



Information Session: Cooperative Economics Call for Proposals



University of California, Santa Barbara

BLUMCENTER

ON POVERTY, INEQUALITY, AND DEMOCRACY



WELCOME



Email Address & Home Dept or Major

History + Origins:

THE ROCHDALE PRINCIPLES

The Rochdale principles adopted by the Pioneers in 1844 and to-day recognised throughout the world are

1. Open membership.
2. Democratic control (one man, one vote).
3. Distribution of surplus in proportion to trade.
4. Payment of limited interest on capital.
5. Political and religious neutrality.
6. Cash trading.
7. Promotion of education.

What is Cooperative Economics?

Cooperative economics is a model rooted in democratic participation. It can be adapted across an array of social contexts to address universal needs for equity and sustainability.

What is Cooperative Economics? cont'd ---

BROAD SPECTRUM OF COLLABORATIVE ENDEAVORS

Communal practices w/in Indigenous communities

Mutual Aid Exchange networks

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY THROUGH COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISE

Any enterprise that is owned and democratically controlled by its members

FORMED TO SATISFY AN ECONOMIC AND/OR SOCIAL NEED THROUGH AFFORDABILITY OR EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION

Organization provides economic structure to engage in production or distribution

DIFFERENT TYPES BASED ON OWNERSHIP MODEL

Worker coops - Owned by employees

Consumer coops - Owned by customers

Producer cooperatives - Owned by farmers or manufacturers for joint marketing

IMPORTANCE OF VALUES OVER PROFIT

Contrast with shareholder capitalism

What is Cooperative Economics? cont'd ---

“A cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.” – *International Cooperative Alliance*

“A cooperative or co-op is a business that is owned and democratically controlled by the members who use its services.” – *University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives*

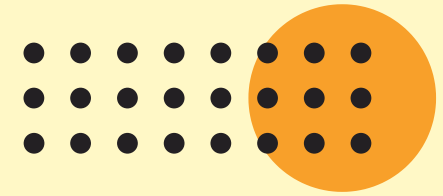
“A cooperative is an organization that is owned and controlled by the people who use its products, supplies and/or services. Cooperatives can vary in their particular purpose but share in common the fact that they are formed to meet the specific objectives of members and adapt to member’s changing needs. Self-reliance and self-help are the hallmark of cooperatives. “ – *California Center for Cooperative Development*

What is Cooperative Economics? cont'd ---

Academic resources:

<https://blumcenter.ucsb.edu/initiatives/cooperative-economics>

Examples of Funded Projects



Edible Insect Acceptance Efforts Toward Food Systems Change: Perspectives from a Midwest Cricket Farm

Mackenzie Wade, Graduate Student, Anthropology, 2022-23



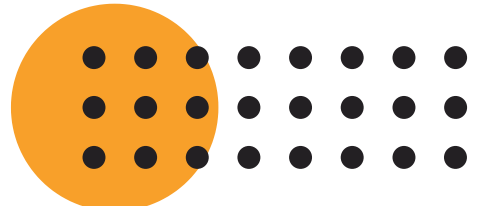
PRODUCER SPOTLIGHT
Rocky Mountain

Project Overview

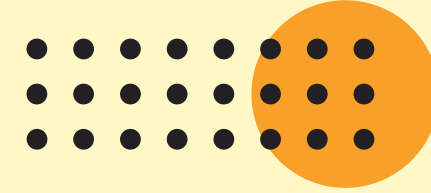
- Examines how U.S. edible insect advocates (educators, farmers, NGOs, academics, and business owners) work to normalize insect consumption despite cultural aversions.
- Investigates stakeholder relationships, balancing profit with socio-environmental values, and the power structures influencing these efforts.
- Useful for considering how cooperative economics can be used to engage in research that addresses power structures and social and environmental change within a nation's food system

Methods

- Ethnographic Fieldwork: Conducted at a woman-owned cooperative cricket farm in rural Iowa.
- In-Depth Interviews: Engaged with family members, workers, local townspeople, and customers to explore their perceptions and experiences.



Examples of Funded Projects



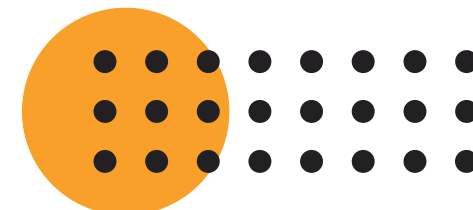
The Migrating Queer Bookshelf: Queer Bookstores and the Making of Queer Communities in the United States and Canada, 1945-Present,
Sarah Dunne, Graduate Student, History, 2023-24

Project Overview

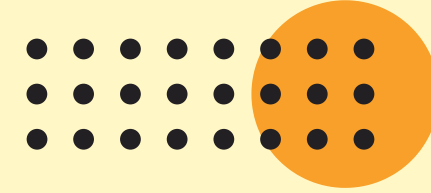
- Investigates how queer booksellers formed a transnational network to establish and defend queer bookstores.
- Explores resistance against state censorship and homophobic violence.
- Booksellers curated inventory to align with activist principles rather than profit maximization
- Positions queer bookstores as models of cooperative economics that empowered marginalized communities.

