

Tools for Thinking Other Economies

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Sociology of Absences

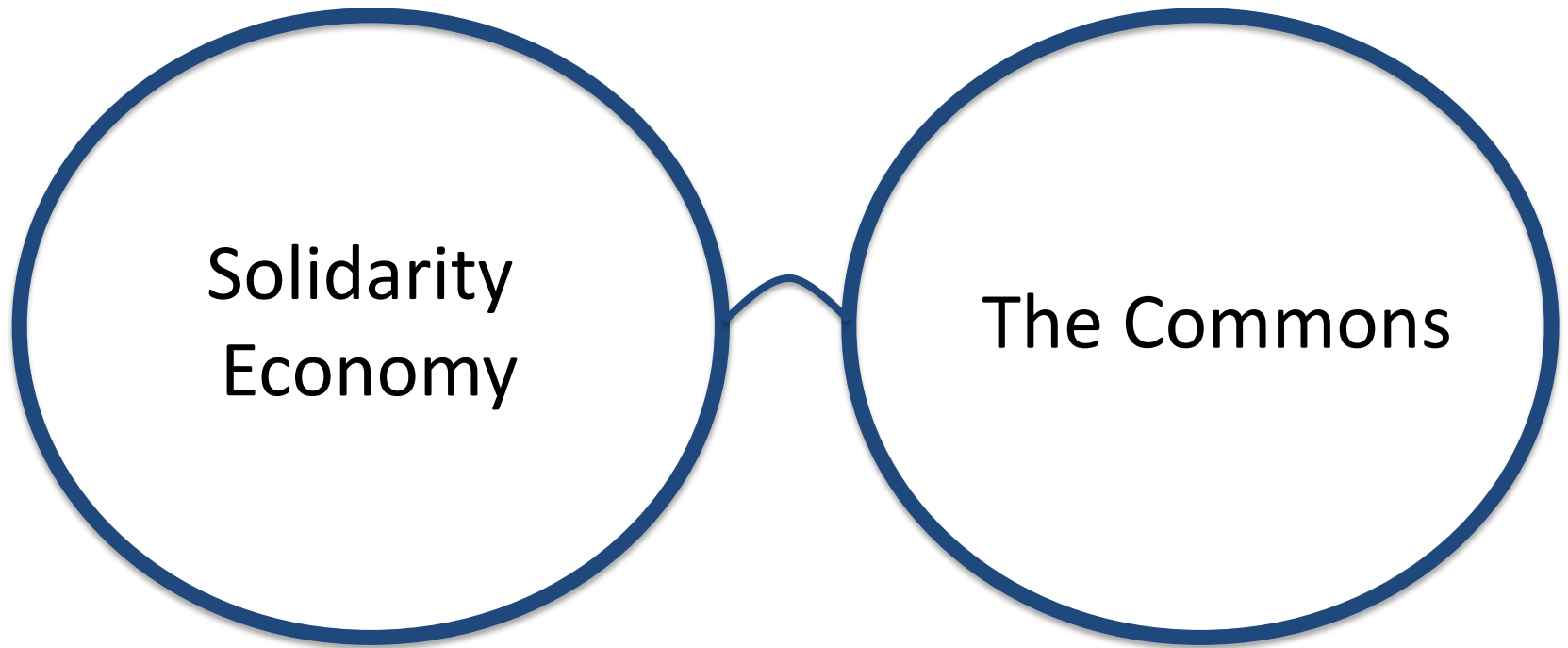
- Boaventura de Sousa Santos (2006): “an enquiry that aims to explain that what does not exist is in fact actively produced as non-existent, that is – as a non-credible alternative to what exists.”
- A rational monoculture consisting of monocultures
 - of knowledge and rigour of knowledge
 - of linear time
 - of naturalization of differences
 - of the universal and of the global
 - of the criteria of capitalist productivity and efficiency
- Proposes instead ecologies of knowledges, temporalities, recognitions, trans-scales & productivities

The Economy?



