


Rotterdam School of Management
Erasmus University

“How can citizens’ collectives be seen as social enterprises?”

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OUR RESEARCH TEAM AT THE ROTTERDAM SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

- Linked to the Chair Social Enterprise & Institutions for Collective Action
- Disciplinary background:
History, environmental sciences, sociology, geography, economics, anthropology, data analysis, political sciences, global business & sustainability
- Currently projects in collaboration with several other disciplines, amongst others:
 - Information Science and Business Processes (Open University)
 - Sociology and data sciences (Linnaeus University –Vaxjo)
 - Engineering Systems and Services (Delft),
 - Biology and Environmental Science (Linnaeus university- Kalmar)
- Collaboration with many societal stakeholders: local municipalities (in NL and BE), ministries (e.g. EZ, RVO, LNV), Companies (in NL and BE), network organisations (Nederlandzorgvoorelkaar.nl, Nationale Coöperatieve Raad), local citizen collectivities....
- International: collaboration with many non-European NGOs via the International Association for the Study of the Commons, International Food Policy Research Institute, International Land Coalition etc.

AND: we currently have 5 job openings (PhDs, postdoc and research officer)!

Our Team

Team members

 <i>Tine De Moor</i> Principal Investigator	 <i>Tom Duijhuus</i> Postdoc Researcher	 <i>Damon Sanders</i> PhD Candidate
 <i>Elise Karlas</i> Researcher	 <i>Carolien Veldink</i> Researcher	 <i>Pieter Steenbergen</i> PhD Candidate

?????
5 job openings




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"The only thing that will redeem mankind is cooperation"
Bertrand Russell

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Keynote lecture on platform cooperatives by Young Scholars Network, January 13th

Posted on: 11/1/2021



On January 13th (16.00-17.30 CET) the Young Scholars Network (YSN) organises a keynote lecture by **Trebor Scholz**. As coiner of the concept 'platform cooperativism', there is no better researcher to kick-off this series of online meetings about platformcoops. In his keynote, Trebor will set out different scaling strategies for these new user-owned platforms. To sign up, please send an e-mail to bunders@rsm.nl or contact **Damion Bunders!**

[in](#) [f](#) [t](#)

