



**IMAGINE,
STUDYING THE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY
ECONOMY AND IMAGINARY
IN THE ERA OF CAPITALOCENE**

by **Alexandrine LAPOUTTE,
Timothée DUVERGER &
Eric DACHEUX (eds)**

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Alexandrine LAPOUTTE, Timothée DUVERGER and Eric DACHEUX (eds)

**Imagine, Studying the Relationship between
Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) and
Imaginary in the Era of Capitalocene**

CIRIEC Studies Series – No. 6

CIRIEC (International Centre of Research and Information on the Public, Social and Cooperative Economy) is a non-governmental international scientific organization.

Its objectives are to undertake and promote the collection of information, scientific research, and the publication of works on economic sectors and activities oriented towards the service of the general and collective interest: action by the State and the local and regional public authorities in economic fields (economic policy, regulation); public utilities; public and mixed enterprises at the national, regional and local levels; the so-called “social economy” (not-for-profit economy, cooperatives, mutuals, and non-profit organizations); etc.

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Lastly, we would like to thank you, dear readers, and wish you an engaging and enlightening read.

Alexandrine Lapoutte, Timothée Duverger and Eric Dacheux

Foreword

Dedicated to the promotion and study of the social, cooperative, and public economy, CIRIEC's global network of researchers, academics, and practitioners commits to advancing knowledge and fostering multidisciplinary dialogue. On the initiative of CIRIEC's International Scientific Commission on Social and Cooperative Economy, a Working Group has been set up to study **"Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) Utopias and Imaginary Narratives"**. Led by Alexandrine Lapoutte, Timothée Duverger and Eric Dacheux, the imaginative and utopian/dystopian dimensions of SSE were explored to see how alternative economic models can inspire transformative change.

The culmination of this work is the publication you are about to read, which compiles the group's findings and insights on stories and mobilization within organizations, on utopia as a catalyst for local transitions, on imagining solidarity through cultural works, and finally on deconstructing economic myths.

With backgrounds in communication sciences, economics, sociology, psychosocial studies, management and organizational sciences, political science, and philosophy, members of the Working Group felt it necessary to open up to new topics, and/or revitalize former ones. Illustrations, shared stories, songs were formerly used to bring people together to create collective societal endeavours, e.g. the basis of our social security, our humanist identity. It is now time to re-explore mutual thinking, re-experiment, shape re-invented utopias for a societal vision of a liveable future together, and not turn against each other.

We urgently need to rediscover the path of collective and solidarity imaginary narratives in order to co-construct new structures, together with the civil society paving the way for successful and joyful initiatives. This book offers a fresh perspective on the potential of SSE to create a more just and inclusive society.

And we could imagine a continuation of this publication in the form of a graphic novel, or artistic videos, or multi-cultural designs by teenagers and youth drawing their desired future and projecting their dreams. Let's develop new tools to re-enchant, re-connect, and re-democratize, by listening to and actively involving the citizens of our world.

Barbara Sak
Director of CIRIEC

Presentation of the Authors

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An Analysis of Socio-Economic Models in Action (2025). Cahiers de Recherche(s) Caisse des Dépôts. Contributors: Mariagrazia Cairo Crocco, Melaine Cervera, Cyrille Ferraton, Laurent Gardin, Patrick Gianfaldoni, Vincent Lhuillier, Delphine Vallade

<https://www.caissedesdepots.fr/institut-pour-la-recherche/cahiers-de-recherche>

Cairo Crocco M., Gianfaldoni P., Nicoli M. (2024). "Understanding a Socio-Economic Model in Social Integration through Economic Activity: An Entrepreneurial Approach to Territorial Development" in Gianfaldoni P., Richez-Battesti N., Fraisse L. (eds.) *The Development of Territories through the Lens of Social and Solidarity Economy*, Editions universitaires d'Avignon.

