and the interest in generating employment in this economically depressed region.

Background on Gwangju

Gwangju has long been the site of radical movements. It was more left oriented and thus pro-communist in the Korean war (tho supporting democratic transition). It languished economically during the post-Korean war boom years due to lack of investment. After the assassination of Park Chung-Hee in 1979 and declaration (again) of martial law, the 'Gwangju Uprising' of 1980 or 'May 18 Democratic Uprising' took place as part of the country wide democracy movement. An estimated 606 citizens and students were killed in the confrontation with the army that centred on occupation of the provincial administration offices in the centre of Gwangju. Today the Asian Cultural Centre surrounds these old govt buildings. The ACC is a massive state led cultural revival project occupying a huge area of the central city. Much of it is underground and covered by green space (with unanticipated ground water problems – the institution pumping out tons of water everyday in order to keep the building from being damp and eventually

flooded). Currently the last phase is being blocked from opening by May 18 movement activists as the renovation of the govt offices has obliterated all reference to the bloodshed that took place.



The citizens called the provincial government building the 'headquarters of the citizen militia'. The Gwangju citizens held 'citizen rallies' everyday at the government building plaza which was imbued with the spirit of democracy. The Gwangju citizens gathered at the government building square and opened up a new era of autonomy themselves. They directly created a system of democracy. All citizens were given the opportunity to speak. The citizens freely spoke their opinions. These opinions were gathered to establish numerous plans for the future of the Gwangju community.

시민들은 도청건물을 '시민군 본부'라고 명명했다. 그리고 광주시민들의 민주주의의 혼이 서린 도청광장에서 연일 '시민결기대회'를 열었다. 광주시민들은 도청광장에 모여서 스스로 새로운 자치의 시대를 열었다. 직접 민주주의 체제가 만들어진 것이다. 모든 시민에게 발언 기회가 주어졌다. 시민들은 거침없이 자신들의 의견을 주장했다. 이러한 의견들이 모여져서 광주공동체의 미래를 이끌어갈 여러 가지 계획들이 수립되었다





Photos of May 18 movement
in protest exhibition outside
Asian Cultural Centre

View from top of Govt admin
building today



View from top of occupied
Admin building over to old
Gym where bodies were
stored, then to the
bamboo forest and playing
field all above cultural
facilities.



View other way to more of the ACC

Workshop took place in a small conference room—rather hard to move around in:





Katherine gave a short lecture on the community economies, focusing on the role of imagination and visual articulation. It was translated by Binna as they did not manage to arrange the translator. [The workshop session was followed by KG lecture in the evening, for which Binna read out the Korean translation of her lecture at University of Seoul and more in-depth Q&A-

Then, in a bit stiff atmosphere, we started with the balloon introduction exercise to loosen the mood. Binna facilitated, Katherine assisted with not very skilled translator.

This workshop was last minute and less intensively organized. The main contact person was practicing social economy, while there was a general transition from community economies to social economies for last 10 years, as it turned out.

Workshop participants:

- Gwangju Social Economy Support Center
- *Salim*, Independent Social Economy support center
- *Bitna Home*, Feminist domestic workers organization
- Asian Cultural Centre (ACC) advisor
- *Working Moms*, catering organization with housewives and elderly women
- *Coffee that shares happiness*, Roasting Coffee social business & cooperative
- Lunchbox that shares happiness, social business that deliver lunch boxes, a member of cooperative of the national lunchbox companies.
- Cultural Promotion Association



Quite a few participants – related to the organizers/hosts- seemed very distracted with frequent absences to take phone calls and send texts, so it was hard work to get people to focus at the beginning.

Based on the specificity of the participants, we broke the group into 2 groups:

Group 1: producers of some kind, ie working directly in a social enterprise or coop

Group 2: support workers for the social economy ie publically funded support work

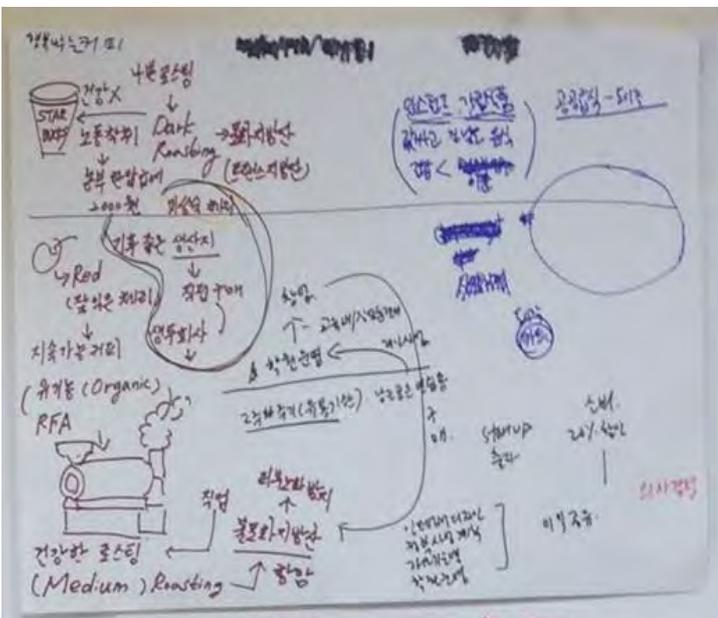
Main exercise instructions

Participants were asked to identify all the relationships and transactions and actors that were involved in their 'under the waterline' activity and to record them on a sheet of paper with connections noted. Also, if possible, to outline the more 'mainstream' version of this activity.

The group of producers could do this reasonably well, although there were some initial reluctance to enunciate what they do, and draw things –it was a bit like producing a People's Account of enterprise. The government people and those working as contractors to the government found this harder.



