

Can friendships overcome exchange?

Last Tuesday, Strategy Note 323 said we should build a humanity-wide solidarity economy to replace exchange and its oppressions. A few weeks before, Strategy Note 320 recommended friendships as the foundation for that solidarity economy.

Can friendship-based solidarity relationships actually replace exchange? Obviously, we don't yet know the answer to that question about the future. Perhaps. Perhaps not.

But friendship-based relationships of production, distribution, and coordination definitely give us a good way to start. Not only do friendships offer a logically compatible foundation for our humanity-wide solidarity economy, they also have the practical advantage that most humans have experience building and maintaining friendships.

So we don't need to invent any fundamentally new kinds of relationships. We just need more intentionality about friendships. And we need a wider scale of solidarity that includes all humans.

And we need more discussion of the economic aspects of friendships and solidarity. What goods and services do we produce? How do we distribute goods and services?

When you sit down for a shared meal with family or friends, ask "With who else might we like to share food? How might we expand our relationships of solidarity?"

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