

Does Money Talk Back?

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We need a different future of money, but not in the way it is designed, issued, or governed. A society that is more equal and less destructive for humans and non-humans, needs a form of value exchange that is socially informed. At face value, money is just an designed, abstract form of value for exchange between strangers and measuring economic value. What remains hidden in the banknote design and its use, is how people are exploited, and resources extracted for its value. It's not just money, it is all graphic your rent agreement, labour contracts, bank statements, receipts, mortgage contracts. All abstracted graphic forms that provide the evidence of value in our society. A more

For this workshop every participant takes a document of value from your own archive that is testimony of a story you want to share. It can be a rent agreement, labour contract, a banknote or a coin, a check, a credit card statement, a bank statement, etc. The document directly relates to a personal story about something that happened to you in the sphere of economics; being exploited by a boss, having a bad client, an unpaid invoice, a debt that was never paid back, or perhaps a mortgage that made you rich. Make a digital scan of the document, and treat it yourself graphically so that your personal story becomes enmeshed with the abstraction of the document. Can you make it 'talk back'? The online part will be showing your work and sharing the story of the document to all other participants, and see if it resonates with others.

Money isn't the problem. Money is just an abstract form of value to help equal exchange between strangers and a measurement of value. Any large, complex society, needs a form of abstract value measurement for exchange.

The problem is that it's abstract form hides its origin, the surplus value extracted from workers, the exploitation of people and planet that went before it was created. Therefore the design of a new currency would not be able to solve its underlying exploitative nature unless it takes into account its social context. Whether they are NFTs, local currencies, or cryptocurrencies.