

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/when-i-becomes-we/>

The speaker discusses their PhD research conducted at the Park Slope Food Co-op, focusing on humor, laughter, and the ethical dynamics within the organization. Through extensive engagement and reflection on members' experiences, the research revealed a distinctive culture centered on mutual responsibility and care for one another, contrasting with typical individualistic organizational behaviors.

The paper draws on philosophical frameworks from Michel Foucault and Emmanuel Levinas, examining how these theories align to illustrate the co-op's commitment to ethics and collective responsibility. The speaker notes that members prioritized communal well-being over individual self-interest, allowing for a democratic and diverse environment where ethical discussions were rooted in interpersonal relationships.

Through their findings, the research emphasizes the importance of cultivating ethical practices within organizations, highlighting the potential for cooperative structures to inspire transformative power dynamics. The co-op exemplifies how productive power can foster responsibility to others rather than a competitive, individualistic mindset.

The dialogue between the philosophies of Foucault and Levinas addresses the complexities of ethics and identity, proposing that personal attachments can impede ethical responsibilities. The researchers suggest that their study offers insights into the cooperative's unique framework, advocating for broader recognition of such models in organizational contexts that challenge conventional capitalist hierarchies. Overall, the paper contributes to the ongoing discourse on ethics in organizational life, highlighting the potential for collective responsibility through cooperative practices.