

Thinking and acting out of the box: Multiple crises challenge capitalism and the Left for alternatives

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This is the first time that a system based on labour exploitation has reached planetary boundaries for its continuation. Labour and the environment are the main victims of the voracity of global capital accumulation. The paper will shed light on these issues and explain how mainstream thinkers, keynesians and some on the left, do not have a convincing response to tackle the current multiple crisis that includes financialization, unemployment (including in developing countries), food insecurity, ageing, energy gap, poverty, and climate change. The range of main alternatives covers deeper free markets, more public investment, and zero economic growth.

From a long term perspective, however, private **profit-making** and the multiplication of political, economic, and social inequalities have been the norm of the "invisible hand" of markets. In this sense, the hegemony of private ownership is a reduction of the human capacity to produce and share knowledge and wealth. The paper argues that new strategies have to promote **social-making** values based on reciprocity, mutual-responsibility, and solidarity. Reciprocity to encourage common gain rather than private gain. Mutual responsibility means that using any form of wealth or asset demands social consent and to give back an equivalent (or more) to society. Solidarity to prioritise assistance and strengthening of the vulnerable to nurture a cohesive and resilient society. Based on these values, people can demand the end of the hegemony of markets as supreme form of social economic organization.

The shift will mean the socialisation of relations with production and nature, acting as the main compass for human development. A development process with the objective to eliminate inequalities, nurture social-making values, and high appreciation for all forms of life on the planet. In the short-term, different countries should be able to shape different transition paths according to their histories, culture, resources, and political decision-making processes. Learning by doing and path dependent processes can feedback national explorations of socialisms and form regional alliances in the fight with the old. Based on historical experiences, the paper will also try to identify the main hurdles for change(s) out of the box.