

SUMMARY

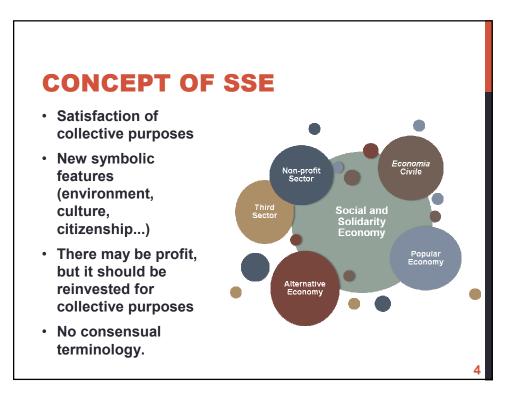
- Conceptualizing Social and Solidarity economy (SSE)
- Comparative outlook of SSE in Brazil and Portugal
- Theoretical problem: Addressing state and market failures? Alternative model to current neoliberal development patterns? Another facet of contemporary capitalism?
 - SSE and the production of welfare
 - SSE and global capitalism
 - SSE and work relations
- Main goal:
 - Questioning whether SSE is an emancipatory alternative or a product and instrument of the capitalist system, contributing to its reproduction.



CONCEPT OF SSE

- SSE is not something new, but the context of growing contradictions in the capitalist system opens up the space for different theories and experiences that proclaim SSE as a pathway for a more equal and sustainable society
- Relates to another component of social life, which is neither the business sector nor the public one
- Response to a "new social issue": flexibility, precariousness, unemployment, the worsening of poverty and social exclusion situations
- Economic activities based on a collective patrimony and cooperation
- Autonomy and Democratic decision-making processes

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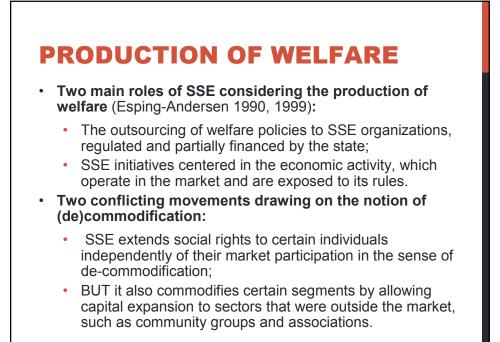
- Southern European country, in the semi-periphery of the world-system, with a fragile welfare state
- Second world's cooperative law (1867)
- SSE dominated by welfare services (IPSS, CERCI, Misericórdias...)
- Attempts to establish an holistic concept of SSE, combining economic, social, cultural, environmental, territorial, scientific, management and political dimensions → holistic and integrated development model
- Main protagonists: communities, and their support networks (social assistants, development agents, Local Development Associations).
- Bill on social economy (2013) and Satellite Accounts of Social Economy (2010)

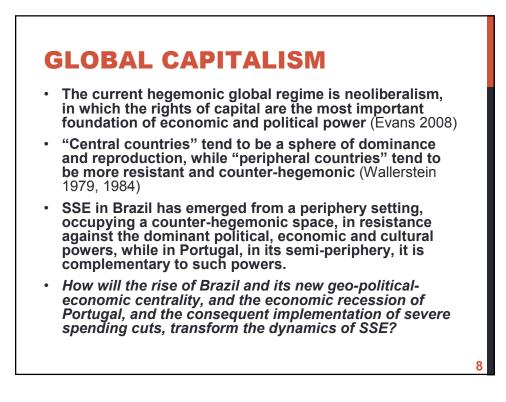
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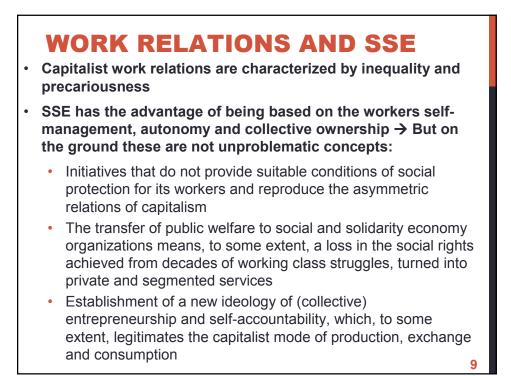
SSE IN BRAZIL

- Alternative to the social and work relations of capitalism
 - Large number of associative experiences organized by workers, farmers, consumers...
 - Experiences of bankrupt companies recovered by workers;
 - · Formal or informal community groups and associations;
 - Solidarity finance.
- Widespread use of the concept of solidarity economy
- · The main focus is on the production sphere
- The main protagonists of social and solidarity economy are the workers, with the support of Unions and Labor movements, NGOs and the state (National Secretariat of Solidarity Economy)
- · Dominated by "Fight against unemployment"
- But also initiatives that use the form of solidarity economy with the objective of lowering costs, acting as sub-contractor for private companies or as providers of public services.

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EMANCIPATION VS REPRODUCTION

- Social and solidarity economy, in Portugal and Brazil, faces a struggle between its project of social emancipation and the dominant social patterns to which it adapts, thus contributing to its reproduction
- Even emancipatory projects contain elements of reproduction (Bourdieu, 1977)
- Development of SSE in three ways :
 - Market oriented for lowering production costs, provision of public services, and/or fight against unemployment of the surplus workers without an educational and political project
 - Development of SSE as an approach for the delivery of welfare or a methodology of local development
 - Grass-roots initiatives that embody a conscious *project of social transformation* idealization, but with a practical proposal and commitment toward a collective project.

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