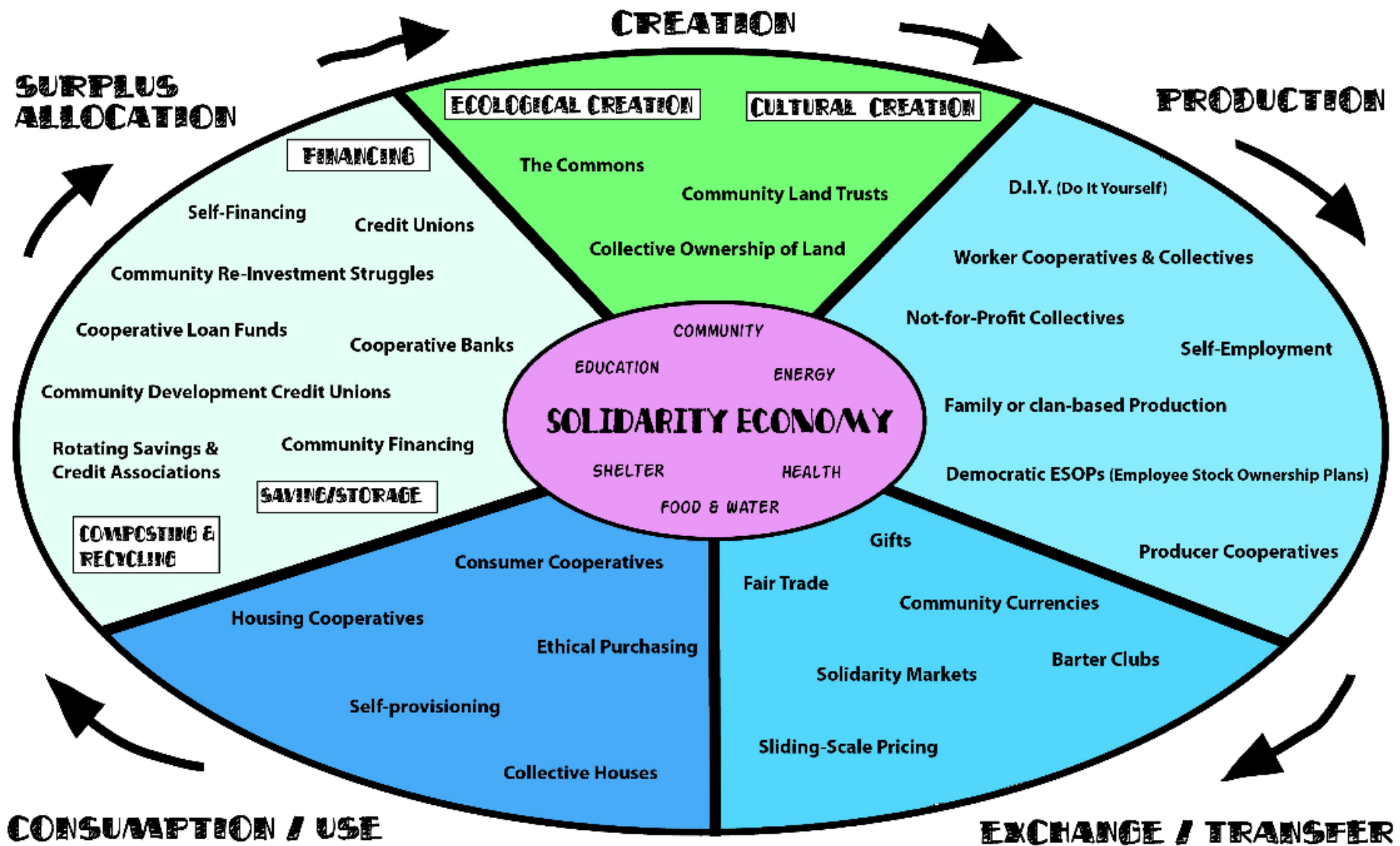
Miller 2011 &
communityeconomies.org;
original by Ken Byrne.

Lenses Matter



Solidarity Economy

- **A value-based approach to economy**
 - equality, justice, care, sustainability, cooperation, mutual aid...
 - highlighting democratic management of economic activity
 - social needs rather than profit
 - supporting and contributing to the commons
- **A set of diverse actors**
 - cooperatives, non-profits, self-help groups, community organisations, local exchange and trading systems, social enterprises, peer production, solidarity finance, time-banks, food cooperatives, participatory budgeting, open community spaces, barter networks...



