

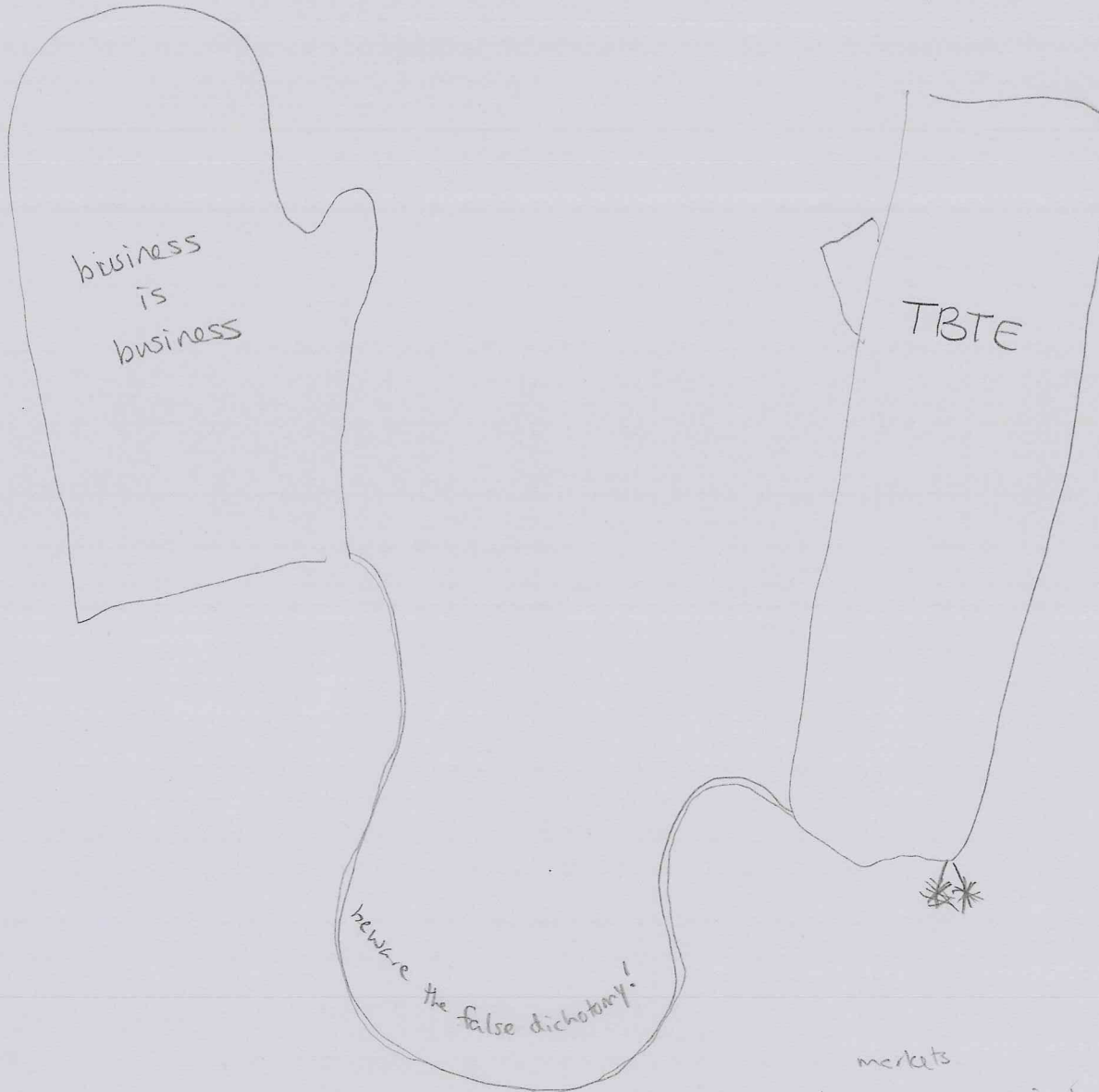
Guide to my Project

Birdweed
6133 933 Spring 2015.

playing with forms

iron hand in woolly mitten
the unseen hand of the market

the left hand
doesn't
know...



fingertips exposed -
greater sensitivity,
perception, connection

but they are connected. TBTE looks at
TBTE isn't a whole different system.

markets
just from a different angle



what they all knit: Scottish style - stranded colorwork
Irish cables
US/Canadian yarn company patterns

my mum: made her own clothes/sweaters until the 1990s.

