

Summary of Silvia Federici's Principles of an anti-capitalist commons:

1) Commons should be autonomous spaces which aim to overcome divisions and build the skills necessary for self governance. In order to create new modes of production that are durable in the long term, commons should foster the tools necessary for specific communities to gain control over the means of reproduction.

2) Anti-hierarchical organisational structures are the foundation of healthy commons. "Commons are defined by the existence of a shared property, in the form of a shared natural or social wealth—lands, waters, forests, systems of knowledge, capacities for care—to be used by all commoners, without any distinction, but which are not for sale. Equal access to the necessary means of (re)production must be the foundation of life in the commons."

4) Commons function on the basis of established regulations, stipulating how the common wealth is to be used and cared for, that is, what the commoners' entitlements and obligations should be.

3) Commons are not things but social relations. Commoning is the willingness to spend much time on cooperation, conflict resolution, discussion and negotiation. As these things are fundamental for communities to understand their interdependence.

5) No community, no commons. The concept of "global commons" is a capitalist ploy to dismiss the rights and conditions of local communities in the name of increasing capital accumulation for the rich. It must be rejected.

6) Commons consist of social cooperation, reciprocity and shared responsibility for wealth, natural and produced. Respect and openness to diversity of experiences are central to the foundation of anticapitalist commoning. Solidarity is built on the principles of cooperation and empathy.

8) Commons are committed to refusing labor hierarchies and inequalities in every struggle, therefore prioritising the development of a truly collective subject.

9) The common is not the public. "All these characteristics differentiate the common from the public, which is owned, managed, controlled, and regulated by and for the state, constituting a particular type of private domain. This is not to say that we shouldn't fight to ensure that the public is not privatised. As an intermediate terrain it is in our interest that commercial interests do not engulf the public, but we should not lose sight of the distinction. We cannot abandon the state, since it is the site of the accumulation of the wealth produced by our past and present labor. Similarly, most of us still depend on capital for our survival, as most of us do not have land or other means of subsistence. But we should work to ensure that we go beyond the state and capital.

7) Commons should adhere to organising through direct democracy based on collective decision making through assemblies, general meetings etc. "Grassroots power, power from the ground up, power derived from tested abilities, and continual rotation of leadership and authority through different subjects, depending on the tasks to be performed, is the source of decision-making. This distinguishes commons from communism, which consigned power to the state. Commoning is reclaiming the power of making basic decisions about our lives and doing so collectively."