

# the Popular Economist

Fall 2011 Newsletter | Center for Popular Economics



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## Summer Institute 2011: Media, Democracy, and the Economy

by Emily Kawano, CPE

Held on the campus of historic Smith College in the progressive bastion of Northampton, MA, our week-long intensive Summer Institute was one of our best ever thanks to our outstanding co-sponsors: Free Press, the Center for Media Justice, and the Smith Association of Class Activists; and high-energy, enthusiastic participants, teachers, workshop leaders, and the tireless work of many CPE volunteers.



Timeline exercise - Mary Okonkwo

At the heart of the Summer Institute (SI) program are two core courses: one on the U.S. Economy - taught this year by Hector Saez and Michelle Rosenfield - and one on the International Economy - taught by Tom Masterson and Ying Chen. We discussed how people's lives have been affected by the current economic crisis and the longer-term simmering crisis of downsizing, job loss, and increasing job insecurity. The teachers received high praise from the participants for helping them understand how the economy works - and how it doesn't - through real-world, interactive exercises and lectures. It wasn't all doom and gloom, however, because we also discussed ways forward - strategies to build new economic models that put people and the planet front and center. The evaluation/sharing circle

at the end of the Institute was full of touching and heartfelt testimonials about the value of the whole experience.

This year's Special Track, the focus of the afternoon workshops and evening panels (that are free and open to the public), was Media, Democracy, and the Economy. We also piloted curriculum that we developed on this topic and got very positive and useful feedback. We are finishing up revisions, drawing on this feedback,

and will make the four session *Media, Democracy and the Economy Curriculum* freely and publicly available in the coming months.

We had a fantastic mix of participants, 12 of whom were Baker Fellows funded through the generous Baker bequest. The Fellowships enabled us to bring people from all over the country, most of whom were young people of color and truly impressive media and grassroots activists. The international class was a dynamic group that included people from Burundi, Mali, and Nigeria. Organizations represented the Boston Women's Fund, Center for Media Justice, Center for Rural Strategies, Center for Women's Global Leadership (Rutgers U.), Community to Community, Free Press, Hampshire Gazette, Healing

(cont'd on p. 7)

## OCCUPY!

CPE has been active in the Occupy Wall Street movement. Our members have developed resource materials and given a number of workshops. Thanks to Suresh Naidu and Maliha Safri, in NYC, we have a regular slot for CPE workshops on Sunday mornings at 10am. Here are some of the CPE workshops that have taken place:

Oct. 12: "The False Doctrine of Austerity," Dewey Sq., Boston, Arjun Jayadev did a teach-in about the mistake of pursuing austerity in the middle of the Great Recession.

Oct. 16: "The Fed and the Gold Standard," Liberty Square (Zuccotti Park), NYC: Suresh Naidu and Maliha Safri taught a workshop that lasted for 2.5 hours. Their 150 copies of handouts about the Federal Reserve and the gold standard were quickly snapped up by participants.

Oct. 16-17: "Economic Alternatives," Liberty Sq, NYC: Maliha Safri co-facilitated a two-part workshop that looked at alternatives to capitalism.

Oct. 19: Occupy UMass Teach-in: David Kotz, Gerald Friedman, and Dean Robinson participated in this teach-in at UMass, Amherst.

Oct. 23: Liberty Square, NYC: regularly scheduled CPE workshop.

Oct. 25: Occupy UMass: Plunder: The Crime of Our Time, the screen-

ing of a documentary about Wall St. was followed by a Q & A session with Gerald Epstein and David Kotz.

Oct. 30: Liberty Square, NYC: regularly scheduled CPE workshop.

Nov. 1: "Money, Banking, and Democracy," Free School University, Dewey Square, Boston, MA: CPE's Jerry Friedman gave a workshop on money, banking, and what kind of democratic changes are really needed in our financial institutions.

Nov. 3: "Inequality, What It Means, Why It Matters," Colorado State University: CPE's Elissa Braunstein participated in this teach-in, fo-

cus on inequality on the national level.

Nov. 6: Chinatown, Boston: Arjun Jayadev facilitated a workshop for the Occupy Boston's People of Color Caucus.

(More articles on OWS on p 6.) ❖



Occupy UMass

(Photo: Lynn Martin, CPE)

## CPE Happenings

April 12 - "A Public Affair" radio program with host Cynthia Lin, Madison, WI: Emily Kawano discussed popular education, popular economics and their role in social change.