Knit in acrylic: cheap and washable.
Knit for her kids. Now knits cotton dishcloths to relax, and buys her sweaters ready-made, second-hand.

my dad: learned as a child from an elderly babysitter.
Shocks people

my grandfather: never knit in his life.
was paid for his work in 1936-8 with a Conichen sweater. His other sweater was made by 5 of my relatives together.

my grandmother: did not knit due to disability.
Stigmatized in public.

my aunt: made her own clothes/sweaters had more time/\$: knit complex patterns in wool. Now for pleasure: buys most clothes new ready-made.

me: knit for pleasure. Mum found a left-handed neighbour to teach me when I was 6. And in my time THE INTERNET ARRIVED! ravelry.com! Styles and techniques from all around the world! Hobby knitters united! I encountered self-declared "fibre-snobs"! Slow-clothes, local movement. Values clashes.

metaphorical:

- interconnection
- pull a thread here and see its effects over there

personal - I use it to analogize to law all the time. Eg. that I like untangling knitting problems so law can be like that too.

WHY KNITTING?

experimenting with FORM and PURPOSE with a daring, rule-breaking approach... I've never knit gloves or mittens or designed anything knit in my life. I broke quite a few rules and used "surplus" scraps only.

Some rules - I now understand, respect, and would not break again!
Others - meh, no big deal.

circular needles are smoother than straight

don't carry wool behind the fabric for a long time

be competent at math
don't make vertical lines or long horizontal ones

don't mix different weights of wool

swatch first

max 2 colours/row

"fair isle"
"lopipey sa" e.g.
"Conichan sweaters"

political: knitting has a place on all parts of the TBTE "iceberg" image. For some a luxury hobby. For some, just paid work, no fun. Deeply connected to cultural expression and also to disconnected rip-offs of it. Feminized in our time/part of the world. Homemade vs. manufactured. Animal v. synthetic

glove



We're all in economies all around the clock.

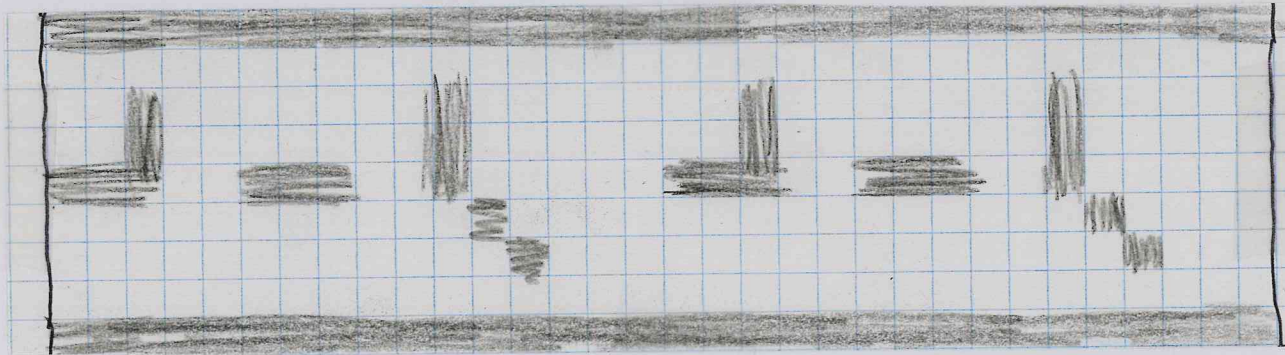
"Workingman's 24-Hour Clock" p. 23
and the hidden labor of ♀

looks a little more like real life



"Our ability to invest in the future is closely linked to the conditions under which we live today." (166)

mitten

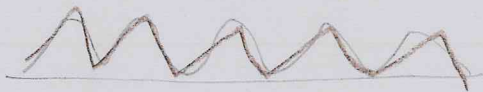
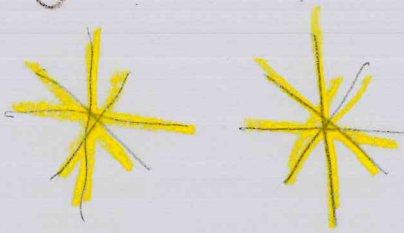


"Workin' 9 to 5, what a way to make a living!
Barely getting by, it's all taking and no giving
They just use your mind, and they never give you credit,
It's enough to drive you CRAZY IF YOU LET IT..."