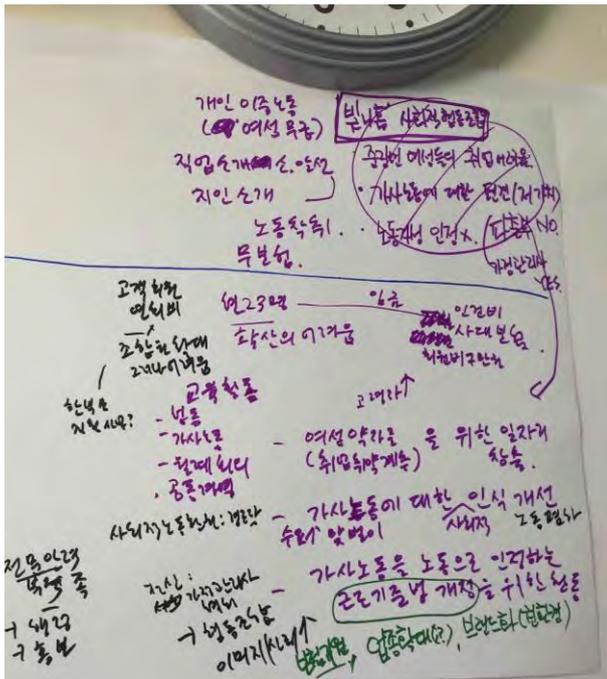
Coffee Roasting Social Business/cooperative (Group 1)



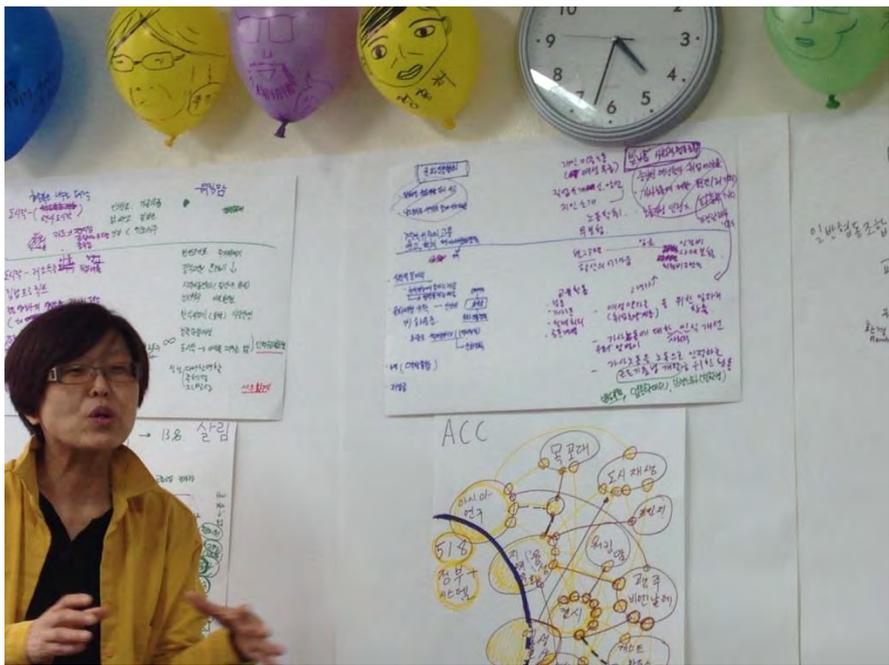
Coffee that Shares Happiness cooperative

- Around 1000 coffee shops in Gwangju—ie it is an overcrowded market (a red ocean)
- Most supply cheap but bad coffee: dark roasted beans that generates fat
- This business offers fresher, organic, healthier coffee beans.
- Its sustainable cycle includes the educational company (non-cooperative) to give a training to people to start their own coffee business.
- It also imports coffee beans directly, roasts and sells to coffee shops
- The coffee has a higher price as it only buys from sustainable coffee growers: connected with rainforest alliance,
- 60% profits return to business and co-owners, 40% to social service
- Competes with Starbucks that exploit labors.
- Receives no govt subsidy as not formally part of Social Economy
- Sees need to connect with social enterprises and SE

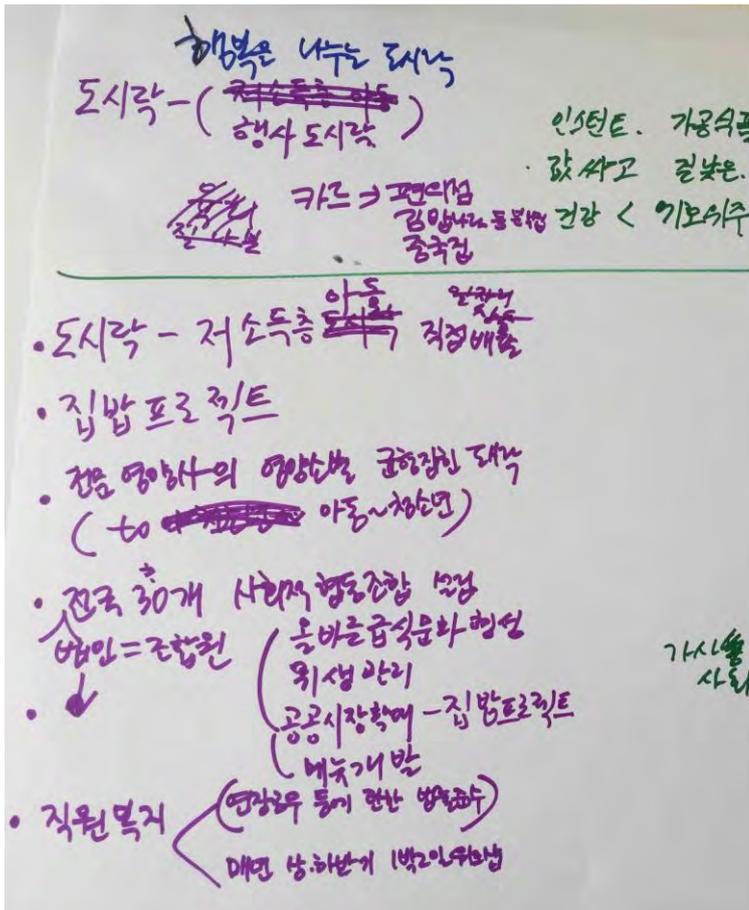
BitnaHome (Group 1)