June 23 - Boston Houseparty and Fundraiser, hosted by Julie Matthaei, Cambridge, MA (see p. 3 for more details)

July 24-30 - CPE Summer Institute: Media, Democracy, and the Economy (see p. 1 for more details)

August 7 - Drum Major Institute, NYC: Maliha Safri and Eric Verhoogen facilitated a day-long workshop for DMI, which seeks to drive progressive public policy through research, advocacy, and training. CPE has been doing these workshops for DMI's Summer Scholar Program for a number of years, and it is always a pleasure to work with the gifted group of young students of color.

Sept. 13 - Up Front Radio with host Daria Fisk, UMass, Amherst: Emily Kawano spoke about the Future of Work Conference and the challenges of job creation, economic development, and building multi-sectoral coalitions. (For more detail, see below.)

Sept. 14 - "9-11: The Economic Aftermath," Longmeadow, MA, Democratic Committee: Emily Kawano focused on the economic impacts of 9-11 including the cost of military interventions and national security measures; financing these expenditures through debt rather than taxation, and the "catalyzing" opportunity that the far right was poised to seize.

Sept. 21 - Crazy Cuts: The Disastrous De-Funding of Public Higher Education, Holyoke Community College, MA: This workshop was the first in a series that CPE is planning under the auspices of the WMass Jobs with Justice Coalition (see below). Mihnea Tudoreanu facilitated a discussion about the cuts to public higher education, the negative economic impacts on the state and federal levels, the underlying agenda, and what can be done about it.

Sept. 22-23 - Future of Work in Massachusetts: Labor's Agenda for Economic Development, UMass, Amherst: CPE, along with the Labor Center and the Political Economy Research Center, co-sponsored this conference on strategies to improve existing jobs as well as those under development, strategies to retain jobs, and strategies to directly create jobs. Close to 100 union and community activists, students, and academics came together to learn about and discuss non-traditional approaches to organizing, building multi-sectoral alliances, and opportunities for labor to take the lead in shaping the job creation agenda -- from green jobs, to infrastructure, to advanced manufacturing. This conference was the first step in a longer-term process to build a local community labor alliance around these issues, recognizing that there are times when there are sharply divergent interests.

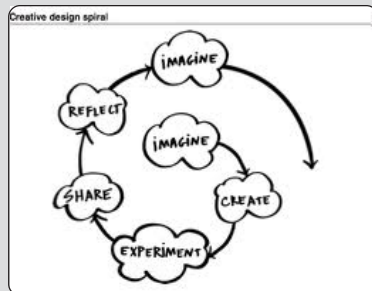
Oct. 8 -- Drum Major Institute, NYC: Gül Ünal facilitated a follow up workshop that focused on how to interpret and use data to strengthen one's case in policy advocacy.

### Ongoing

WMass Jobs with Justice - Popular Economics Workshops series CPE has been working with a number of organizations in the WMass Jobs with Justice Coalition to plan a series of economic literacy trainings. Collaborating organizations include: Neighbor to Neighbor, WMass American Friends Service Committee, International Socialist Organization, Mass. Senior Action, and Arise for Social Justice. Our first workshop was on public higher education. We are planning a full series in the spring that focus on issues such as state and federal budgets, taxes, deficit/debt; Social Security & Medicare; local economic development strategies; and economic alternatives. ❖

## Wellspring Initiative

CPE has been at the forefront of the Wellspring Initiative in Springfield, MA. This collaborative effort seeks to revitalize some of Springfield's poorest neighborhoods by leveraging the joint purchasing power of locally based institutions, such as the hospitals and colleges, to create worker-owned businesses. This vision builds on the successful model of Cleveland's Evergreen Cooperatives, which has launched a state-of-the-art green laundry, a solar photovoltaic cooperative, and a hydroponic greenhouse. Our collaboration includes Baystate Health, Providence Health, MassMutual, UMass Amherst, Springfield Technical Community College, Western New England University, Springfield College, and Mass. Higher Education Consortium. Wellspring has raised over \$350,000 so far in grant money to support this work. We are in the process of developing business plans for a food hub that will support ongoing efforts to rebuild the infrastructure for local food distribution. Wellspring envisions an ongoing process of job creation in which the worker cooperatives are linked as a business group to provide support, technical assistance, coordination, and training as well as develop an investment fund for future businesses. ❖