WHERE FROM?



glove



dandelion pattern credit to @felixford

"convenience is a form of 'selective seeing' whereby we choose to overlook the cost of our transactions to others" (108)

and therefore counters →

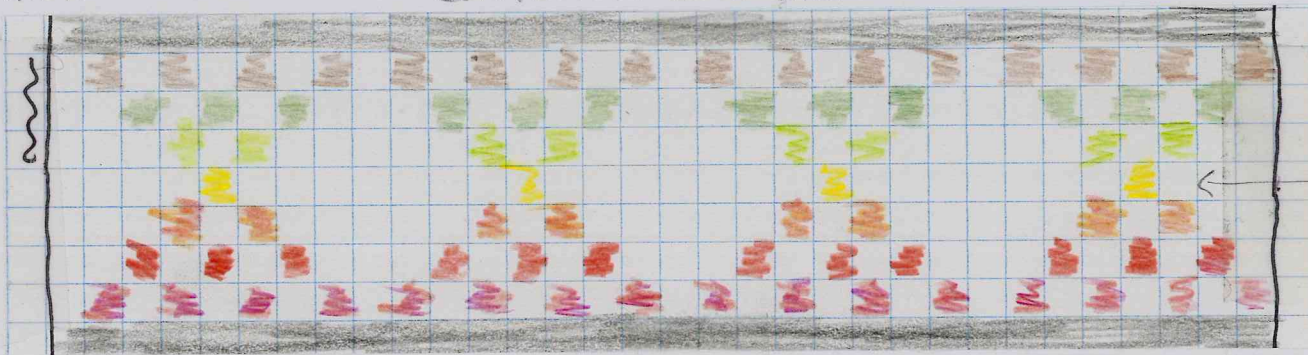
"With each step we are 1 step removed from the acts and violence that are all part of that shiny new mobile phone" (99)

first layer of glove — the "dandelion of distance" diagram (p.93).

This consideration is absent from the "business is business" framework.

mitten

CONTRASTS WITH THIS



product. elusive consumer gold.

"Supply chain" (p.95)

"The markets can be a space of care as well as consumption." (104)

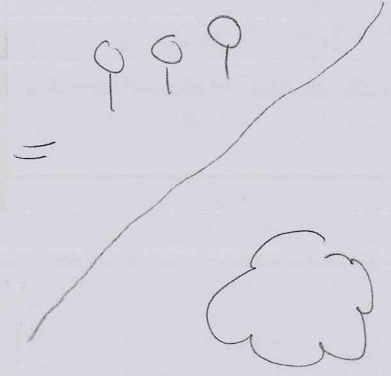
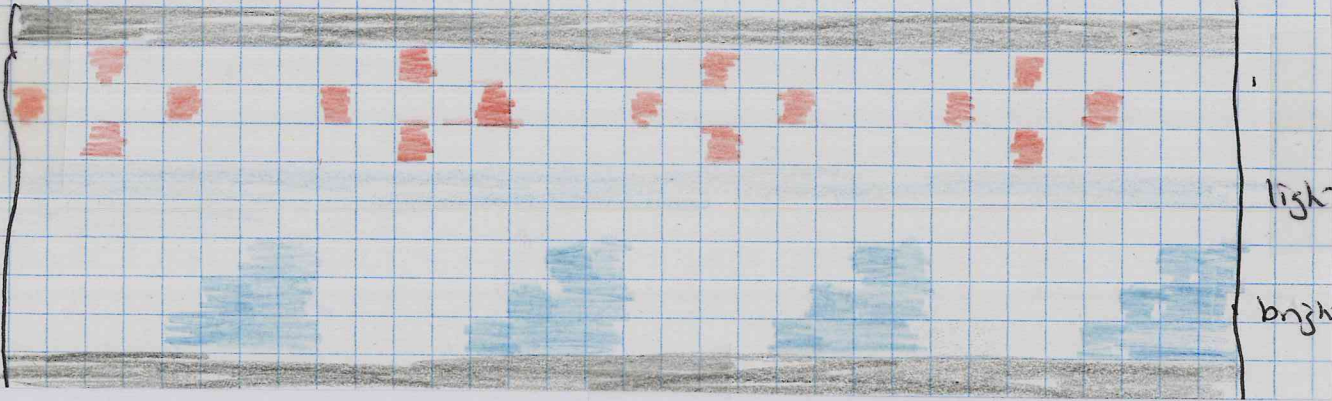
"Often the name we give to this fixed pursuit of self-interest is freedom." (190)