Eric Dacheux is Professor of Information and Communication Sciences at Université Clermont Auvergne (UCA) (Clermont-Ferrand) where he founded the research group "Communication and Solidarity" (EA 4647). He is a member of RIUESS (the Interuniversity Network of Social and Solidarity Economy Researchers) and leads theses on communication problems encountered by SSE actors. With the economist Daniel Goujon, he has created a new economic paradigm, deliberism, according to which the best factor for allocating resources is not the market, but deliberation. Latest book: *Théorie délibérative de la valeur. De la valeur travail au travail des valeurs*, PUP, 2024 (in collaboration with D. Goujon). Internet: <https://deliberalisme.com/>.

Timothée Duverger holds a doctorate in history and is a political scientist. He is head of the TerrESS Chair at Sciences Po Bordeaux, where he directs the Master in Social Economy and Social Innovation (ESSIS) and the Executive Master in Strategies, Territories and Innovative Projects in the SSE (STPI-ESS). He is also a researcher at the Centre Emile Durkheim (UMR 5116); Co-Director of the Observatoire de l'expérimentation et de l'innovation locales of the Fondation Jean-Jaurès; Chairman of the Observatoire des Territoires Zéro Chômeur de Longue Durée; and Chairman of the Conseil d'orientation du CIRIEC-France. His books include *L'économie sociale et solidaire* (La Découverte, 2023).

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Julian Manley is Professor of Social Innovation at the University of Central Lancashire, Preston, UK. Among recent publications, he is one of the editors of *Co-operation and Co-operatives in 21st-Century Europe* (2023) published by Bristol University Press. He is one of the developers of the Preston Model of Community Wealth Building and was the founder and first Chair of the Preston Co-operative Development Network. He is currently Secretary of the Preston Co-operative Education Centre.

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Her research is about social economy in Europe. In this large field, she is working on cooperatives, social enterprises and social innovations. In an institutionalist perspective, she mainly observes the transformation of organizations in a context of new welfare state and intensification of competition, and their effects on the quality of job, on the link with the territory, on the governance and on forms of hybridization. She is also working on data about SSE in a French perspective and her last book was written with Eric Bidet, *L'innovation sociale: expérimenter et transformer à partir des territoires*, Coll. Mondes en transition, Les Petits Matins, 2024.

Ermanno C. Tortia is Professor of Economics at the University of Trento, Italy, and affiliated with EURICSE, European Institute for Research on Cooperative and Social Enterprises. He is an associate editor of *Journal of Entrepreneurial and Organizational Diversity (JEOD)*. His research focuses on institutionalist enterprise theory, business economics, organizational studies, and human resource management (HRM) as applied to third-sector organizations (social enterprises, nonprofit organizations, cooperative enterprises); philosophy of economics and sociology; cooperative finance and worker financial participation.

Elif Tuğba Şimşek is a postdoc fellow at CzechGlobe – Global Change Research Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences (GCRI). She earned her PhD in Sociology from Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest. Her research focuses on economic sociology, the solidarity economy, and sustainability issues, exploring the intersections between social systems and environmental challenges.

Jerome Nikolai Warren is a German-American political economist currently at the Universities of Cologne and Goethe-University Frankfurt, focused on the intersection between democracy, cooperation, sustainability and (business) networks. He is the lead editor of the *Routledge Handbook of Cooperative Economics and Management*, as well as of *Global Cooperative Economics and Movements*, also forthcoming from Routledge. He has conducted applied research on the cooperative economy of Italy, publishing on the evolution of Italian social and community cooperatives. Between 2022 and 2024, he was 'Chaire SFPI (Société Fédérale de Participations et d'Investissement)' at the Belgian Royal Academy of Arts, Sciences and Letters, advising the Belgian sovereign wealth fund on its strategies in helping make Belgian firms more sustainable. In addition, he is the founder and President of the Rudolf Rocker Institute, and is in the process of founding a German institute for economic democracy and very active in various civil society groups. He is also an avid painter, singer and photographer.

Laigha Young is an interdisciplinary researcher and artist. She is passionate about social and co-operative entrepreneurship, process engineering, ethical sustainability, and collaborative organizational design. Working with researchers at the Centre of Co-operative Studies within the University College Cork's School of Business and Law, she continues to focus on multidisciplinary approaches to network science, collaboration infrastructure, and software engineering.



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