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## Introducing CPE's Development Director



We are delighted to introduce Lynn Martin who came on board as CPE's Development Director, last spring. Lynn was born in WV. Her grandfather, whose mother was a Native American, was a coal miner in Appalachia who left the coalfields during WWII to work in the booming, toxic

chemical industry in Nitro, WV. Her father worked as a lab technician for Monsanto when the company was producing Agent Orange and died at the age of 33. She believes exposure to dioxin contributed to his early death and she is involved in a class action suit against Monsanto on behalf of worker's children who have suffered subsequent health effects. After her husband's death, Lynn's mother moved the family back east where they spent a year in the projects of Woburn, MA. Lynn worked her way through high school and college and attended Lowell State (now UMass-Lowell), with support from Aid to Families with Dependent Children. She worked as a waitress, a meat wrapper at a grocery store, a motel maid, and on the assembly line at an electronics company. More recent experiences included several layoffs, being on unemployment, and struggling, as millions of others have been doing, to make ends meet. She has a solid understanding of what it is like to be "nickel and dimed" in America.

These experiences drive her work for economic justice and the fight to make our country work for all.

Prior to joining CPE, Lynn was Senior Donor Associate at Hampshire College's Civil Liberties and Public Policy Institute; Editorial Associate for the *Historical Journal of Massachusetts*, and *Health and Human Rights*; head of donor marketing at the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee; Publications Director at the Center for Health and Human Rights at the Harvard School of Public Health. For 14 years, she worked as Communications Director at the Nobel Peace Prize recipient, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. Lynn began her full-time professional activist career at Infact (now Corporate Accountability International) as Publicity Director in Boston and ran a donor pledge program in Minneapolis.

Her goals at CPE are to seize on the momentum and hunger for knowledge created by the Occupy Wall St. movement and the rising anger against the inequities in our economic system. To do this, she works on foundation giving, building CPE's individual donor base and major donor program, and organizing special donor events. She's inspired by the knowledge, energy, and deep commitment to social and economic justice of the members of CPE's collective and donors and is working hard to strengthen CPE's funding base so CPE can fight back against the abuses of the capitalist system and build forward towards economic models that work for people and the planet. ❖

## CPE House Party in Cambridge, MA



Julie Matthaei and Jean Entine

In June, CPE had a wonderful house party hosted by Julie Matthaei, at the beautiful Cornerstone Village Co-housing community. Julie is a Professor of Economics at Wellesley College and a co-founder/board member of the U.S. Solidarity Economy Network. We

are very grateful to Julie for being a terrific and gracious host. The event drew over 30 participants from the Boston area, including folks from the Dollars and Sense collective, United for a Fair Economy, and the Boston Solidarity Economy Network (BASEN). Speakers included Juliet B. Schor, a founding member of CPE, whose books include the best-seller *The Overworked American*. She is a co-founder of the Center for a New American Dream, a former Guggenheim Fellow, and was awarded the Leontief Prize for expanding the frontiers of economic thought. The other featured speaker was Gerald Friedman, Professor of Economics at

UMass Amherst who is the author of several books on labor struggles, editor of *The Economic Crisis Reader*, and a regular correspondent on the BBC, NPR, Al-Jazeera television, and other media outlets. Recently, Jerry has consulted with advocates of a single-payer



Jerry channeling Barbed Slanderson

health plan, various labor unions, and the Vermont legislature. We enjoyed Jerry's performance as he "channeled" arch-conservative "Barbed Slanderson," blasting tax-and-spend liberals. Many



Julie Schor

thanks to Julie Matthaei, the speakers, political cartoonist/artist Nick Thorkelson who displayed and donated some of his artwork (his work's been published by the *Boston Globe*, *Dollars and Sense*, and many other radical publications), Cynthia Barger, and all who turned out and donated to CPE, to Cornerstone Village Co-housing for donating the space, and the Host Committee: Amit Basole, Jean Entine, Heidi Garrett-Peltier, Tami Ohler, and Helen Scharber. ❖

# Introducing Economic Finds

by Sue Holmberg, CPE Program Director

CPE is pleased to announce the launch of our latest project! Generously funded by the C. Edwin Baker Trust, Economic Finds is an online clearinghouse of simple, easy-to-understand charts and graphs, with user-friendly explanations that illuminate current economic questions and debates.