- BitnaHome (Shining Home) cooperative**
- Social Cooperative, begun before govt support for coops began (which was around 2008)
 - Members are 23 women, over 50 yrs of age
 - Aims to reframe the value of Housework—calling it ‘house caring’
 - Began to protect the workers in other people’s houses who could not get health and accident insurance like most workers
 - They have trouble making profits so want to expand membership
 - Aim to help poorer families access house cleaning and change the image of domestic work as low, subordinate etc
 - Seeking govt support for insurance
 - They identify a lack of professional admin labour to help run the business
 - Above the waterline intervention is to attach a different cultural meaning to house work/caring



Lunch Box for Sharing Happiness (Group 1)



Lunch Box for Sharing Happiness

Makes lunch boxes with healthy food for school children; trying to do less of catering, focusing on lunch boxes.

Competes with cheaper but less healthy suppliers.

- private and social business that created a networked cooperatives with other 30 lunch boxes business across the country
- Supported by govt so the price of lunch boxes is not too expensive Delivery of the lunchboxes to the children of low income family
- healthy, nutrient food
- keeping welfare for the employee

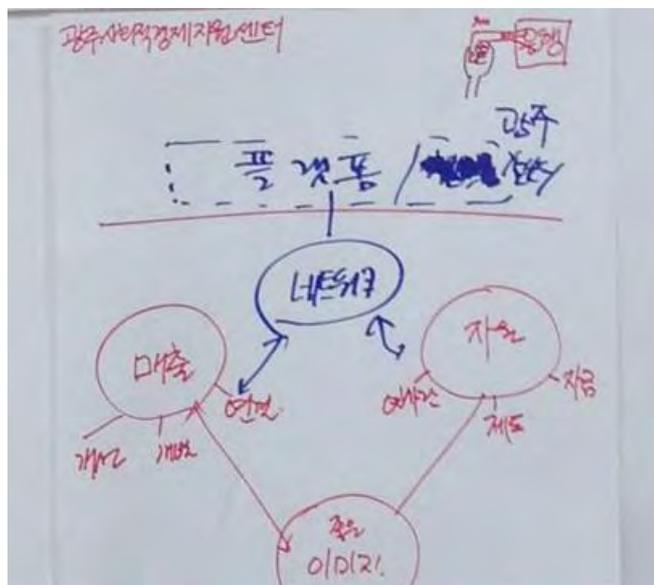
Working Mom’s catering cooperative (Group 1)



Working Mom’s Catering cooperative

- Social cooperative—members are mothers who work part time
- Provide catering services – healthy food with organic spice- for local child care centres, arranged with the local district office
- Govt used to subsidize wages for women but it stopped now.
- Run a restaurant as a way to sustain
- It provides the works for women who lost their career track or mothers at home: socialization of domestic work
- This however sometimes create imbalance between the works needed to be done and labor
- Also identifies lack of accounting
- Employees are autonomous, participate in decision making while combining several roles/tasks
- Weak in accounting

Gwangju Social Economy Support Center (Group 2)

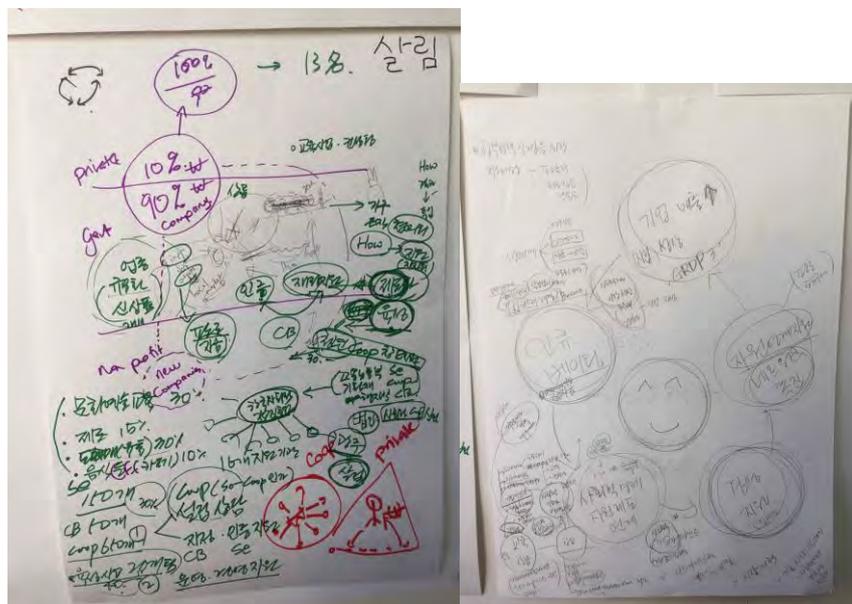


Salim, Social Economy Support Business (group 2)

Gwangju Social Economy Support Center

Gwangju City Govt has supported the social economy at least since the GFC.

- Social Economy models have been imported from overseas and followed in Korea
- Aim of public policy is to offer professional support to social companies--3 forms of support
 - Support for product development— what produces, how to sell them, what markets
 - Monetary support
 - Educational resources to change the image of social enterprises as poorer with poorer workers---Soc enterprises and coops as businesses that help people, not ones that need help
- 750 social enterprises in Gwangju but not all are working well
- All of them get benefits



Salim, Social Economy Support Business

The present works in a publicly funded contracting business-cooperative that supports 18 social enterprises and 5 cooperatives. There is pressure to take on more. Her business offers:

- Business incubation and connection to the wider SE
- Business education
- Money/investment
- Human resources assistance

Challenges

In Seoul cooperatives have access to professional support to help with problems— she would like to see this same support available for social enterprises.

