Hugh Mackenzie, Canada’s CEO Elite 100 the 0.01%, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives
http://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/commentary/infographic-99-vs-1
US GDP per capita versus household income
Point 1: Space is fundamental to any form of communal life, then space must be fundamental in any exercise of power
Occupy Wall Street 2011
Occupy Ottawa Fall 2011
Tahir Square Spring 2011
Oaxaca City, Mexico 2004
Orange Revolution Ukraine 2004
Velvet Revolution Czechoslovakia 1989
Tiananmen Square, 1989
March on Washington 1968
Paris Commune 1871
Local resistances and separations proliferate as an antidote to neoliberal globalization. The result is a chronically unstable [relationship] of space and place that brings geographical elements into the centre of politics. New forms of geographical knowledge arise in response to such tensions.

New forms of geographical knowledge arise in response to such tensions. From such a perspective in which history and dynamics cannot be evaded, geographical knowledges turn out not to be so banal as they seem. Historical concepts of space, speed, site, place and religion, mobility, environment and the like are rich in possibilities.
The Commons

- Resources, generally elements of the environment, forests, atmosphere, rivers, fisheries, or grazing-land, that are shared, used and enjoyed by a community.
Tragedy of the Commons
The Solution: Regulation and Privatization
Point 2: The tragedy of the commons validates the private and exclusive control of land
Elinor Ostrom

- Examined the use of collective action, trust, and cooperation in the management of common resources.
- Her institutional approach to public policy and public choice theory is known as the institutional analysis and development (IAD) framework.
- 2009, Ostrom became the first woman to receive the Nobel Prize in Economics.
- The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said Ostrom's research "by showing how common resources — forests, fisheries, oil fields, or grazing lands, can be managed successfully by the people who use them, rather than by governments or private companies ... challenged conventional wisdom, showing that common resources can be successfully managed without government regulation or privatization".
Where does the individual stand?
Rebecca Solnit and the ‘true’ meaning of Anarchism

- “The relationships between lovers, spouses, parents and children, siblings, kinfolk, friends, colleagues, and compatriots are absent, though those are clearly among the more ancient rather than modern aspects of human life” (p.91).

- “This is why what happens in disaster’s matters for political philosophy: the hierarchies, administrations, and institutions – the social structure – tend to fall apart, but what results tends to be anarchy in Kropotkin’s sense of people coming together in freely chosen cooperation rather than the media’s sense of disorderly savagery” (Ibid).
Freedom is an endless meeting
Politics is the process by which we organize ourselves as a collective and determine who gets, what, when and how.
Questions for discussion

• Does democratic political space exist today?
• In a society characterized by privatization and individualism is it possible to resurrect a conception of the public commons?
• Could the guarantee of a public commons be a panacea for the lack of democratic engagement?
• Could such a political commons sustain community inclusiveness?