mitten

32 across

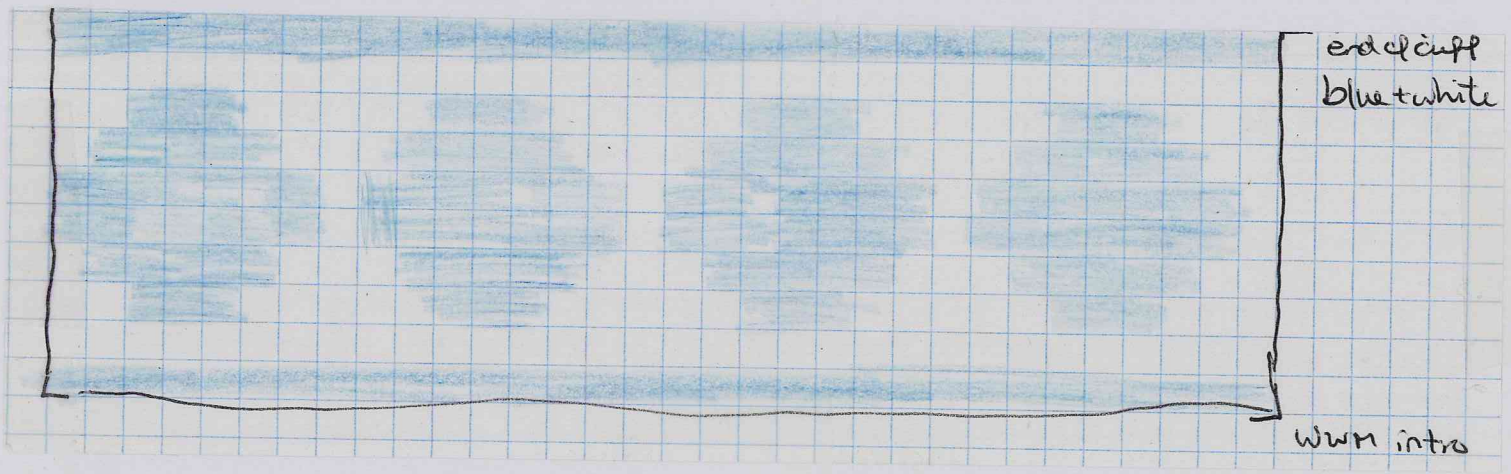
= 392

= 502



presence of the veil  structural opportunity for distancing

(diagonals don't work knitting in the round with 4 colours)



the bigg iz bigg form acts like a cookie cutter even when it doesn't fit
 } at least in my thinking sometimes