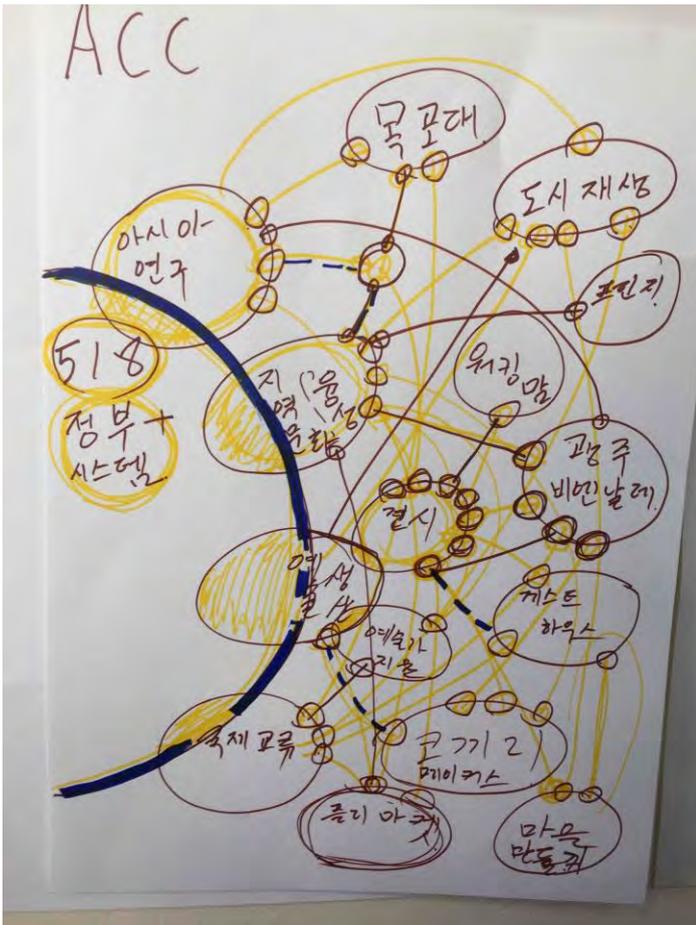
Too much labor as they get the governmental contracts from several departments

Need for better selling systems that connect via networks of exchange between the SE actors

How to get Social enterprises generating more profits to grow to a certain level and move beyond needing public support.

She asks Who are our real clients?

Asia Cultural Centre (Group 2)



Carpenter Cho the ACC

It is a huge public institution with about 300 employees. It embodies the intersection of the government and the May 18 movement.

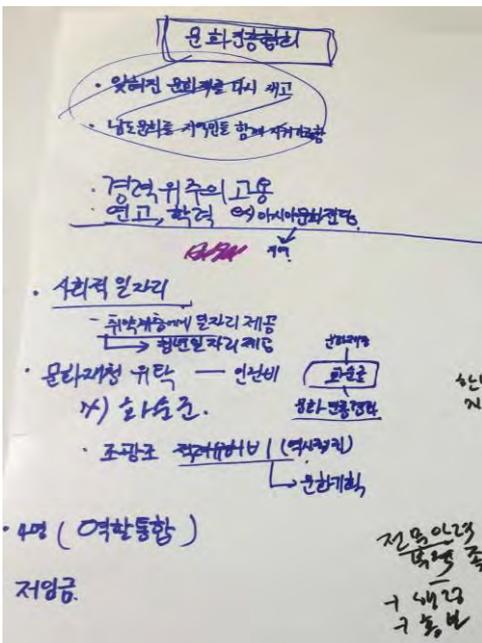
It focuses on four area:

- Asia study
 - Local cultural development
 - Artistic production, exhibition
 - International exchange
- Power struggles or general institutional anomaly within the ACC
 - Less than 10% of funding ends up in the local area—rest flows out to artists, professionals from outside etc
 - The carpenter Cho (Jeon Hwan) tried to make a connection with local social economies such as Working Moms for catering, Cokkiri Maker’s coop & guest house, as well as other art institute like Gwangju Biennale

We discussed the possibility that ACC acts a hub for the social economy “Asia Community Culture Center”

* We visited a fabric printing so cent for public use within ACC, run by Cokkiri Maker’s coop.

Cultural Promotion Association (Group 1)



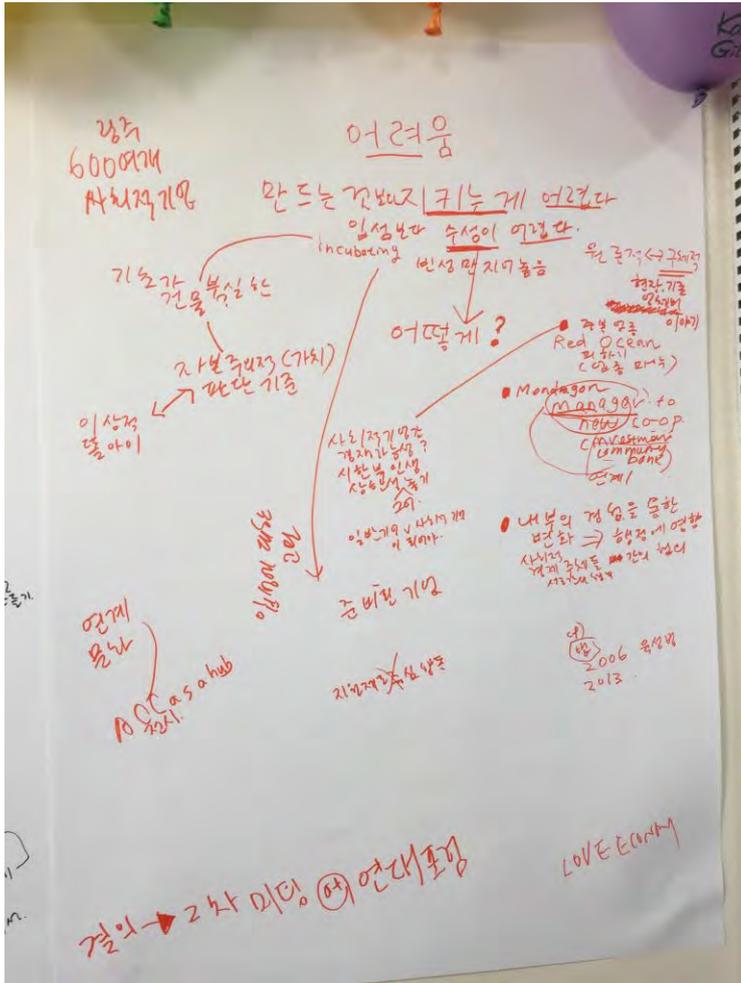
Cultural Promotion Association

It is social enterprise as it hires youth who could not find a job or those from poor background (grass root version of ACC?)