The Economic Finds project is intended for journalists and media-makers trying to fill the vast gap in news coverage on economic and social inequality; educators looking to change the way economics is presented in the classroom; leaders and politicians wanting to punctuate their ideas and arguments with solid economic evidence; and social activists, including the hundreds of thousands of Occupy Wall St. protesters.

To reach our Economic Finds, click on the **Resources tab** on our website: <http://www.populareconomics.org>

Do you have a suggestion for an Economic Find? Just let us know. We can't promise that we will create an Economic Find for every suggestion, but we will make every effort to create charts and graphs that are useful to you. We love your ideas!


Here are some of examples of our Economic Finds:

## New Website Launched! [www.populareconomics.org](http://www.populareconomics.org)



We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new website, designed by the wonderful folks at Catalyst Webworks in Vermont.

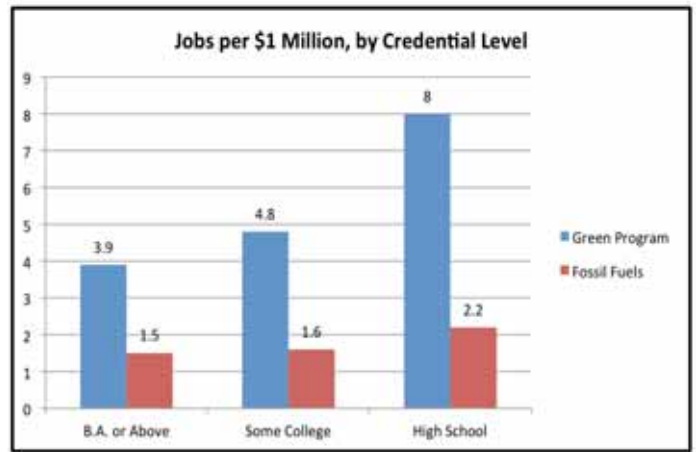
The old website was the product of decades of paid and volunteer tinkering and over the years it had evolved into a thing with a mind of its own - changing fonts, spacing, margins, columns at will and stubbornly refusing to heed even coded commands.

Our new website is a joy to work with and is far more cooperative than our old one, which means that it is quite active these days. Check it out. Also, we now have a **Facebook page**  - just search for Center for Popular Economics and you'll find us. ❖

## Building Jobs Recovery through Green Energy

Right now, there are close to 24 million people in the U.S. who can't find full-time jobs. The best way to fight poverty and unemployment? Build a clean-energy economy!

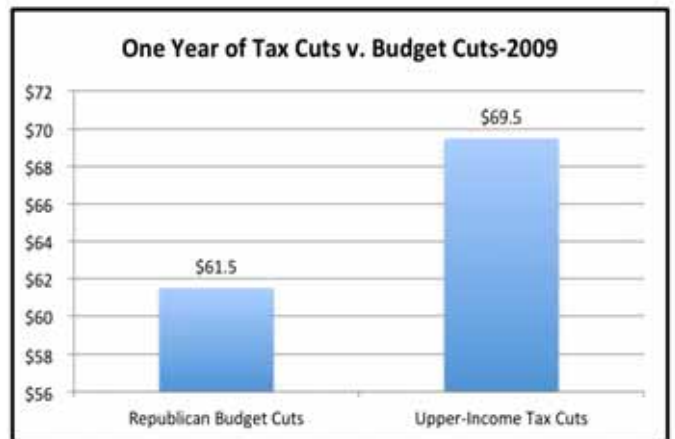
Public and private investments in clean-energy solutions (like renewables and energy efficiency) would expand job opportunities across all job categories and education levels. As the chart here illustrates, clean-energy investments create 2.4 times more college degree jobs than investments on fossil fuels and 3.6 times more jobs for workers with a high school education or less. Think of all the construction workers, whose industry has been severely hit by the mortgage crisis, who would be back to work!



## Tax Cuts v. Budget Cuts

Congress intentionally increased the deficit in December 2010 by extending Bush-era tax cuts for families making more than \$250,000 and passing an estate tax cut that benefits only the top quarter of one percent of earners.

This chart compares the amount of money that would be saved by the proposed budget cuts with the one-year cost of the tax cuts for the wealthy that were approved late last year. As shown, tax cuts for the wealthy have added more to the deficit than would be shaved from the deficit by the proposed spending cuts to important social programs.