mitten

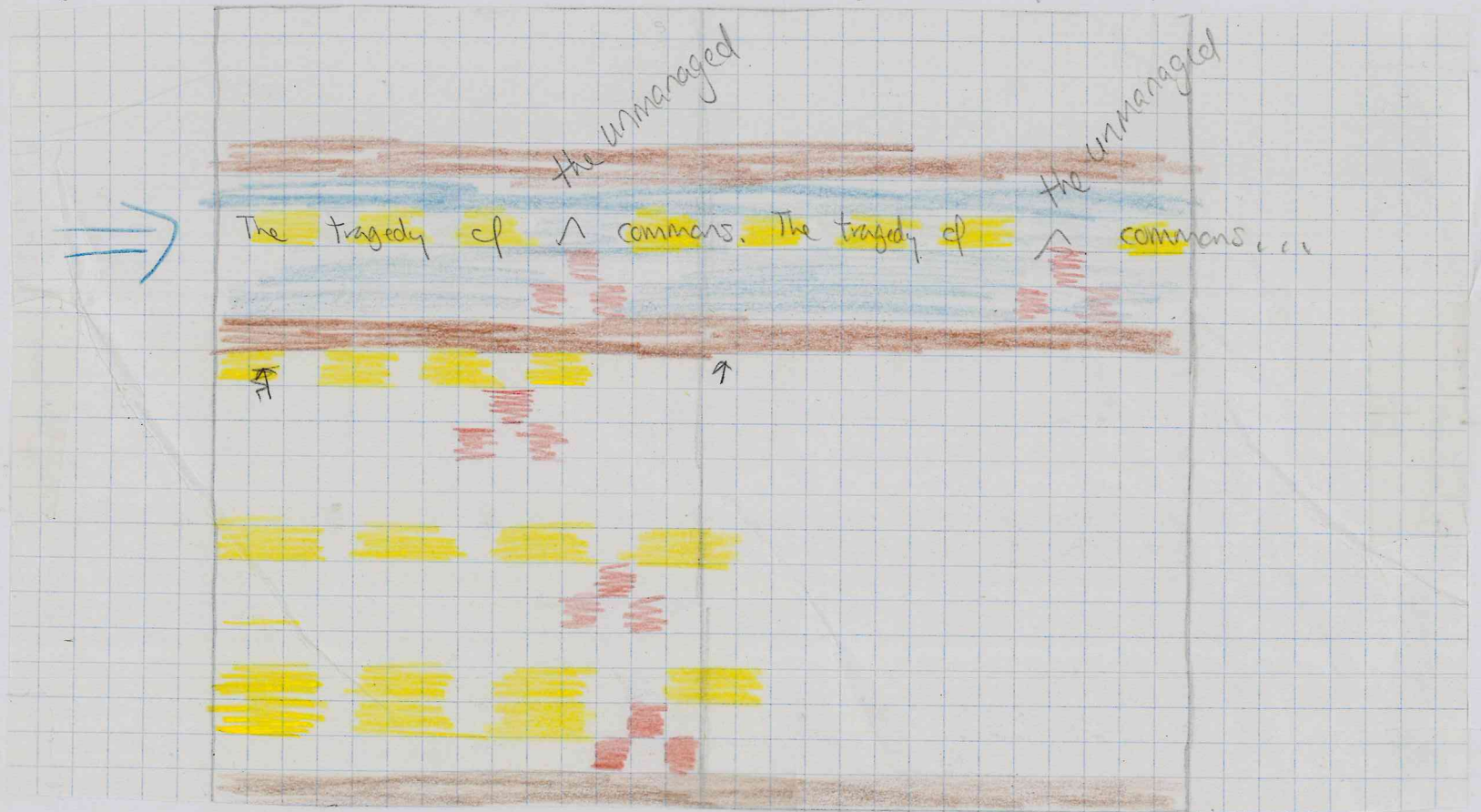
the tragedy of the commons, The tragedy of the commons | red + light blue

Garnet Hardin, 1968. Used to justify "privatization" in business-is-business corporate form. (131)

"Productivity rests on shared assets like the common law and earth's gifts." 126

"Private ownership is presented as the most efficient means of managing open-access resources." 126