It works by getting a commission from a small province or city to develop cultural projects

Low wage

General Discussion



- The amount of govt support is a success, but it is generating unlimited growth of new and fragile enterprises that undermines the Social Economy’s resilience. The public sector is incubating too many small social enterprises with no real strategy: many empty, ungrounded castles. “It’s more difficult to maintain a castle than build one” (a proverb, 입정보다 수성이 어렵다.)
- There is a need to develop a local model, based on the internal, local experiences, and the agreement among the members, or groups, not import others, including the language
- Important to find and multiply the connection dots / hubs
- Social enterprises don’t change subjectivity—they rely on entrepreneurial subjects
- Rather than trying to anticipate the winners and pick them or develop them, better to support existing social enterprises and help them overcome challenges.
- First time to see the whole system, although they “knew” parts of it already
- Re-claiming and sophisticating drawing together which used to be more common when there were more sense of community driven approach.
- The notion of “love economy” is striking: we are still using capitalist value system in order to evaluate the social economy. It has to be changed.
- People decided to have the follow-up workshop/meeting.

Re-drawing the economy

Guide for new (Community) Economy image

An image of many, crumbling castles, versus a few solid castle in construction and under the maintenance: the possibility of the latter generating a new complex of castles?

**Korea Redrawing the Economy Workshop 3:
Mapo Community
Tuesday 18 April 2017**

Background to the Mapo People's House and CE activism

Community Economy Platforms Initiated by Mapo People's House

Notes from lecture given by co-founder of **MORE** (the community economy network in Mapo) Seong-il Yoon at the conference on preceding Workshop 1:

The Mapo People's House is one of 8-9 such in Sth Korea. They have been set up by social movements, unlike the Community Village movement set up by the Seoul City Govt under Mayor Park which are unaffiliated with trade unions—or (perhaps?) Neighbourhood Houses set up by municipal govts to administer social services and community development. People's Houses are more activist oriented and linked to the union movement.

In the same light, the Mapo People's house is also well connected with some progressive political parties whose members are also the members of the Mapo People's House and gather at the House. It's important to note this aspect to see how the micropolitics is also connected to the macropolitics.

In Mapo community there were already lots of experimental (economic) activism—when KG visited the Mapo People's House in 2013 (when TBTE was just coming out and before the Korean translation) there was long standing social housing (in the Neighbourhood Community, notably *SungmiSan* community), a food coop and other things. Seong-il and other House members including Hyunju Oh was at the meeting KG attended at the Mapo People's House and after that they decided to use TBTE to help strengthen the community economy in Mapo. They read the book in Korean as part of their reading seminar and met to discuss how they could strengthen the CE in Mapo.

They distinguish the CE from the state endorsed social economy. The SE is a Metropolitan Govt innovation project design that tends towards resolving social problems. Only social enterprises and cooperatives are allowed to apply for govt SE support. Trade Unions, community organizations and disability groups are not eligible for SE support. Seong-il and other members of the People's House was interested in the CE as it includes a range of actors in changing our economy. Also whilst the social economy and enterprise are often focused on the subject as producers, they were interested in consumers. In November/ December 2015 **Mapo Community Economy Network - later also called Platform - (MORE)** at the Mapo People's House was established, along with the "Localist" conference. (<http://mapolocalist.net/wordpress/>)



The Localist Conference poster

They did an inventory of organizations and decided to develop new platforms for different actors (coops, social enterprises, trade unions, community organizations) to work together and still maintain their autonomy and individual agency and started created a new economic movement that is place (in this case, Mapo) based and interconnect many different existing alternative initiatives in Mapo in their inter-dependency.

MORE Mapo Community Economy Network

MORE's first attempt was to set up **Good Buy**: Good Buy is a Community Interest Corporation that they started as a telecom store selling smart phones. The consumers or "buyers" can decide where a proportion of the profits made through their purchase flows. They can suggest communities or non-profit organizations: then Good Buy makes an agreement with those initiatives and contributes part of the profit to them.

Second major activities is to create the MORE currency (or coupon) for the community stores in Mapo. *More* (close to sound MOA) in Korean could mean "putting together" or gather. It also could stand for Mapo Organization for Reclaiming the Economy. The **MORE** connects stores in the Mapo community—its aim is to expand and proliferate human connections as indicated by the formula/circuit "H-M-H+" (suggested by a Korean economist) printed on each note of the currency, which refers to Humans—Money--Human connections plus (Note the parallelism the M-C-M' circuit of commodity capital in Marx's Capital). One incentive for starting the community currency was that the 7,000 member consumer coop was making a loss and people were less invested in it.



MORE Community Currency

- 85 stall holders in the Mangwon Market in Mapo community. After initial reluctance, all are now users of **MORE** currency
- Banner of the currency in the market and Hyun-Jae Lee in the foreground
- The note looks like a regular note—it was designed and printed with help from a govt grant. The second version got design updated and includes a counterfeit prevention measure.
- Users can buy MORE currency with Korean won, they receive 10% more moa than won. So W10,000 translated into M11,000.
- There have been 10 months of printing and 60 million won of vouchers have been circulated.
- Challenges: a mega super store is to open in the area. There have been rallies against this
- The aim is to print more MORE to allow for more purchasing power by citizens

Workshop guide: significance to visit the communities – site visit



People from L to R

- President of the Mangwon Market Stallholders Assoc
- Seong-il Yoon
- Mapo community member who works with Good Buy
- All holding MORE in the market and the rice cake package they purchased with the MORE.

