

# Reconsider work to reach degrowth ?

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Wrote the essay: Do the inactive work?: psycho-socio study on the employment deserters and their motivations.

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## Our diagnostic

Work, despite its central role, is not enough discussed

The raise of suffering at work questions

- ✓ our conception of work
- ✓ the triptych work/production/consumption

## Our goals

To extend the debate on work to reflect the central place it occupies in our lives

To put at question social norms, values and representations

To encourage social commitment: reconsider questions of society

## Our method

### Workshops - debating groups:

- ✓ starting from participants own experiences and representations
- ✓ encouraging conflict of opinions and discussions

Our goal is to facilitate the participants' thinking and to help them clarifying the concept of work.

## Our role in the workshops

We are coordinators and not lecturers

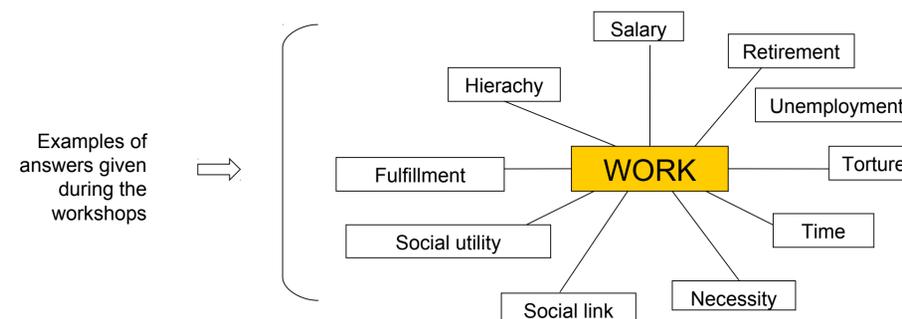
We are neutrals: the debate cannot be normative and enables us to concern people with distinct values

## How the workshop goes :

### Step1 : Representations of work

Question: If I tell you « work », what are the first words coming to your mind?

Method : Brainstorming



### Step 2 : « Working people» or « non-working people » ?

Method : We split participants in 2 groups. One group will defend the YES and the other one the NO.

Question : Judith, long term unemployed, « RMI » (\*), 42, is very committed in an environmental association aiming at educating population on local plants and animals. Does she work?

Examples of answers given during the workshops

YES, because	NO, because
It's an activity	She hasn't got a job
She produces something	It's a hobby
Indirect remuneration	No subordination
Effort	She has no obligation
She acts for the community	No salary
...	...

At this moment we introduce theoretical materials:

- ✓ Etymology of the French word « Travail » (which means « Work »?)
- ✓ Anthropological and socio-historical concept (evolution through ages)

(\*) Minimum guaranteed income

### Step 3 : How to tend toward an ideal work?

Method : Thinking in subgroups using the notions that came up in step 1.

Examples of questions:

How comes it can be so painful to be unemployed? What are the ways to get over it?  
Is it desirable to work less? How could we reduce working time?

## « Alternative work »

Those workshops were organised with the cooperative Alter-Conso which, beyond its environmental approach (local and natural products), has adopted a particular approach of work (part time work, decent wages, task sharing instead of division of labor) and management (one man = one voice, participation of all actors of the cooperative).

At the end of each workshop , people experimanting alternative ways of working will join us and relate their experience.

## Our analytical framework

Distinguish work / job (travail / emploi)

Clarify the concept of work through the analysis of its socio-historical evolution.

Desintangle employment and social identity.

Rethink the categories "working" and "non working"

## Work and degrowth

Baptiste Mylondo in « Ne pas perdre sa vie à la gagner »:

« We are totally addicted and we can barely imagine the task we are facing if we want to succeed in the necessary purpose of minds detoxification to the "labor value". In fact, if we really have to work, it's essentially on this matter. »

Our proposition: to contribute to this ambition !

## Outlooks

Organize more and more workshops with lay people in order to have a larger audience

Organize a gathering with people who already took part in the workshops to go further on specific issues