Ethan Miller

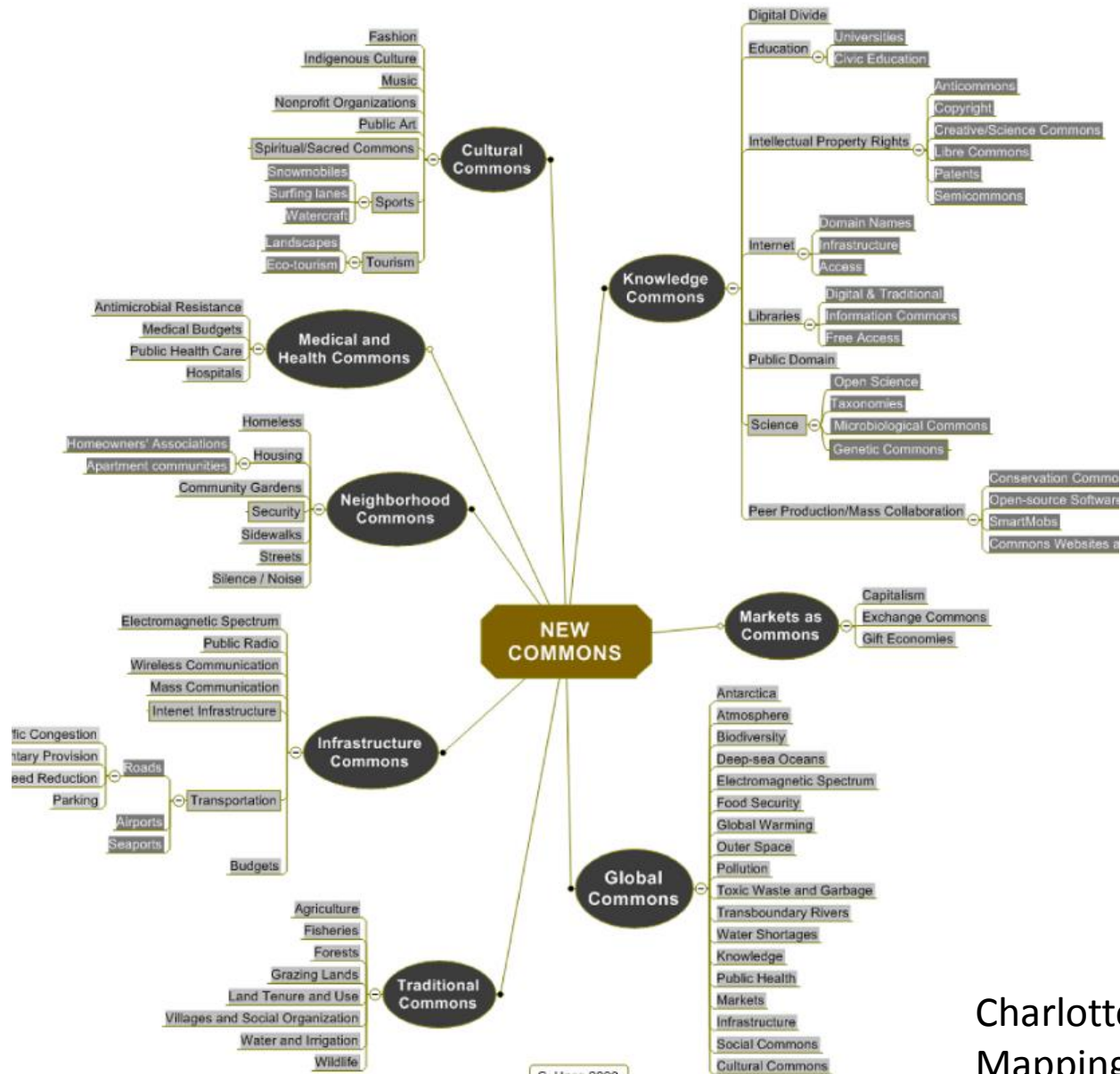
The Commons

The law locks up the man or woman
Who steals the goose from off the common
But leaves the greater villain loose
Who steals the common from off the goose . . .
And geese will still a common lack
Till they go and steal it back.

(Anon., English, c. 1821)

The commons:

- a) a system of governance and
- b) a set of social practices



C. Hess 2008

Charlotte Hess,
Mapping the Commons

Conclusions

- Solidarity economy & the commons: differences, connections, democratic decision-making, ethical-political agency, self-organizing, sharing & the push against enclosures...
- Related to other alternatives & movements such as Bien Vivir, Degrowth/Kohtuutalous, Post-extractivism, Blockadia, Ubuntu, Anti-austerity...
- We're all in this together -> start where you are!

Thank you!

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