Challenges:

- a mega super store is to open in the area. There have been rallies against this.
- Seoul prospective mayor has been offering gift vouchers as an election ploy. They are bought from a commercial bank and don't work to build the community—only promote mainstream consumption.

Future plans:

- Moa team are developing a mobile payment system via an app
- Plans for a Community bank
- Welfare points to the elderly eg walking points could be paid in moa
- promote monthly budgeting using moa and local stores so as to not over-consume
- local social enterprise restaurant is bankrupt—can the moa be used to save it?



모아를 구매하고 싶다면?
모아로 전화 주사나 (02-3144-3335), 아래에 표시된 가까운 공동체가이유권 모아 판매점을 이용하세요.

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The Mapo Workshop was preceded by visiting to a couple of the MORE member-stores. It includes the visit to the above Market and the Vet hospital co-op.



Vet hospital Cooperative: Our Younger Siblings Cooperative [우리 동생 Uri Dong-Saeng]
<http://mapowithpet.com/>

- They had the two versions of mission statements, one by human, another by animal. There's also the animal representative.
- This co-op was dreamed up by Mapo People's House activists. Been going for 5 years without the space. They met with many single women who had pets but didn't have familial networks to draw on in Seoul to look after their pets when they were away. The number of the members reached more than 500.
- Started a Vet Hospital cooperative with 2 paid vets who are also member of the cooperative and membership by clients and their pets. The hospital has operating room and xray equipment etc. The vets receive higher than average salaries to attract them to the Co-op.
- It also cares for stray animals, and brings them back to health so they can be re-homed (see picture of strays with the representative of the Vet hospital co-op Kyungsub Jeon who was the former representative of the Mapo People's house).
- Currently 1,500 members and estimated they need 2,000 to break even with expenses. Members pay a 50,000 (approx. \$50) won to join.



Also linked to a pet snack making social enterprise—they market the snacks beyond the hospital. This helps to sustain the Vet co-op which is not yet making any profit. Still in debt for the establishment costs of equipment etc.

- Members also have a pet care sharing network and regular social meetings so the co-op is the centre of a community of humans and animals: lots of educational (learning) activities are taking place, too.
- The business has experienced push back from the private vet sector and pharmaceutical companies. There is fear that this method of running a business might catch on. Companies refused to sell drugs to them. They could tackle this with support of the other medical co-op (the importance of inter-dependency beyond Mapo)





This is the **MORE** member store logo outside of the Vet hospital co-op [우리 동생 Uri Dong-Saeng]



The map/diagram express the **MORE** currency mechanism.
 Blue from the top and clockwise
 Need & Production > Collective Consuming> Commons> Surplus activities, Good Buy

Workshop held in Community Café Mangwon, very next to the Market, incubated by Mapo People’s House

Nice informal atmosphere for the Workshop. We started with dinner catered by a catering initiative who’s part of a housing co-op of Hyunju Oh, and then commenced.





Participants in Workshop

- Hyun-Jae Lee (Seoul University)
- Hyeonju OH-kim (Mapo People's House, MORE)
- Seong-il Yoon (MORE and Mapo People's House)
- Member of Women and poverty organizing in Mapo for 10 yrs who's member of political party Jungui-Dang (justice party)
- Woman representing a disability organization
- Man representing a disability organization
- Binna Choi (facilitator)
- Rep of Shopowners Assoc Mangwon market
- Rep from It's OK Coop—financial counselling for people in debt
- Man from Community Café Coop
- Member of Cable TV workers Community trade union
- Member of Cable TV workers Community trade union
- Young man with girlfriend
- Girl living above café - another housing cooperative - who uses MORE
- Social worker with people with mental health challenges
- Community Café coop member
- Manager of the Café Mangwon
- Member of a group of college students who help children from poor families
- Teacher with children's study group at Mapo People's House
- KG and translator

* the list of the participants.

서울시립대학교 도시인문학연구소 인문한국(HK) 사업단
Take Back the Economy 참석부

성명	소속	직책	서명
최승희	쌍의 길		최승희
김지민	크레디트협		김지민
이선준	이동강변주민협회의	사무장	이선준
김태영	"	대리	김태영
이현재	생신협의도연노	대표	이현재
서광운	리양연대노동조합		서광운
최충준	"		최충준
서정래	영등포시장	상인	서정래
구영근	매곡11번은길2리리	상임이사	구영근
김지민	민중의 집		김지민
김성성	남구리동	이사	김성성
점두우	백수	대표	점두우
김지현			김지현
한성경	행동하는연대	대표	한성경
이종훈	우계동미내협	이사	이종훈

Workshop Exercise

Workshop guide

The time allocated for the workshop is only 2 hours and most of the participants seem to be acquainted with each other, in a way a group with many connections in one place, based in Mapo. So instead of sub-clustering, we went ahead to the individual-then collective approach.