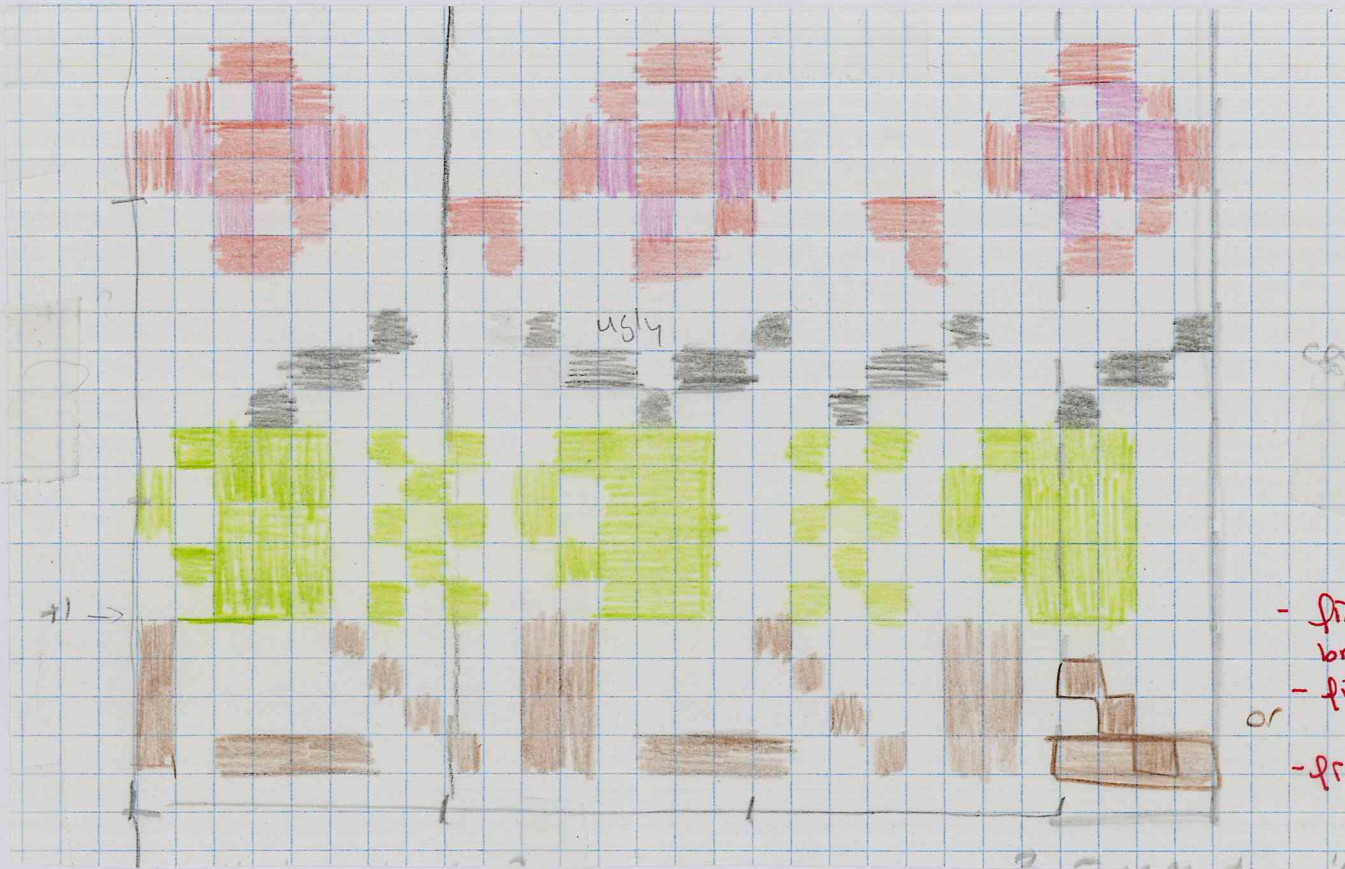
glove Nobel Prize winning economist Elinor Ostrom, agreed with by Hardin, 1998.



glove: this panel is what feels like is missing from TBTE, what I'd want to hear it address next

- more re "consumer power"
- organized labour
- intersectionality

← roses



← coffee

← bread

- fair
- bri
- fi
or
- fr

3. In the last line of "Bontche

Schweig" (Bontche the Silent) by I.L. Peretz, Bontche imagines heaven as a hot roll with butter every day. A tragic sign of how hard his life has been and how humanity has failed him? Or of the limits of his imagination? His image and the arguments I've heard about it always stick in my mind.

