mh : 29 June

Lucy wrote

> *maybe you could add Citizen Science here to support your argument on third movement.*

I assume that citizen science is a movement or emergent formation in China? This is important, in joining together the two stories, and clarifying the nature of 'the third movement', as a 'science' movement and as a radical movement.

My colleague Adrian Smith of SPRU and the STEPS group[1] participated during 2014-17 alongside researchers from 11 other groups, in a European-funded project - Transformative Social Innovation Theory (TranSIT) - which studied 20 translocal civil-society projects and organisations in 25+ countries. Results are available at http://www.transitsocialinnovation.eu/. The SPRU team studied socially useful production (Britain), appropriate technology (South America), people's science (India), hackerspaces/fablabs/makerspaces (Brazil, cities worldwide), the social technology network (Brazil) and the Honey Bee network (India). The research is reported in Smith et al *Grassroots innovation movements* <https://we.tl/BNG5y6exJt>. A main common thread of all these formations - and of the majority (?) researched by the other teams - is their participation in some version of what I referred to in my 'theory of practice' note 1 as organic intellectual practice; and the TSI manifesto produced by the TranSIT groups <https://tsimanifesto.org/manifesto/> is a manifesto for organic intellectual practice within the field of innovation R&D. To quote:

> *we commit ourselves to discover what transformative social innovation means in our own city, neighbourhood, village, initiative, sector, organisation and personal life, and to share and spread these experiences in a way that makes them accessible and applicable for more people. While each context comes with its own stories and principles, we also share a set of shared principles, claims and commitments that enable us to collaborate . . . . we need the efforts of local communities to engage and experiment with social innovations. However, local engagement and experimentation are also not enough. Societal challenges are interlinked and systemic . . . . Activism towards a better world is toothless if it fails to address existing power structures in*

---

[1] A global research and policy engagement centre at the University of Sussex, funded by the Economic & Social Research Council (ESRC) to bring together development studies and science & technology studies <https://steps-centre.org/>

the global economy and engage with people outside their own like-minded communities.

The other common thread in the grassroots innovation practices is highlighted in a related analysis from STEPS, in van Zwanenberg et al 2017, *Open and collaborative* <https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/123456789/13128/Open%20and%20Collaborative.pd> which discusses the relevance to economic development of a broad global movement of **open and collaborative production.** This is a central theme of the P2P (peer-to-peer) movement; see for example Michel Bauwens of P2PF (P2P foundation) in <http://wiki.commonstransition.org/w/index.php?title=Commons-*Transition*Plan>. In these framings there is a link between organic intellectual practice and the global agenda of practices of **commons** development and transition. Both subscribe to research-supported critically-reflective activism in 'a pluriverse' (at multiple levels: city, neighbourhood, village, initiative, sector, organisation, personal practice), operating with a rationale of 'design (do R&D, facilitate) global, build local' and 'free libre open knowledge' (FLOK), addressing power structures in the global economy and promoting direct activity by members of civil society (in various relationships in social enterprises, cooperatives and through 'the partner state') in spatially distributed and/or geographically local networks, producing knowledges, material products and services of all kinds, including social care, learning and environmental stewardship.

Seen through lenses like these, citizen science is – or can be cultivated as – an instance of the the transformative global movement for the Commons. The movement is very extended and pervasive. It is current. And it is 'radical science' write very large.