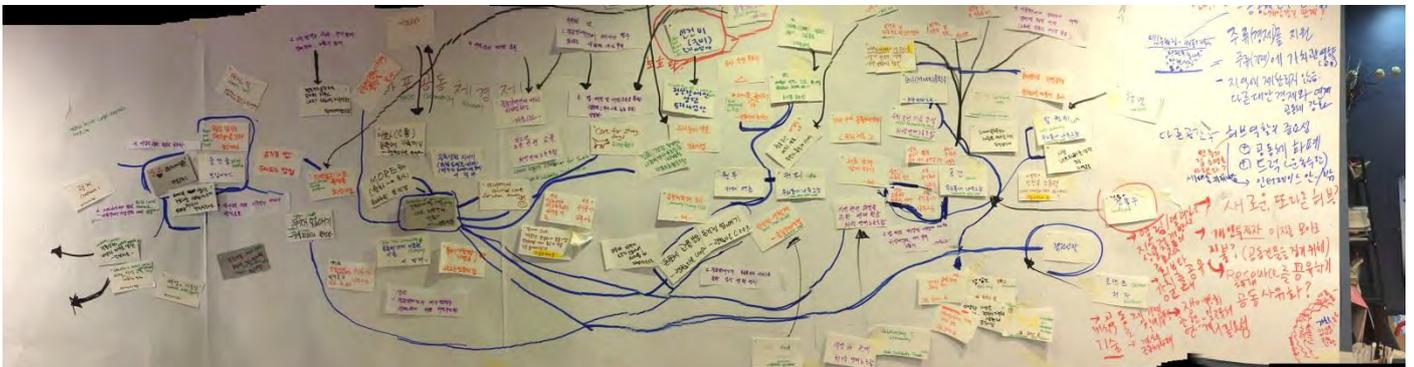
And instead of the iceberg frame that distinguishes the mainstream economy and others vertically, we chose to create non-vertical inside-outside frame. Within the outside is the vertical structure appearing back. The border of the circle was not drawn bold to facilitate thinking of the in and out porosity.

Katherine gave introduction on the community economy idea and Binna on the workshop method and meaning.

Binna handed out lots of small cards – post-its could have been better in retrospect so that's it's easier to move them around and put- for people to individually record the transactions, actors, values, feelings, etc that they associated with

1. what they were doing in a community economy
2. how they connected with the 'mainstream' or non Mapo economy (while thinking of threats and challenges)

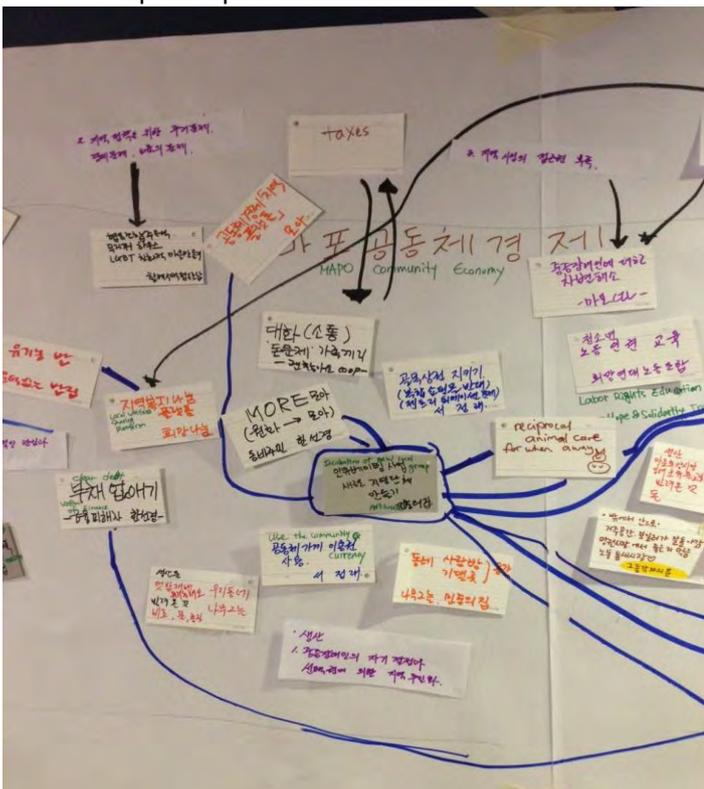
Once people had had some time to write up a few cards, people were asked to stick the cards onto a large wall of paper with a big circle (the Mapo CE) and an outside. KG translator wrote up English translations onto many of the cards. (We should have used post-it notes!!). Once the cards were all posted up, each person got up and talked about their cards and Binna recorded the connections by drawing sinewy lines all around the wall. Towards the end we suggested to think about what image would emerge out from this.



It is hard to see the circle that designated the inside (Mapo CE) and the outside in this picture.

What emerged **inside the circle** was a visualization of interconnection with a few 'hubs' that had many different connections:

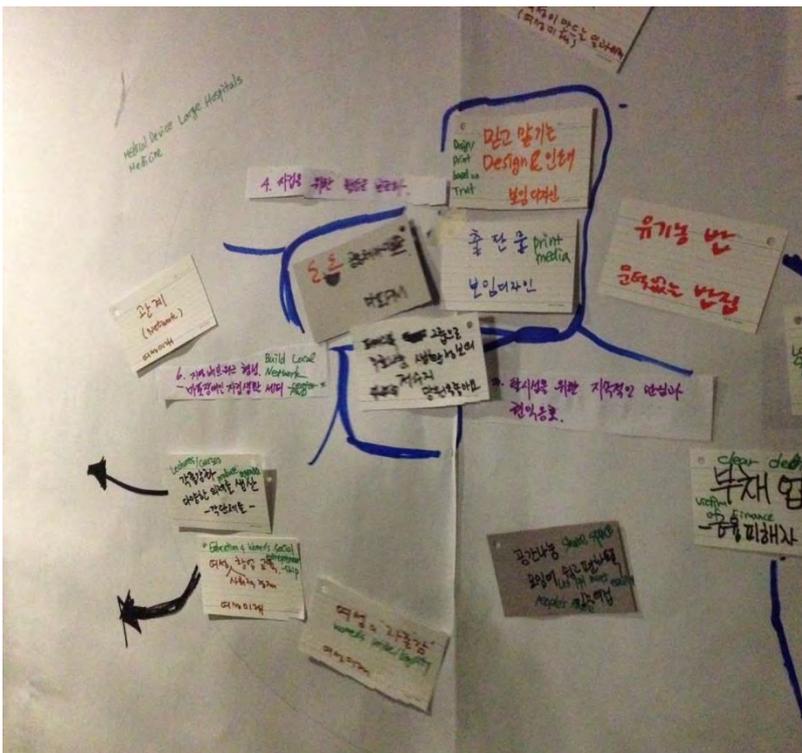
- Mapo People's House



Mapo People's House (MPH)

- This is where strategic thinking happens and where new community economy activities are incubated
- MPH is a point of connection for many activities
- It is where people already committed to a CE gather
- Although Hyunju expressed perhaps they have completed their missions, this does not mean to stop their role as a hub but the proliferation of those hubs.