# What Are Rural Brazilian Workers To Do?

by Jessica Carrick-Hagenbarth, UMass, Amherst

From 1990 to 2009, 11 percent of the Brazilian population left the countryside for the city -- one of the highest rural to urban migrations in Latin America over this period. Although the Brazilian economy has been growing, it has not grown fast enough to absorb this influx of rural migrants. The outlook for urban employment is grim. While almost half the urban Brazilian population works in the informal sector, there was only an 8 percent decline in urban informal sector jobs from 1990 to 2009. Moreover, the growth rate of Brazilian industry from 2008-11 has slowed to 1 percent. Further confounding the problem for Brazilian rural workers has been the move toward capital-intensive, large farms, providing fewer jobs per area cultivated for rural workers.

If both cities and the countryside are unable to viably employ rural workers, what are rural workers to do? One answer is to make small-scale farming for landless rural workers self-supporting through land redistribution. Brazil, one of the most unequal Latin American countries, is also one of the few Latin American countries that has never had comprehensive land reform.

Decades of social pressure led to the adoption of a new constitution in 1988 following the end of the Brazilian dictatorship (1964-1985), allowing for the expropriation of agricultural land not being used in the social interest. Social interest is defined according to three criteria. First, 80 percent or more of the arable land has to have been used in the past year to produce goods at 100 percent efficiency. Second, the environment must be preserved; and third, workers must be treated according to the law. Groups such as rural workers' unions and social movements are using the constitution to occupy land where the social interest clause is not observed and to gain rights to that land. The national government then pays landowners the market price of the land.

In Brazil, two competing visions of land reform have emerged. The

MST (Rural Landless Workers' Movement, Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra), a key Brazilian social movement, envisions agrarian reform as a way to transform the power and class relations of rural society. The World Bank's (WB) vision has identified this process as a source of unnecessary conflict. Rather than a project of confronting rural class and power relations, the WB sees agrarian reform as a technical method to address inequality in the Northeast region. They propose market-based land reform - a process where willing buyers find willing sellers. The WB provides credit to groups of people, organized as community associations, who buy the land from the landowners at the market price. These then become settlements under the state government.



MST land occupation

There are differences between the vision and processes of these strategies for agrarian reform. Each type of settlement faces specific challenges. The WB settlements must pay back the credit borrowed for land while the MST settlements have no such requirement. The WB settlements are compelled to produce primarily for sale in the market in order to make loan payments.

Thus, there is an emphasis on cash crops and market production, which puts them in competition with the increasingly powerful Brazilian agro-industry. The MST endures a grueling process to gain land rights, often spending years in encampments, living in black plastic tents and threatened by landowners and paramilitaries. Yet, once they have gain land rights, the MST settlements are able to direct their production toward food sovereignty, with only the surplus above an acceptable standard of subsistence being sent to market.

The MST-settlement emphasis on food sovereignty and niche markets without loan repayments may be a more successful strategy. The state needs to make small-scale rural ownership and employment viable for rural workers. Two major steps the state should take are to speed up land-rights transfers for MST settlements and to subsidize land purchases in WB settlements. ❖

## THANK YOU TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL DONORS!

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# Interview from Ground Zero: Occupy Wall Street



The occupation of Wall Street officially began on September 17 with 500 people taking over Zuccotti Park in New York City. It has grown into a global movement with protests and encampments sprouting up all over the U.S. as well as throughout the world. Drawing on the skills and passion of hundreds of organizers and every day folk, this "leaderless movement" has attracted a powerfully diverse and colorful group of people who are united in their outrage about rising inequality and social injustice and their desire to confront the capitalist powers that control our society head on. According to the movement's official website (<http://occupywallst.org/>), "This movement empowers real people to create real change from the bottom up. We want to see a general assembly in every backyard, on every street corner because we don't need Wall Street and we don't need politicians to build a better society."

Below is an interview with Michael Sullivan, who has been very involved in the Occupy Wall St. movement. He is a student at CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice in NYC.

Below is an interview with Michael Sullivan, who has been very involved in the Occupy Wall St. movement. He is a student at CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice in NYC.

