Care and social coops

5.14 Watch “Solidarity Co-operatives.” (26 minutes) Start at 49 minutes.

In this section of the video lecture, Pat Conaty of the New Economics Foundation and Coops UK provides an overview of how social co-ops have operated in Italy and elsewhere to radically transform how social care is delivered. Conaty highlights the institutional supports maintaining the viability of co-operative systems and shows how these kinds of supports operate in locales such as Emilia Romagna and Quebec.

5.15 Read “Co-operative Commonwealth & The Partner State.” Read pages 15-24 (from “Beyond the Welfare State” to “Fureai Kippu, Japan” in “Social Markets”). (15 minutes)


In this section of his essay “Co-operative Commonwealth & the Partner State,” Restakis shows how system change depends on the creation of institutional structures that can sustain the values and aims of democratization, co-operation, and the common good. Here, he also examines how social markets are essential to civil forms of social care and to systemic changes in the role of the state and its relationship to civil society as a whole. Restakis’ exploration of co-operative support systems and social markets builds on the experience of the social co-ops of Emilia Romagna as one example of a systemic approach to building the co-operative ecosystems necessary to support radical transition.