Webinar on Institutional Theory and Analysis, with Tine de Moor

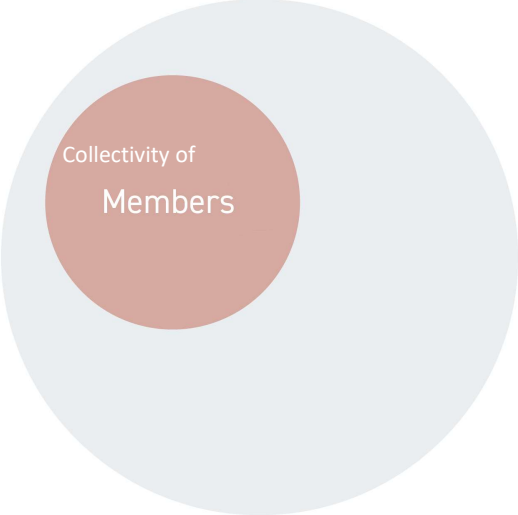
Posted on: 7/1/2021

AGENDA

13 January 2021
online
Keynote
with Trebor Scholz
by Young Scholars Network
bunders@rsm.nl


13 January 2021
online
Workshop
Social Enterprises
Workshop
by EUR
[More info here](#)

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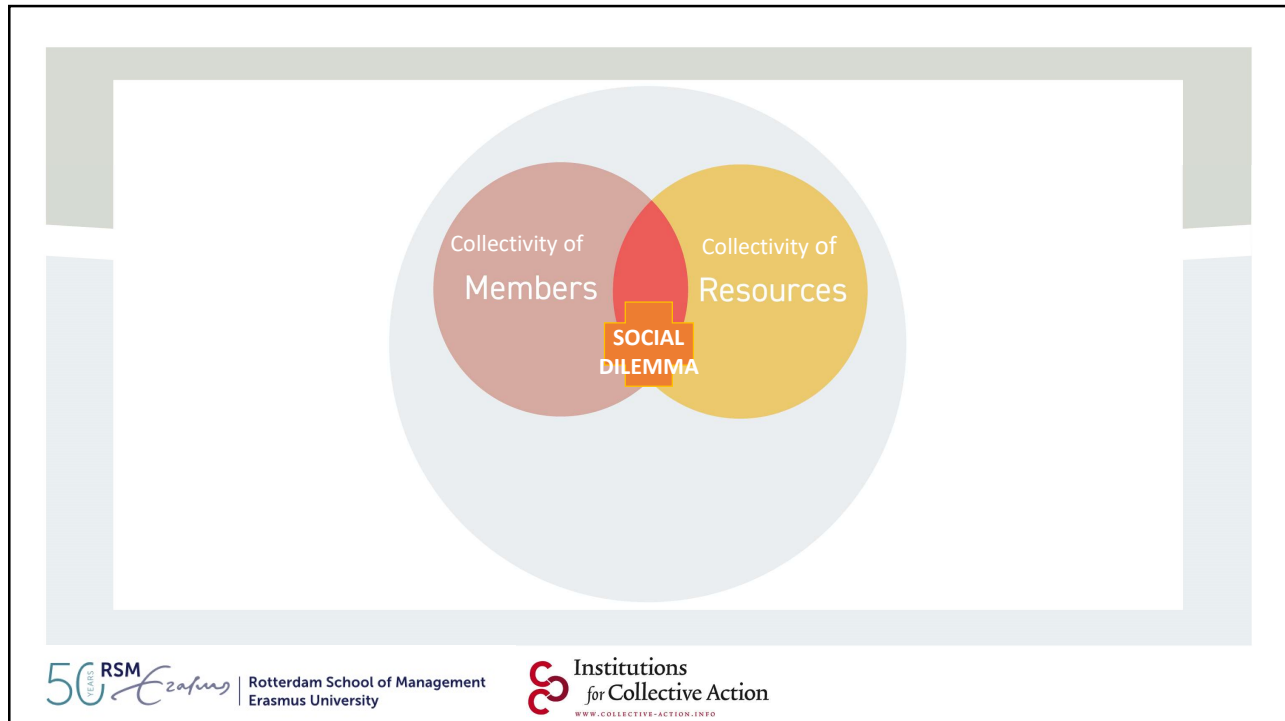


Collectivity of Members

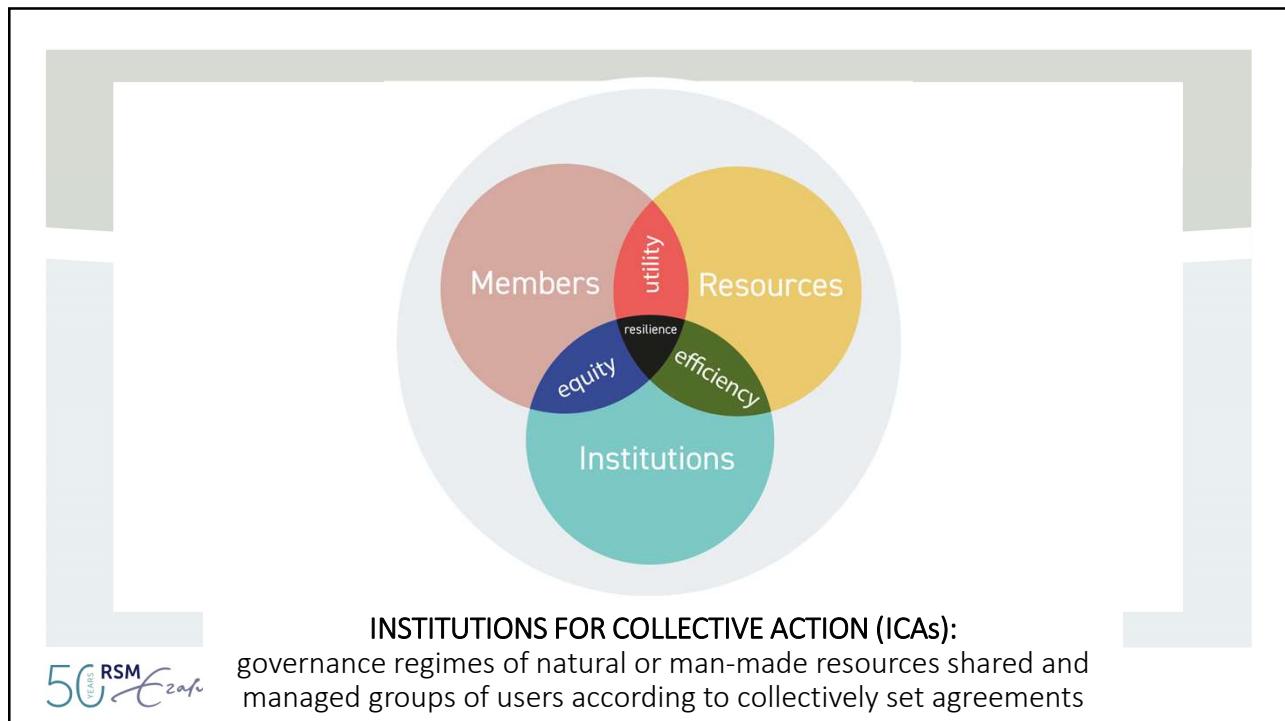
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INSTITUTIONS FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION CITIZEN COLLECTIVITIES COMMUNITY-BASED ENTERPRISES