*Do you think OWS will make a difference, and if so how?*

OWS is working towards linking various movements together. There is a very decentralized leftist movement in the U.S., and the short-term goal of OWS is to stand in solidarity with these movements, as well as to link them together. The occupation itself and the broad ideology [of] . . . building the ideas as the movement grows are what have made it such a profound movement. Everyone that comprises the "99%" is able to plug in on some level and join the movement. This in itself is already a great success because people who were never political now have a place to gain knowledge, and be directly part of a social movement. People are talking and paying attention. This is hopefully going to push the social structure of the U.S. in a different direction.

*Do you think OWS will impact policy-makers?*

There are anarchists, Social Democrats, right-wing Libertarians (pseudo-Tea Partiers/Ron Paul supporters), center-left Democrats, and people who have no political position at all but just can't find a job and are angry about this. As for the policy-makers, it has yet to be seen what impact this movement will have on them. It is the policy-makers (and the system they represent) that is the most broken. (There) . . . is a dangerous fusion of corporate and government interests. I believe that the Democratic Party will try to hijack this movement to gain momentum and votes and that OWS must not fall for that (as it has been a common tactic to subsume movements to drain them of energy and de-radicalize them). With that said, if the movement can resist the Democratic Party hijacking, I believe there is some serious momentum for change. It is possible that a separate political party could form, or there could be open revolution. But this movement is

very young, and it is important to see how the links they are currently making take root -- 30,000 people at the labor rally, for instance, is something that local and state policy-makers just will not be able to ignore.

There are over 400 occupations around the globe. I think that is a really beautiful thing in and of itself. We are trying to prove we can do this. People are always saying you can't change the world, but I just think they have no faith in those around them. OWS really is people putting faith in one another, and it is an excellent counterbalance to the individualistic culture of capitalism. ❖



*Global messages of support*

## CPE Teach-In at Occupy Wall St.

by Thomas Herndon, CPE

I went down to NYC for the mass mobilization on October 15th, and attended the first CPE teach-in the next day, facilitated by Maliha Safri and Suresh Naidu. It was wildly awesome. Because of all the questions from participants, the teach-in lasted around 2.5 hours, drawing a huge crowd from Zuccotti Park, as well as passers-by who wanted to see what was going on. To put the number of participants in perspective, there were so many people trying to hear what we were saying that we really needed amplification. I had around 150 info-sheets on understanding the Federal Reserve, and the demand was so high that they didn't even last half-way through the teach-in. It covered topics as diverse as the history of neo-liberalism, surplus value illustrated with the three piles technique (actually three markers in this case), central banking, and credit. I left feeling inspired and couldn't help but think that this is what CPE was made for. After attending the teach-in, it's clear to me that there is a huge demand for popular economics education and that CPE can play a real role in supporting the Occupy movements. If you would like to support this work, please consider making a donation to help us keep this going. I hope to see you all out there with us in the streets. ❖



*Suresh and Maliha - Liberty Square*

Soul of America, Initiative pour le Development of World Citizens (Burundi), Main Street Project, Media Justice League, Media Literacy Project, Neighbor to Neighbor, Truthout, WORT Radio, Skill Development Foundation for Women and Youth (Nigeria), and UMass Boston.

Photos: Betty Yu, Center for Media Justice



### Evening Plenaries

The evening plenaries were well attended and received, drawing 20-50 participants - including some from Eastern MA and VT. John Nichols, a leading media scholar and Washington correspondent for the *Nation*, set the stage for the week with a dynamic talk that explored the ways in which our profit-driven economic system shapes, and in turn is shaped by, the media. A panel of activists, including Amalia Deloney, Center for Media Justice, Seeta Pena Gangadharan, New America Foundation, and Khalil Shahyd a former community organizer from New Orleans, inspired with a discussion of building a movement for media justice. Sut Jhally, of the Media Education Foundation, was provocative - suggesting that the living room is a factory: advertisers are buying and the TV media is selling, access to our consciousness; TV viewers are the workers, busily shaping their own desires and patterns of consumption, albeit under the influence of the advertising. The last panel was on the Economic Crisis and Aftermath with three CPEers: Nancy Folbre, who ran with a fun vampire vs. zombie analogy to the Republicans and Democrats; Jerry Epstein provided a different kind of horror story in describing the financial meltdown and the fallout; and Heidi Garrett-Peltier spoke about the need for, and the benefits of, public investment in clean energy.

