

G A S W O R K S

True Currency: About Feminist Economics Podcast Episode Summary (Launch Date 16 July, 6 episodes released weekly)

On average women undertake 60% more unpaid care work than men, suffer earnings and pay gaps, and are more likely to be in part-time, temporary, zero-hour contracts. Put simply, the economy is not designed for women. With a global pandemic threatening to push gender equality back years, **True Currency: About Feminist Economics** tries to get to grips with the feminist economics movement, advocating for changes in governmental policy, supporting low paid and marginalised women, and exposing the financial inequalities that exist today.

Over six episodes, artists Ruth Beale and Amy Feneck draw on their experiences as artists and mothers, and speak to academic researchers, policy experts, community leaders and activists, to explore financial inequality, feminism, intersectionality, labour exploitation, unpaid work, care, unionisation and reproductive labour.

Episode 1: If Women Counted

Beginning by asking What is feminist economics? How are women part of, and excluded from, the economy? Artists Ruth Beale and Amy Feneck start to unpack the issues around work, care and parenthood. Featuring members of the Women's Budget Group; a Latin American parents group in Brixton; workshop participants at a children's centre and artists reimagining local economies.

Voices:

Adabeybi, member of AMPLA (Association of Latin-American parents)
Kathrin Böhm, artist & co-founder of Company Drinks & Centre for Plausible Economies
Jeannine Moros-Noujaim, Project Manager, IRMO (Indo American Refugee and Migrant Organisation)
K Rose R, mother & workshop participant at the Henry Fawcett Children's Centre
Ailie Rutherford, artist & Artistic Director of The People's Bank of Govanhill
Marion Sharples, Project Manager of the Commission for a Gender Equal Economy, Women's Budget Group
Mary-Ann Stephenson, Director, Women's Budget Group

Episode 2: Worker Struggles, Part 1 - When Migrant Women Rise, We All Rise

The first of two episodes which consider the different forms of waged work women do, *When Migrant Women Rise, We All Rise* looks at the multiple layers of discrimination and exploitation affecting women in 'feminised' industries. Ruth and Amy visit the Women's Strike in central London, and speak to workers and activists fighting for better working conditions and rights for migrant women at work.

Voices:

Adabeybi, member of AMPLA (Association of Latin-American parents)
Flor Andrade Valencia & Jaqueline Saldaña, members of United Voices of the World
Carmenza, Sierra, members of AMPLA (Association of Latin-American parents)
Lucila Granada, CEO of FLEX (Focus on Labour Exploitation)
Jeannine Moros-Noujaim, Project Manager, IRMO (Indo American Refugee and Migrant Organisation)
Mozzaika, artist and protestor at the Women's Strike, 2020
Shiri Shalmy, Organiser with Cooperation Town, Antiuniversity Now, United Sex Workers and the Women's Strike Assembly

Episode 3: Worker Struggles, Part 2 - No Bad Whores, Just Bad Laws

This is second part of *Worker Struggles*, centering on issues around women and paid work. Women working in the sex industry talk about their struggle to name sex work as work, meaning they can demand safer and fair working conditions. The episode also starts to unpack the idea of 'reproductive labour', a central idea in feminist thought, describing the usually unpaid care-giving and domestic work predominantly done by women, and whether this is considered work.

Voices:

Jade, sex worker & member of United Sex Workers

Stacey Clare, stripper and member of United Sex Workers and East London Strippers Collective (ELSC)

Shiri Shalmy, Organiser with Cooperation Town, Antiuniversity Now, United Sex Workers and the Women's Strike Assembly

Episode 4: Suspended Time

Exploring the role unpaid care has in relation to women and work, this episode focuses on motherhood, and the profoundly shocking experience (for some) of infant dependency and the subsequent assertion of gender roles. It features mothers taking part in a workshop with Ruth and Amy at a local Children's Centre, alongside academic Lisa Baraitser whose psychosocial theoretical work speaks to ideas of maternal time, and whether the maternal subject can be radical.

Voices:

Lisa Baraitser, Professor of Psychosocial Theory, Birkbeck

Maite, mother & workshop participant at the Henry Fawcett Children's Centre

Ingrid, mother & workshop participant at the Henry Fawcett Children's Centre

Claire Summers, mother, NHS Community Nurse and workshop participant

Episode 5: We are the True Currency

What do we want the economy to be? How can we make a feminist economy? What does a feminist economy want? This episode looks at how feminist principals are used to shape research and economic policy, including the Women's Budget Group's commission for a Gender Equal Economy, as well as artists who are creating radical new spaces for rethinking what a feminist economy might look like.

Voices:

Usma Ashraf, Assistant Manager, Swap Market

Kathrin Böhm, artist & co-founder of Company Drinks & Centre for Plausible Economies

Lucila Granada, CEO of FLEX (Focus on Labour Exploitation)

Ailie Rutherford, artist & Artistic Director of The People's Bank of Govanhill

Shiri Shalmy, Organiser with Cooperation Town, Antiuniversity Now, United Sex Workers and the Women's Strike Assembly

Marion Sharples, Project Manager of the Commission for a Gender Equal Economy, Women's Budget Group

Episode 6: The Economy is Still Happening

The coronavirus pandemic has thrown light upon many of the issues covered so far in *True Currency*, from what is valued and measured as work, to inequalities, to the inadequacy of the current system to support everyone in society equally. Ruth and Amy catch up with speakers from the previous episodes to find out how lockdown has affected them, and what hopes they have for the 'new normal'.

Voices:

Lisa Baraitser, Professor of Psychosocial Theory, Birkbeck

Shiri Shalmy, Organiser with Cooperation Town, Antiuniversity Now, United Sex Workers and the Women's Strike Assembly

Marion Sharples, Project Manager of the Commission for a Gender Equal Economy, Women's Budget Group
Claire Summers, mother, NHS Community Nurse