Methods

- Archival Research at The ArQuives: Canada's LGBTQ+ Archives in Toronto.
- Investigates the role of queer bookstores in political organizing and community-building during the Gay Liberation Movement.



Examples of Funded Projects



The Surplus of the Commons: A competition of altruism as a novel mechanism for inducing cooperative behavior in common pool resource games

Erik Mallory & Marissa Samuels, Economics Majors, 2022-23

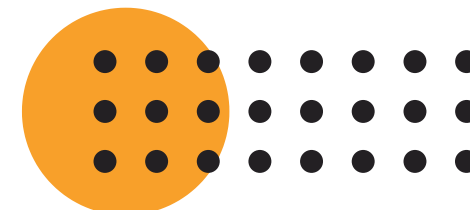


Project Overview

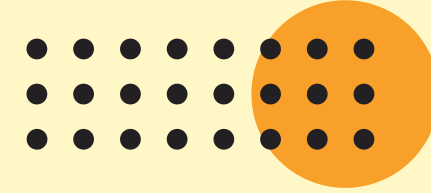
- Investigated whether competition-based incentives can encourage cooperative behavior.
- Hypothesized that adjusting competition criteria to reward cooperation will increase prosocial behavior.
- Considered theoretical implications for positive incentives for cooperation.

Methods

- Lab experiment with 120 participants



Examples of Funded Projects



Cooperatives as seen through Unhoused Populations

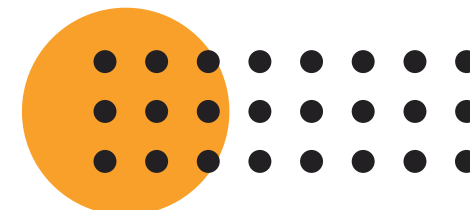
Klarissa Olivarez, Anthropology Major, 2021-22

Project Overview

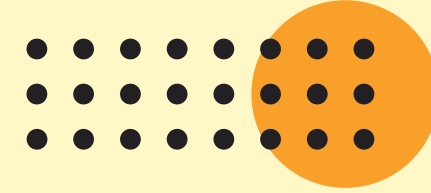
- Investigated how unhoused communities demonstrate cooperative behaviors.
- Explored resource-sharing practices in the areas of *Food, Money, & Material Goods*
- Examined how shared resources function as communal assets that foster mutual support and resilience.

Methods

- In-depth interviews with key community stakeholders:



Examples of Funded Projects



In the Economic Wake of War: Homemaking, Labor, & Wartime Displacement in Abkhazia

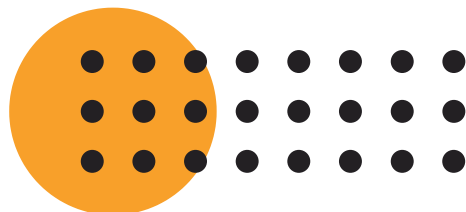
Gehad Abaza, Graduate Student, History, 2023-24

Project Overview

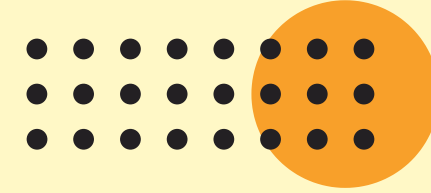
- **Explores the intersection of housing, gender, and collective labor in a post-war context.**
- **Impact of housing policies.**
- **Collective labor in maintaining and repairing homes.**
- **Women's contributions to community-building.**

Methods

- Ethnographic research
- Interviews
- Photography & visual documentation



Examples of Funded Projects



Assessing a Home Care Cooperative

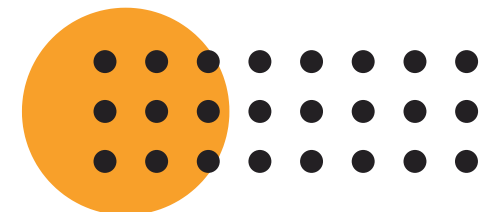
Hull Professor, Eileen Boris, Feminist Studies, 2023-24

Project Overview

- **Assesses the feasibility of establishing a home care cooperative in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties.**
- **Aims to improve labor conditions by enabling workers to negotiate IHSS wages with counties.**
- **Evaluates the potential for a unionized, worker-controlled home care cooperative on California's Central Coast.**