1. bread and roses

- give us bread, but give us roses
- intersectionality
- organized labour's efforts to "take [a better place in] the economy"

"We can learn a lot from looking at the struggles and success that have been waged and won around this key concern of a community economy..." (92)

2. fair trade coffee

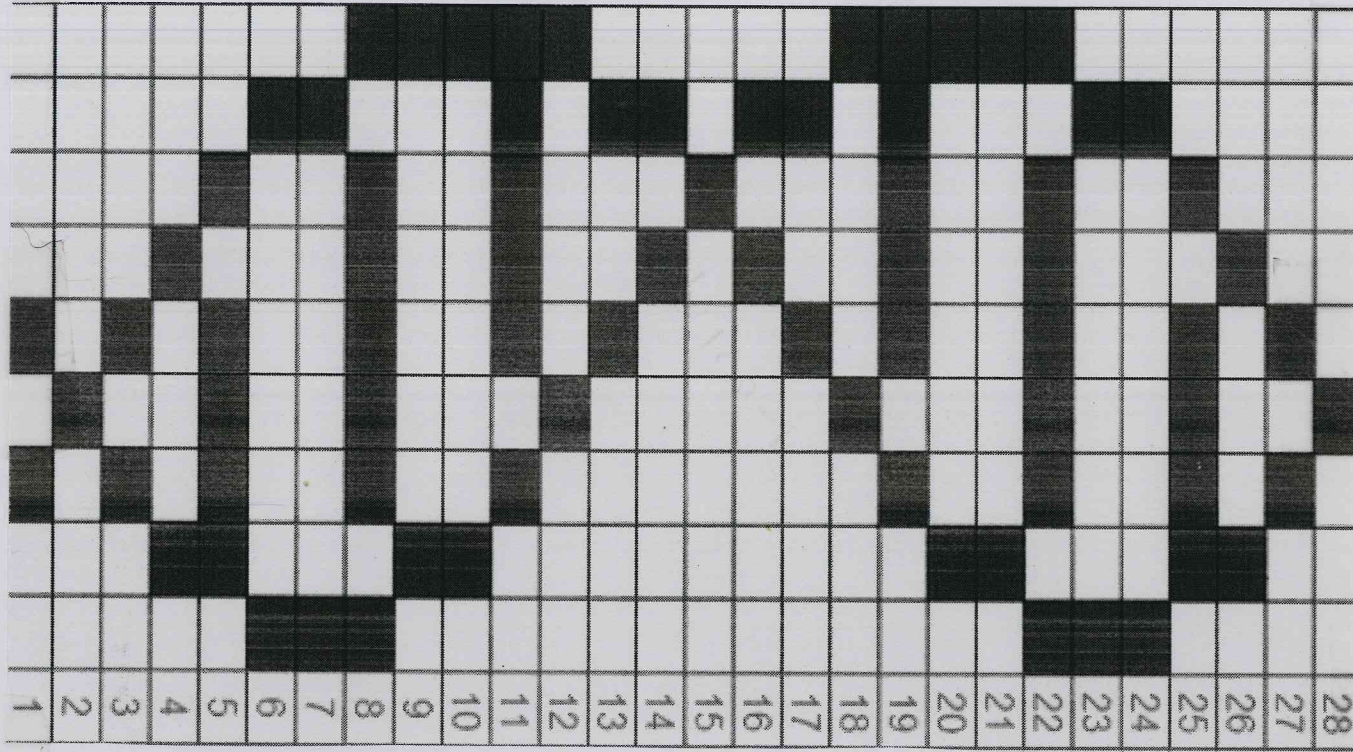
- "take back the markets"
- what are the limits to consumer power?
- who are those messages aimed at?