### Workshops

We had a great line-up of workshops. The Neighbor to Neighbor workshop, Empowering Communities through Grassroots Organizing, led by Elsie Sanchez and Virgenmina Perez, created a buzz as participants got into a role play about organizing, door knocking, and really listening. Other workshops included The Political Economy of the Arab Uprising, Yasser Munif; Democracy and Journalism, Tom Stites; Co-opoly Game, Brian Van Slyke; Debt and Deficits - Crisis?, Jerry Friedman; Media and Militarism, John Fitzgerald; Com-

munity Media and AIDS/HIV in Africa, Kiaran Honderich; The Attack on the Public Sector and Labor, Thomas Herndon and Zhun Xu; Creating jobs Through Worker-Owned Coops, Fred Rose; Political Economy of Prisons, Geert Dhondt; Why Arts, Culture, and Media Is Fundamental to our Movement, Betty Yu, Hakim Bellamy, Steven Renderos; Up Against the Wall Street Journal: Role Play, CPE; Women's Economic Empowerment for Self-Reliance, Mary Oluchi Okonkwo; Intro to the Solidarity Economy, Emily Kawano; and Africa and Global Development, Mwangi wa Githinji.



Tom and Ying

### Solidarity Economy Walking Tour

On our Solidarity Economy walking tour, we visited local initiatives that are part of creating an economy for people and the planet. Starting with the Hungry Ghost Bakery, we heard about the Wheat Patch Project, which aims to re-establish local grain growing. We dropped by the Media Education Foundation to see their community space, and hear about their media justice work. Then we visited a community arts space in Thorne's Market where we heard about various economic alternative initiatives that are connected through the Change Exchange Network, including the Valley Time Trade system of time-based barter. Finally, we walked to the Montview Farm to see their perma-culture forest garden and education center.



Hakim Bellamy  
Slammin

### Open Mic/Coffee House

The Open Mic/Coffee house was brilliantly emceed by Hakim Bellamy and included some terrific performances: Hakim opened with some excellent slam poetry (one of his poems is on our website at <http://www.populareconomics.org/2011/09/margins/>); Leticia Medina gave a powerful performance from the *Vagina Monologues* in Spanish and English; eight participants, teachers, and John Fitzgerald in a cameo role, did a reading from WMass Jobs w. Justice's *Voices from a People's History* (an homage to the late, great historian and former CPE Advisory Board member, Howard Zinn) with music provided by Red Valley Fog; Mary Oluchi Okonkwo shared her heartfelt entreaty, Promise Yourself; Leslie Thatcher read a moving testimony/poem about police brutality; and afterwards Virgenmina Perez gave an impromptu salsa lesson. CPE makes a point of following Emma Goldman's philosophy of dancing (and singing) at our revolutionary events.

### Special Thanks

Special shout-outs to Sut Jhally who filmed all of the plenaries, (viewable at <http://www.populareconomics.org>); Emily Huesman always ready to lend a helping hand, Zhun Xu for working the registration table and pitching in many helpful ways, John Fitzgerald and Lynn Martin for airport runs, Thomas Herndon for DJ'ing at the party, our remarkable, awesome high-school volunteer Rose Vieland, Yosef Brody who helped with interpretation for our African participants, Betty Yu and others who took photos, and videographer Dan Madsen who shot many interviews with teachers, staff, and participants. ❖



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## Help CPE Support the Occupy Wall Street Movement

In New York, Boston, and other cities, CPE is supporting Occupy Wall Street's brave activists who are bringing the silent majority - the 99% - to life by conducting teach-ins and providing user-friendly, alternative economic publications. There's a great hunger for CPE resources among the OWS folks on the ground, and we're working hard to develop and disseminate them.

We stand at an historic, teachable moment to build and push for new frameworks for social and economic development - ones that put people and the planet before private profits and corporate power. The long-simmering, silent discontent is becoming a roar. To paraphrase Howard Beale in the film *Network*, "*We're mad as hell, and we're not going to take it anymore!*"

You can help us amplify their voices with a tax-deductible contribution by sending a check or visiting our new website at <http://www.populareconomics.org> and giving through Network for Good. Monthly pledges are particularly helpful because they provide us with a steady stream of income to rely on as we work with you to build a better world.



Please give as generously as you can. And please remember us when you're doing your estate planning.  
***Thank you so much for all you do to support our work!***