Care collectivities

Food collectivities

REScoop map

GOALS: individual and societal
MEANS (governance): institution for collective action
MEANS (legal): in most cases cooperative

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De Moor, T., forthcoming (2020). Three waves of cooperation. A millennium of institutions for collective action in historical perspective (Case-study: The Netherlands). In: *Oxford Handbook on International Economic Governance*, eds E. Brousseau and I. Bellaci. Oxford University Press.

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‘WAVE’ OF NEW CITIZEN COLLECTIVITIES

- Epecially from 2005 onwards
- Most of these have a local focus
- Legal form: mainly cooperatives

NEW TYPES OF COOPS, E.G. REGIONAL COOPS

Hoveling, M. and Heukers, C., 2016. 'Coöperaties in Nederland, 2016', *Coöperatie* (June 2016), p. 17.

Legend for collectivities:

- Banken
- In & verkoop food
- In & verkoop nonfood
- Industrie, Energie & transport
- Kunst & Cultuur
- Land & Tuinbouw
- Onderwijs
- Overige
- Prof. dienstv.
- Scheepvaart
- Verzekeraars

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De Moor, T., 2013. *Homo cooperans. Institutions for collective action and the compassionate society*. Utrecht: Utrecht University, Faculty of Humanities, p. 10 [adapted].

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What are cooperatives?

A cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.

Legal form

- Association that furthers material assets of members
- Members have business relation to the association
- Members control the association democratically
- Profit may be divided among members

Identity & values

Figure 21: ICA (1995) Seven Cooperative Principles

Development of the social enterprise in 1990s!

- businesses that put the interests of people and planet ahead of shareholder gain.
- driven by a **social/environmental mission**
- reinvest profits into creating positive **social change**.

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Legal form versus organisational objectives


- Legal form:
 - Strict formulation can help to exclude “pseudo-cooperatives”
e.g. NL: Huawei as a cooperative...
 - Existence of social enterprise as legal form helps to ensure maximal profit for members and reinvestment in societal goals
e.g. many European Countries have defined a social cooperative as a subform of the cooperative
- Interesting:
 - trend towards integrating societal goals in legal forms, e.g. NL: BV-M (private company with societal goals)
 - In Belgium: social enterprises have become subform of the cooperative...

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Potential advantages of cooperative SEs


- **Can coops make financing SEs easier?**
 - Citizens as alternative source of financing SEs
 - Prolonged crowdfunding
 - Solid consumer base
- **Can coops through efficient and effective governance model achieve higher impact for SEs?**
 - value-based and integration impact in initial goals of organisation, supported by all members (producers and consumers) -> greater carrying capacity for innovative ideas?
 - consolidation goals through internal self-regulation (e.g. avoiding freeriding) -> more resilient SEs?
 - influencing members' mindset through democratic and sustainable governance-> positive effect on prosocial behaviour members? Spill-over effect?


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Post-COVID19-opportunities for SEs as COOPS IN THE FUTURE?

- **More "income pooling", "gigs" ... due to increasing job insecurity**
 - > Role for *platform cooperatives* as alternative for "regular platform economy" (Uber, Airbnb, Deliveroo...)?
- **Companies in trouble, looking for new sources of investment/capital + working at home creates higher sense of ownership among employees**
 - > Role for *employee/worker-cooperatives*?
 - > Capital remains in the local (circular) economy?
 - > Resilience and long-term perspective dominate over short-term profit maximalisation?
- **Deglobalisation + growing popularity of short chain because of health/ security reasons ('localisation')**
 - > Higher consumer-awareness about societal impact consumer-behaviour?
 - > Role for consumer-investor in **consumer-coops? Multi-stakeholder coops?**


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QUESTIONS FOR WORLD CAFE

Can the cooperative model help to create more resilient social enterprises by engaging citizens as members?

- As long-term crowdfunders?
- Would a cooperative model be better to increase the impact of the message of the SE on consumers and general public?
- Can owner-consumers become advocates of the goal of the SE?