- consumer power initiatives divide (cordonne) on class lines

- "removes uncertainty, guarantees livelihoods" (103)

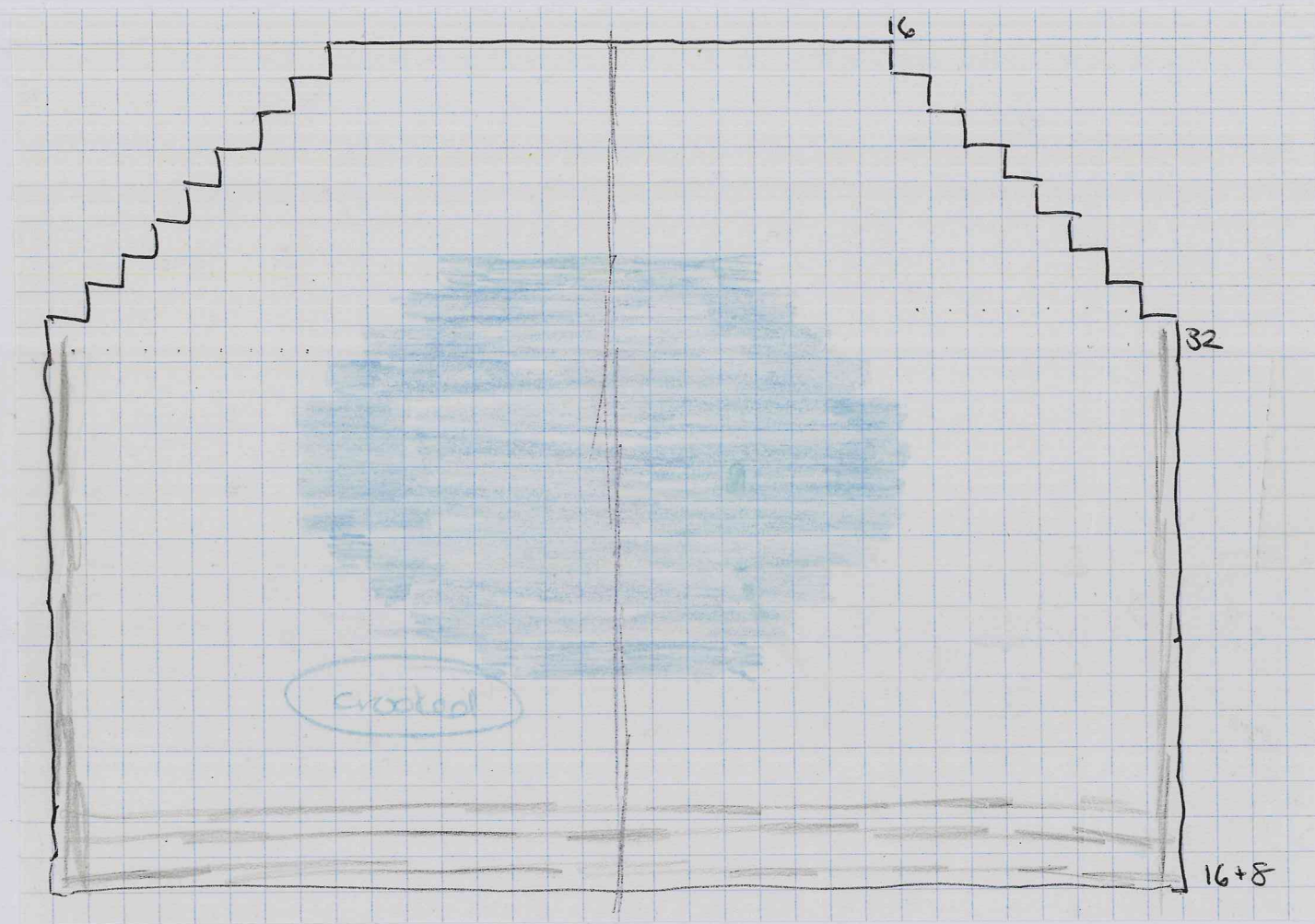
glove: DNA

pattern credit to @chemknits



- does everything have a place in the business is business economy? what place(s)?
- structure: what comes first? the structure or the relationship? or the identity?

mitten



"The prevailing wisdom at this level of transaction is that the freer the trade, the better for all." (100)

"Over time the finance sector has grown disproportionately to the rest of the economy. Its relationship of service to target groups is no longer evident." (160)

"...we need to question the definition of growth that is attached to any measure of 'returns.'" (174)

31x2
x 24

30

25

20

30

25

20

blue float p

or brown

↑
insert

↑
delete

20