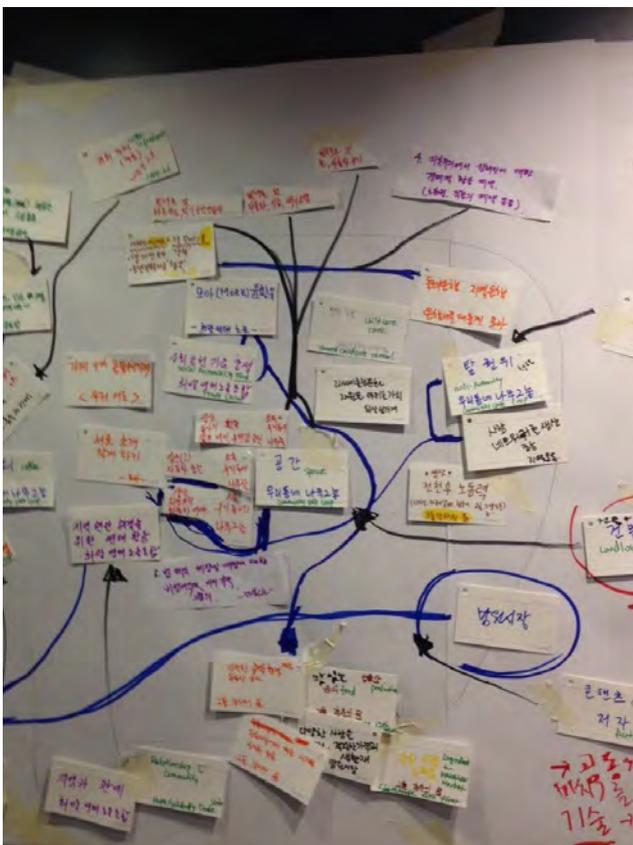
- Media Hub



Community radio, design & printing shop, Facebook

- The Printing shop Boim design that also provides designs is an indispensable means.
- Facebook is where the most connections are made between people on a daily basis
- Social media eg pet care sharing network builds connection and community
- As in other community economies (in the Workshop 1) radio seems to be often chosen as an alternative community medium

- Community café hubs



Community cafes

- These are an **open entry points for outsiders** to come into the Mapo community economy and experience it
- Important sites of both gathering, international socialization and outreach
- You don't need to know about the CE to come in and see how a co-op works
- **Community truck service** offered by Under the Tree café is another important medium-hub
- There's an idea to get a community bus: more public/community transport than privately own vehicle

Another could be the finance as in the Workshop 1, including alternative banking system (cheaper loan), good buy, etc, and education and care which we did not manage to focus due to time limitation.

2) The above aspect could mean the ambivalent power of the communities economies: while it creates community and local orientated values, it may simply serve what the state had to provide, without “Power” to produce things that we commonly use (space, vehicle, raw materials). The latter could be coercive and (ap)propriating.

Hence it seems to be furthermore important to:

- articulate, actually write and visualize those alternative works and values in community economies,
- use not only the hubs like café but also each community or member’s relation with the outside (such as a role in the political party, a role in a company etc), for contact zones with and influencing the outside,
- organize educational activities

In brief, “relation with the outside” is not only the threats but also possibilities!

Re-drawing the economy

Guide for new (Community) Economy image:

This also gives a direction on what could be another image for the community economies: that is based on this circle, inside and outside diagram. Initially it was imagined as a whale, or submarine but it could be **living bodies, tissues, hearts, neurones, or net** that re-configure what’s the inside and outside with a different set of values.

So the community economies – (decentralized) circle – as **attracting, prorous and transforming exteriorily.**

And the image that facilitates to track and draw more transactions and relationships within the circle and across the in and outside of the ricule

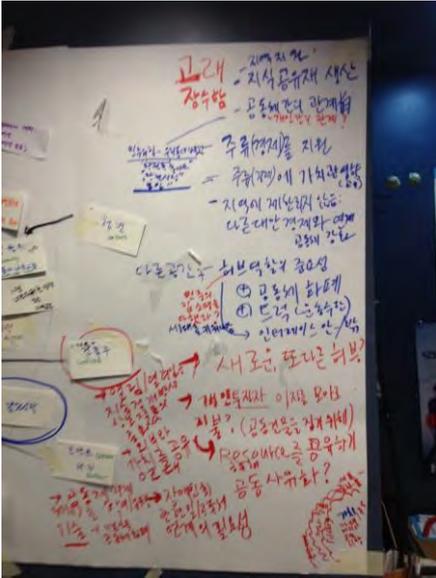
3) In relation, it’s also important to have inter-general sharing and distributing knowledge and skills so that they are not centralized and too much dependent on those hub or activists within community economies.

4) Workshopping is a productive method for communities (increasing self-awareness, articulation of the meanings and values, and collective knowledge production): Mapo People’s House to further the workshop by themselves.

5) It would be good to count the numbers of the members of each groups, co-ops, initiatives, instead of only counting the numbers of groups, co-ops, initiatives. For example

Mapo People’s House is affiliated with:

- Ulimdure food consumer co-op (started at Sungmisan) with 7,000 households as members
- Healthcare and Solidarity labour Union co-op of 1,300 members
- Our Younger Siblings [우리 동생 *Uri Dong-Saeng*] Vet hospital Co-op with 1,500 members (co-found by the former representative of the Mapo People’s House)
- Mangwon Café Co-op (where we held the workshop) (run by the Mapo People’s House)
- Under the Tree [나무 그늘 *Namu Gneul*] Café Co-op



conclusive part drawn during the workshop



Hyeonju at the Workshop.