

**Intensive unit:** AH3445P, CH3445P - 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19 September (Fri 6-9pm, Sat 9.30am – 4.30pm)

### Description

Cooperative enterprises, in which a business is owned and democratically controlled by the people who work in it or who use its services, are growing in importance in Australia and elsewhere. This subject locates the resurgence of cooperative and mutual models of business in the history and theology that informed the Rochdale pioneers of the 1840s in Britain, the Mondragon federation in the Basque country of Spain from the 1930s, and the housing and childcare cooperatives of Melbourne's Young Christian Workers from the 1950s. It explores the diverse models of religious community (from monastic to Quaker and Methodist) that have informed the core cooperative principle of democratic governance by member-owners. It examines the historic connection between spiritual values and cooperative business models, as well as their positive impact on social cohesion, potential empowerment of women and minorities, and the economy. In collaboration with Co-operative Bonds and the Business Council of Cooperatives and Mutuals students will develop a business model to establish a new café (or similar enterprise) as a co-operative (designed according to need as either a worker co-operative multi-stakeholder, or consumer cooperative). In the context of the shared practical task of founding a co-operative we will reflect together on what theology and history offer to the process of ensuring hospitality, justice and practical business acumen share the same table.

### Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Articulate the values, principles and the distinguishing features of a cooperative business enterprise informed by the heritage of Rochdale, Mondragon and the International Co-operative Alliance;
2. Discuss the impact of Christian theology and teaching on social justice on the development of worker cooperatives in Australia and internationally;
3. Develop a business plan for a worker cooperative;
4. Critically reflect on the experience of developing a cooperative business plan.

### Assessment

Assessment Type	Weighting
Literature review (2500 words)	40%
Essay (2500 words)	60%

**Pre-requisite:** none

**Lecturer:** Katharine Massam, with Antony McMullen and Coop Bond

### Recommended reading

\* = set texts recommended for purchase

Bruni, Luigino, Stefano Zamagni, and Antonella Ferrucci. *Handbook on the economics of reciprocity and social enterprise*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar, 2015.

Business Council of Cooperatives and Mutuals. *Community Investment for Australian Cooperatives: A Handbook*. Sydney: BCCM, 2016. [https://www.getmutual.coop/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/CS-Manual\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.getmutual.coop/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/CS-Manual_FINAL.pdf).

Get Mutual. "Build Your Coop". <https://www.getmutual.coop/builder/>

Lewis, Gary. *A Middle Way: Rochdale Co-operation in New South Wales 1859-1986*. Sydney: Brolga Press, 1992.

Mathews, Race. *Of labour and liberty: distributism in Victoria, 1891-1966*. Melbourne: Monash University Publishing, 2018. <http://public.eblib.com/choice/publicfullrecord.aspx?p=5326773>.

Mayo, Ed. *A Short History of Co-operation and Mutuality*. Cooperatives UK: 2017. [https://www.uk.coop/sites/default/files/uploads/attachments/a-short-history-of-cooperation-and-mutuality\\_ed-mayo-web\\_english.pdf](https://www.uk.coop/sites/default/files/uploads/attachments/a-short-history-of-cooperation-and-mutuality_ed-mayo-web_english.pdf).

O'Leary, Richard and Sam Byrne. *Cooperatives in Australia: A Manual*. Sydney: Cooperative Federation of NSW, 2017.

Schlossberg, Herbert, and others. *Christianity and economics in the post-cold war era: the Oxford declaration and beyond*. Grand Rapids, Mich: William B. Eerdmans, 1994.

Whyte, William Foote and Kathleen King Whyte, *Making Mondragon: the Growth and Dynamics of the Worker Cooperative Complex*. New York: Cornell University Press, 1991.

Worker Cooperative Council (UK). *The Worker Cooperative Code*, Manchester: Cooperatives UK, nd. [www.uk.coop/sites/default/files/uploads/attachments/worker\\_co-operative\\_code\\_2nd\\_edition\\_0\\_0.pdf](http://www.uk.coop/sites/default/files/uploads/attachments/worker_co-operative_code_2nd_edition_0_0.pdf) Borzaga, Carlo, and Ermanno Tortia. "Worker Motivations, Job Satisfaction, and Loyalty in Public and Nonprofit Social Services." *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly* 35, no. 2 (June 2006): 225–48. doi:10.1177/0899764006287207.

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### Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Articulate the values, principles and the distinguishing features of a cooperative business enterprise informed by the heritage of Rochdale, Mondragon and the International Co-operative Alliance;
2. Analyse representative sources across the cooperative movement to identify the impact of both formal theology and lived religious experience;
3. Articulate the impact of Christian theology and teaching on social justice on the development of worker cooperatives in Australia and internationally;
4. Develop a business plan for a worker cooperative and articulate the theological principles that inform it;
5. Critically reflect on the experience of developing a cooperative business plan.

### Assessment

Assessment Type	Weighting
Literature review (2500 words)	40%
Essay (5000 words)	60%

**Pre-requisite:** none

**Lecturer:** Katharine Massam, with Antony McMullen and Coop Bond

### Recommended reading

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Worker Cooperative Council (UK). *The Worker Cooperative Code*, Manchester: Cooperatives UK, nd. [www.uk.coop/sites/default/files/uploads/attachments/worker\\_co-operative\\_code\\_2nd\\_edition\\_0\\_0.pdf](http://www.uk.coop/sites/default/files/uploads/attachments/worker_co-operative_code_2nd_edition_0_0.pdf) Borzaga, Carlo, and Ermanno Tortia. "Worker Motivations, Job Satisfaction, and Loyalty in Public and Nonprofit Social Services." *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly* 35, no. 2 (June 2006): 225–48. doi:10.1177/0899764006287207.