

Gender in the new economy

Elsie L'Huillier

This mini-workshop will explore the gendered landscape of the emerging 'commons movement'. It asks whether gender is important and explores what is happening to women in the competing demands of technology, power and caring.

The 'new economy' with its enticing mix of caring and technology provides both opportunities and challenges. The opportunities seem endless as we unpack the potential for technology to totally transform the notion of the workplace and paid work. The opportunity to challenge neo liberally driven capitalism with locally owned initiatives that could save the planet is exciting....but there are challenges. So many revolutions have failed because 'the ruling ideas' were not really challenged and changed. Will this 'new economy revolution' fail if we don't address and change traditional ideas about gender, work and power?

To start the conversation Elsie will share some observations and conversations from a recent visit to Enspiral the exciting new start up platform in Wellington, NZ. Her enquiry focusses on the impact of gender in the newly constructed 'places of production' and seeks to identify paradigms for an 'agendered workplace'.

The workshop will examine the subliminal economy of 'women's work'. Participants will have an opportunity to share experiences and visions as well as the strategies and actions needed to ensure all work is named and counted as we negotiate the new economy together.

Conference Themes: Care, Work

Bio:

Elsie has been working in the community development field as facilitator, teacher, coach, manager and community worker for over thirty years. She has taught, worked and researched in the area of women's studies/women's work and is highly motivated about the opportunities presented by the current focus on a sharing, caring, new economy. Elsie currently teaches community development strategies, group work, program management and evaluation at

RMIT University and facilitates under the banner of The Community Coach. She is very interested and involved in the Commons Transition Movement and other collaborative networks in Melbourne and Bendigo, Victoria.