Methods

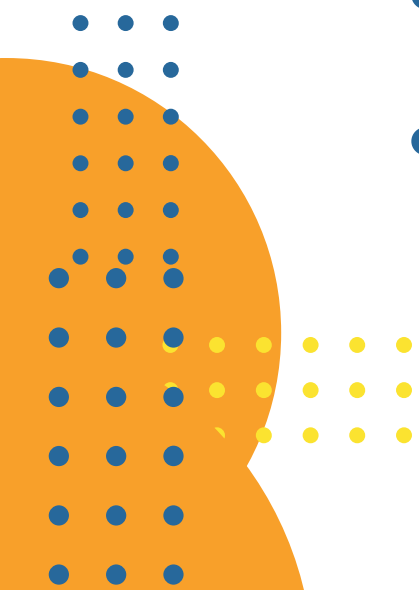
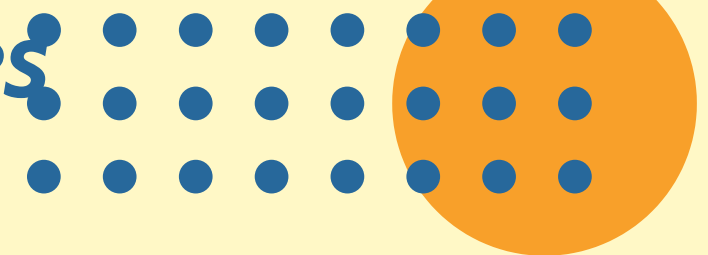
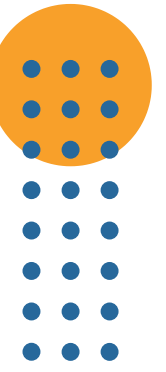
- Quantitative analysis
- In-depth interviews



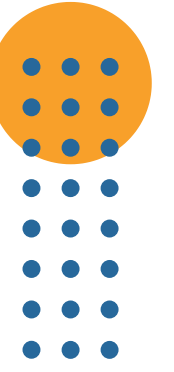
What are Cooperative Economics Methods?

Cooperative economics invites an interdisciplinary approach and a range of methodologies:

- *ethnographic fieldwork*
- *archival research*
- *qualitative research*
- *quantitative analysis*
- *mixed methods*
- *case studies*
- *public facing or community-engaged approaches*

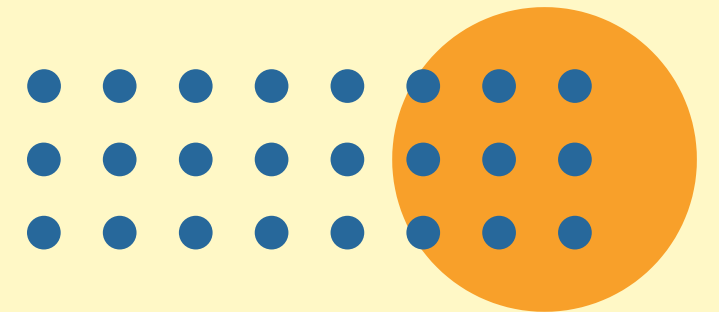


What We Want to Fund



We are interested in a wide variety of approaches across disciplines:

- Topics related to establishment, operation, and sustainability of cooperative enterprise
- Research on cultural and political context in which cooperatives operate, and how coops have contributed to the well-being of communities they serve
- Research that centers racial and intersectional justice
- Undergraduate or graduate research
- Faculty directed research with student involvement



How to Apply

- Grant period for awards is **July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026**
- Research Symposium presentation during Spring 2026 Quarter
- Must be registered as student at time of application and for duration of project, must have secured a letter of recommendation from faculty mentor or graduate advisor. The LOR is emailed to karnold@ucsb.edu.
- Application Submission: blumcenter.ucsb.edu/research
- Proposals due by **Friday, May 30th, 2025 at 11:59 PST.**

Application Materials

- A brief **project description** (maximum 750 words) discussing the project's objectives, central research questions, approach and methodology, contributions and outcomes, and relevance to the themes outlined in the call for proposals.
- A **detailed budget**
- A **curriculum vitae** (no longer than 2 pages)
- A letter of reference from the applicant's faculty graduate advisor indicating support for the proposed research (if applicant is a graduate student)
- Verification of IRB approval or pending approval (if required)



Budget and Expenses

Undergraduate and Graduate students may request up to \$2,000, for costs related to:

- Original data collection, field work, or archival research
- Software and/or small equipment required for proposed research
- Data acquisition
- Transcription
- Research supplies
- Grant funds may not be used for costs of tuition, fee, or insurance; student salaries; participation in conferences or trainings; or non- expendable equipment

Faculty may request up to \$4,000 to support costs of employing undergraduate or graduate research assistants



Questions?

Şeyma Özdemir

Cooperative Economics GSA

Contact Info:



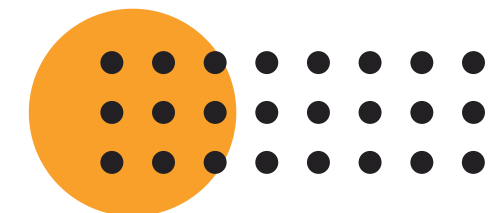
E-mail

sozdemir@ucsb.edu



Website

<https://www.blumcenter.ucsb.edu/research>





The End of Presentation



THANK YOU



Q&A Session

